

Holy Blossom Temple

Purim 5784

When the world goes sideways...



Purim 5784

MATANOT LA'EVYONIM

One of the great mitzvot of Purim is to give *matanot la'evyonim* (gifts to those in need). We encourage you to bring a few items of non-perishable food to donate to our Janis Rotman Tzedakah Centre (found at the Ava Rd. Main Entrance) to stock our Community Pantries on Dewbourne Ave. We appreciate the *chesed*, our community provides for our neighbours.

SHUSHAN NIGHT LIVE!

Saturday, March 23, 7:30 pm

Teen & Adult Megillah Reading, Celebration & Schpiel.

Live from Shushan... It's Saturday Night!

Purim-twists on classic SNL shticks, live music, food & spirits. Costume are optional, but strongly encouraged.

FAMILY MEGILLAH READING AND PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 24, 10:30 am

We'll kick off the celebrations with Purim Barbie, songs, and costume parades.

Then everyone's favourite carnival awaits with bouncy castles, games and prizes!

Lunch, snacks, and Hamantaschen for purchase.

Thank you to Heather Shapiro and Terry Axelrod for generously sponsoring the Purim Carnival in part.

DOROT PRESENTS:

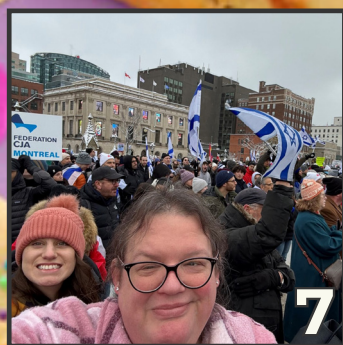
POST-PURIM MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Tuesday, March 26, 11:30 am

with Concerts in Care Ontario

Learn more & join in the fun!
holyblossom.org/purim-5784/





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On the cover: *Chag Purim Sameach!*

YEAH (Youth Engagement at Holy Blossom) celebrates Purim in style!

RABBINIC REFLECTION



How to Live in the Middle of the Story

Rabbi Yael Splansky,
Senior Rabbi

We are in the middle of the Chanukah-Purim-Pesach stretch of our calendar. While each is entirely unique, all three holidays share the well-known pattern of:

“They tried to kill us, we survived, let’s eat.” Each of those holidays is a celebration

with joy and light, because we already know about the happy ending, but what do we know about the middle? The rededication of Jerusalem’s Temple didn’t come easily. The Maccabean Revolt to win back sovereignty over the Land of Israel took seven years (167-160 BCE)! Even the fantastical and fictional story of Purim does not pretend that triumph comes quickly. Set against the backdrop of Persia in the 4th century BCE, from the time of the ascent of the dangerously irresponsible King Achashverosh to the execution of the genocidal vizier Haman, thirteen years had passed! And while there is little extra-Biblical evidence of the Pesach story, according to the Torah’s account, before the plagues, before the Israelite uprising against Pharaoh and their taskmasters, before the miraculous crossing of the sea to freedom, we suffered 430 years of slavery in Egypt!

We celebrate the triumphant end of the stories with festive songs and feasts, but now is the time we need to study the hard middle of these stories, because God knows, WE are in the middle of our own hard story. We must study the courage of the Maccabean soldiers and the military strategies which led to “the few defeating the many.” We must study the politically astute strategies of Esther and Mordechai, who knew how to use soft power to protect their people from surprisingly swift and widespread antisemitism. And we must study the resilience of our ancestors in Egypt who were able to maintain their distinct identity, their faith, and their human dignity throughout four generations of being treated as slaves, as less than human. Each one of these holidays serve to inspire and guide us in the here and now, as WE write the next chapter of Jewish history.

With the minute-by-minute news cycle of today, we have become terribly impatient. We have been trained in the age of technology to have an average span of attention that last all of 8.25 seconds. But we must train up now in how to “hold the pose,” even when we feel the strain, because we are only five months into this trying time. God willing, it will not be years or generations before we see our way through to freedom and light on the other side, but in the meantime, we need to protect ourselves from depression and despair.

We do that best by celebrating models of courage. Holy Blossom is proud of our congregants who are each using their skills and their networks to create opportunities to set things right. Whether in their professional settings, on campus, advocating before elected officials, on social and traditional

media, or volunteering in Israel, everyone is finding a way to do their part in protecting the Jewish People from harm and hatred.

We do that best by organizing. Holy Blossom has now established a new Advocacy Committee to tap into the best organizational resources and curate a steady series of action items for our congregants.

We do that best by simply being together. Whether for prayer or learning, whether for planned or spontaneous gathering, just being together at Holy Blossom helps. Here we do not need to explain or defend. Here our stories are heard and understood. Here we remember who we are, where we come from, what we stand for, and to Whom we belong. Here our efforts are reinforced and multiplied. Here our fears are softened, and our prayers uplifted. Here we feel a part of something important and enduring, the next link in a very long and very strong chain.

A Prayer for the Middle

I have recently returned from my second trip to Israel since October 7th. In Israel, everyone is acutely aware that we are only in the middle of this brutal war. What is the prayer for the middle?

We say *Shehechiyanu* at the beginning – when eating new fruit of the season, wearing a new piece of clothing, dedicating a new house or a new baby, entering a new year. We *bench gomel* at the end – when returning home after a long journey, when surviving a near miss or bringing some struggle to resolution. But what is the *brachah* for living life in the thick of it, as we are now and will likely be for some time? It is the *Hashkiveinu* prayer, the prayer for protection when night falls and shadows loom.

הַשְׁפִּיכֵנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְשָׁלוֹם, וְהַעֲמִידֵנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵינוּ לְחַיִּים, וּפְרֵשׁ עֲלֵנוּ
סֶפֶת שְׁלוֹמָה, וְתַקְנֵנוּ בַּעֲצָה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, וְהוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ לְמַעַן שְׁמִיךָ. וְהַגֵּן
בַּעֲדָנוּ, וְהַסֵּר מֵעֲלֵינוּ אוֹיֵב, דָּבָר, וְחָרָב, וְרָעָב, וְיָגוֹן, וְהַרְחֵק מִמֶּנּוּ עוֹן
וּפְשָׁע. וּבְצֵל כְּנָפֶיךָ תִּסְתִּירֵנוּ, כִּי אֵל שׁוֹמְרֵנוּ וּמַצִּילֵנוּ אַתָּה, כִּי אֵל חַנוּ
וְרַחוּם אַתָּה. וְשֹׁמֵר צִאֲתָנוּ וּבוֹאֲנוּ לְחַיִּים וּלְשָׁלֹם מֵעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, שׁוֹמֵר עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַד

Grant, O God, that we lie down in peace, and raise us up, our Guardian, to life renewed. Spread over us the shelter of Your peace. Guide us with Your good counsel; for Your Name’s sake, be our help. Shield and shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings. Defend us against enemies, illness, war, famine, and sorrow. Distance us from wrongdoing. For You, God, watch over us and will deliver us. For You are gracious and merciful. Guard our going and our coming, so that we will know life and peace evermore. Blessed are You, O God, Guardian of Your People Israel for all time.

Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Phyllis Denaburg, Temple President

One of our key themes at Holy Blossom Temple is Belonging. Last year I spoke and wrote about three stages of belonging - being noticed, being named and being known which lead to a greater sense of belonging. This applies to any community that you

may be a part of. In the last few years, including the last five months, the need for the support of a community has grown significantly. I'll share how three key communities that I'm a member of have supported me through these crazy few years!

But first, let's define what a community is. A community generally involves people who share values, beliefs and/or goals. It may inspire people, provide emotional support, help or advice, and potentially reduce stress and the sense of isolation. Interactions with the community may be in person or online or potentially both. Helen Keller summarized some of the benefits of belonging to a community, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." In a community you feel connected to others, we are not alone in our struggles and are part of something larger than ourselves.

I belong to a few communities in Toronto and in Israel and wanted to share with you how they have helped me cope with COVID and the ongoing war with Hamas. The first community that I belong to is Holy Blossom Temple. When I first joined HBT, I admit that I was overwhelmed by the plethora of activities - services, lectures, programs for members of all ages. I certainly never thought that I'd join the Temple's leadership. As a young thirty-something parent, I doubt I even knew what a Board of Directors was! Since my husband Jeff's family had been members for two generations, I assumed that I would somehow find my own way into this community of communities.

We found our first mini HBT community with fellow parents of young children. We attended family services, participated in kid-friendly programming, and social gatherings at Temple, at parks and skating rinks and each other's homes. While we do not focus our involvement at HBT around our children anymore, we continue to socialize with those HBT friends with whom we shared common values and goals and continue to provide support and advice to each other as we all move through our lives.

There are multiple other mini communities at Holy Blossom to which I belonged in the past and/or continue to belong. For example, Women of Holy Blossom, High Holy Day and Shabbat Gabbaim, as well as a more fluid

group of HBT leaders, some of whom have served the Temple as leaders of various programs, and functions and some have gone on to lead the Reform movement in Toronto, Canada and around the world. I share values, beliefs, and goals with members of all these Holy Blossom communities and have received much support, advice and have formed deep friendships that will continue to support me.

Holy Blossom is blessed with many mini communities, and I've seen how our members have supported one another, and have blossomed together. With so many new Temple members, new communities are also sprouting up and others are being reinforced with new ideas and new members. You can feel the excitement in the air.

I have another community that I belong to where I feel known. I have been active in the Reform movement as a general HBT member attending large Biennial gatherings across North America as well as a Board member of the URJ North American Board for over 20 years. I have met many fellow members of the Reform community, including members of the Israeli Reform movement.

In early December I met with Israeli colleagues who were on their way to a URJ meeting in Washington DC, that I was also attending, then met up with a few other Israeli Reform leaders in Israel a few weeks later. The North Americans were worried about the Israelis and the Gaza war, and the Israelis were worried about us and antisemitism in the Diaspora.

We share common values, beliefs, and goals, support each other through personal challenges, and rejoice with them at simchas. We enjoy our infrequent but in-depth visits together at conferences and board meetings, or personal visits. Time may pass between visits but when we meet up, it feels like only yesterday.

What communities do you belong to? What communities are you looking for? With over 1800 members at Holy Blossom, I am sure that you will find others with whom you share values and beliefs, and over time will find inspiration and support. We are stronger together. If you need assistance in finding them, please reach out to our team - clergy and professional staff including Marni Turner, Interim Director of Membership and Community Engagement (mturner@holyblossom.org) or Rabbi Taylor Baruchel, Director of Outreach and Next Gen Engagement and Outreach (tbaruchel@holyblossom.org).

I'd also love to hear about the communities that you are a member of or want to get involved with.

Chag Sameach!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rachel Malach, Executive Director

We are getting ready to welcome the respite of Purim silliness and hope you will join in the fun here at Temple! In addition to weekly services and programs as well as all the special activities at Temple as seen in our “On the Horizon” and “Life@HolyBlossom” eblasts, your Holy Blossom team is hard at work with many behind-the-scenes endeavours.

All departments have recently engaged in our review of financial results to the end of December as well as our annual budget reforecast to the end of our fiscal year in June. After a lengthy process to have our Holy Blossom Memorial Park (Brimley Cemetery) re-surveyed to make new plots available, the new land survey was submitted to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario before the end of February. We look forward to being in touch with you in the coming weeks with more details once the new survey is approved and new plots are available. Supporting our families through all life cycle events, including funerals and grieving, is an extremely important part of what we do here at Holy Blossom.

We continue to make use of our beautiful spaces through partnerships, private events, and rentals (e.g. community organization board meetings, film shoots, etc.). This activity represents an important revenue stream for Temple, which is consistently growing. We have a large campus to take care of and will continue to explore and expand our revenue streams.

We are constantly thinking critically about how we engage all our members, as our congregation continues to grow, and grow younger. We are thrilled to welcome our new Holy Blossom-ites into our midst. With so many new member families among us, I encourage everyone, whether you are new to the congregation or have been here for years, to give an extra smile or a hello if you see folks at Temple who are new to you. We are all here to support each other! Remember, if you need to find a quiet spot with friendly faces, don't forget to visit our Holy Grounds Café, open Sunday through Friday mornings and now Monday and Wednesday evenings as well.



Introducing Marni Turner, Interim Director of Membership & Community Engagement

On the topic of the Membership Department, I am thrilled to introduce you to Marni Turner, Interim Director of Membership & Community Engagement. We are delighted that Marni joined the Holy Blossom professional team in December. Marni comes to us directly from covering a parental leave as the head of Membership and Engagement (including High Holy Days Coordination) at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Additionally, as a Committee Chair of the Leo Baeck Parents Association, she is no stranger to our community. Before moving back to Toronto, Marni worked in the Membership Department at Congregation Emanu-El in NYC. She previously hailed from the Fashion Industry before moving to make her passion her profession in the Jewish Community. Marni can be reached at mturner@holyblossom.org and extension 232. Many of you have already had the pleasure of connecting with Marni and she is thrilled to continue to get to know the congregation. Please join me in extending a very warm welcome to Marni!

I am also delighted to share the happy news that Abigail, Sarah, and Kedem Aviv welcomed the newest member of their family in January: Ma'ayan Lev Nemzer. Mazel tov to all!

We can all use levity these days, I encourage you to join us for all the fun that Purim has to offer here at Temple. Wishing everyone a Chag Pesach Sameach as well!

Life is a

Cabernet

An Elegant Evening of Wine, Food, & Song

Cantor David Rosen, Senior Cantor



The only thing better than a wonderful evening of music is when that music is accompanied by fine wines, delicious food, incredible auction items and several of your closest friends. On Thursday, April 4th, the Centre for Arts and Culture at Holy Blossom will present “Life is a Cabernet.”

Each wine that you sample on this night will be introduced by a sommelier and reflective of one of four international countries. Food and music will be paired with each wine and will reflect each of these regions. The evening will feature Cantor **Mo Glazman** from Temple Emanuel in New York City, Cantor **Tracey Scher** from “The Temple” in Atlanta, Cantor **Jill Abramson**, the Director of the Debbie Freidman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR and our beloved Cantorial Soloist, **Lindi Rivers**. We will also be joined by some of the GTA’s finest instrumentalists, including our own **Jason Jestadt** and other special guests.

Life is a Cabernet will launch “Music@HBT,” a new music fund created to support all Musical programming at Holy Blossom. For over 30 years, “The Musical Heritage Fund” under the guidance of Cantor Maissner and a group of dedicated volunteers, created and produced a wonderful array of concerts and musical programs for the entire congregation to enjoy. “Music@HBT” will be the next chapter in music as we expand the vision and purpose of the Centre for Arts and Culture at Holy Blossom Temple. From our Interfaith Gifts of Light Concert, to some of the GTA’s top musicians at Kabbalat Shabbat, to Shabbat Shira, to Mondays in the Mishkan and so much more, the future of music and the arts at Holy Blossom is growing and vibrant with incredible talent and energy.

I am grateful to all our incredible sponsors for this gala event as well as our incredible team of dedicated lay leaders, volunteers, and staff, led by Daniel Penciner.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event and/or perhaps offering something for the Silent Auction please be in touch with our Director of Development, Shira Lester slester@holyblossom.org or our Cantorial Administrator, Iris Spitz ispitz@holyblossom.org.

And most importantly, we want to see **YOU** and your friends enjoy this evening to remember. Visit our website for more details about the event and how to purchase tickets or tables.



AM YISRAEL CHAI

Rabbi Samuel Kaye, Associate Rabbi



In December, Canada's Rally for the Jewish People was held in Ottawa. Thousands of Jews and allies from across the country came to the capitol so that we could make our voices heard. We were calling for a release of the hostages taken on October 7th, stronger stands from our government against the growing stain of antisemitism in our country, and for continued committed support from Canada in Israel's war against Hamas.

More than 75 members of Holy Blossom Temple let us know that they were committed to making the trip, and hundreds more tuning in online. 57 travelers had signed up to take a bus, leaving early in the morning from Thornhill, that would bring them directly to the rally in Ottawa.

Things did not go as planned. This already unstable world went sideways again as many buses simply never showed up to ferry their passengers to Ottawa. After months of investigation, it seems more likely than ever that it was part of an antisemitic attempt to silence the voice of the Jewish community.

Holy Blossom Temple member Emma Wakelin, who was at the muster point before dawn and made the trip despite it all, wrote the following letter to Rabbi Splansky upon her return from Ottawa.



Dear Rabbi,

7 am in the freezing cold of a dark mall parking lot is a strange place to find pride in community.

As you are well aware, bus #32, which was to carry Holy Blossom congregants to Ottawa was among the 17 buses that never arrived.

Despite the cold, both the early morning wind that was blowing in that parking lot and the coffee that we had trying to jolt us awake, there was nothing but resolve and togetherness amongst the 50 or so Holy Blossom folks.

There were no "I am just going to go home" or "I have had enough of this," there was only a common feeling that we were not going to stop anyone from letting us get to Ottawa to give voice to the hostages and to draw a line in the sand to the antisemitism rising in Canada.

- It was beautiful.
- 2 people going on this bus.
- 4 people going on that bus.
- a dozen or so climbing into SUVs not sure how they would get home.
- and most beautifully, the clergy and leaders of our temple remained calm and ensured that every one of their people were taken care of.

The last HBT folks that left that parking lot (indeed were among the last of thousands of people who

were there that morning) were the rabbis, cantors, and lay leaders of Holy Blossom.

You would have been proud I am sure. *I know I sure as heck was.*

I (along with Kelly Baron) drove rabbis Kaye and Baruchel to Ottawa and back, and despite the clear antisemitic ploy to demoralize us and prevent us from displaying our Jewish pride on the grounds of our Parliament, there was only joy. We sang songs, told stories and even did some studying.

I am so proud to be part of this community. I am proud of the leaders of our community and I just wanted to share my gratitude with you.

With love,
Emma Wakelin

Emma's letter reiterates that, even in a world gone sideways, we are a strong and resilient community. We are only made better by the love we have for each other. Thank God that we have found the courage to proudly stand - just as our ancestors in Shushan did - with each other in the face of our foes. Chag Sameach!

MEANINGFUL TRADITIONS: FAMILY SHABBAT

Rabbi Eliza McCarroll, Assistant Rabbi



There's a fascinating teaching, from Pirkei Avot, that reads as follows:

“Ten things were created on the eve of the Sabbath at twilight, and these are they: [1] the mouth of the earth, [2] the mouth of the well, [3] the mouth of the donkey, [4] the rainbow, [5] the manna, [6] the staff [of Moses], [7] the shamir (a worm), [8] the letters, [9] the writing, [10] and the tablets. And some say: also the demons, the grave of Moses, and the ram of Abraham, our father. And some say: and also tongs, made with tongs.”
(Pirkei Avot 5:6)

In other words, Shabbat is a time of rest, where we can put down the work of the week and enjoy that palace of time and space in which we are rooted in the stories and songs of our Jewish tradition.

Yet, to arrive at Shabbat, it in fact takes a lot of hard work for it to be that fully restful and meaningful time of week that we aspire to. This is exactly what we aim for at Family Services, our Shabbat Morning experience for our HBT families of all ages and stages.

As described by HBT members Maddie Axelrod, David Kogan, and their family:

“The Saturdays when we get to come to Family Services at Holy Blossom are really special for our family. It's an opportunity for us to all make time to be together, across generations, stepping away from the usual hustle and bustle of our busy lives. When I step into the Youth Chapel with my daughters, we look at the quilted tapestries and try to find the square I made when I was a kid and my parents brought me to shul. Continuing these traditions with other families, new and old members of our congregation, creates memories that bring us closer as a family and keep us rooted in our community values.”

As we seek to strengthen our Family Services, we recognise that Shabbat also takes creativity, as we look at the components which make it engaging and meaningful to our regular attendees, and which can welcome in our next generation as well.

We also recognise that it takes deep reflection, so that our families can partake in meaningful moments together and make memories which will last them a lifetime.

Family Services already are a special experience, as we heard from the Axelrod/Kogan family, and they have the potential to be even more dynamic. They will only be enhanced by the input of our families as we seek their ideas, their guidance, and contributions to Shabbat over the coming months; some, which, like the shamir, or the tongs, may be out-of-the-box, and others, like the tablets, which we know are grounded in the amazing and nostalgic pieces that already exist.

Together with Rabbi Baruchel, I can't wait for all the good things to come to unfold, as we do the hard work, and engage in the creativity, community and traditions for Shabbat for our families.

We invite you to join us, and to bring your own loved ones along for the exciting journey!



SACRED STORIES IN COMMUNITY

Rabbi Taylor Baruchel, Director of Outreach and Next Gen Engagement



A Journey of Connection and Homecoming

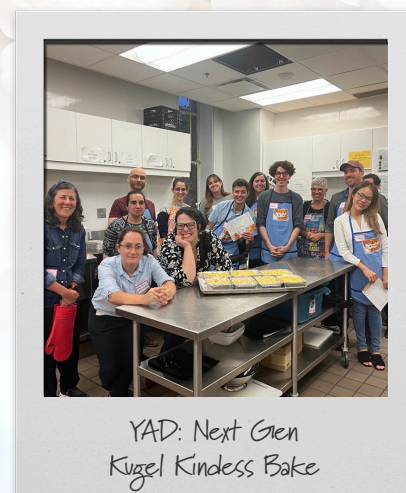
Rabbis love texts. It is a well-known fact; My own love-affair with text started as an undergraduate in Religious studies and flourished during my time in Rabbinical School. For five years, my classmates and I learned to swim in the sea of our sacred stories and talmudic texts. Voraciously engaging with our rabbinic ancestors' impassioned arguments and fantastical imaginings. My dear teacher, Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, entreated us to not merely study what our Sages had to say, but to continue the tradition of interpretation and commentary forward into our own rabbinates.

In my role in Outreach and Engagement, I've come to appreciate that every person I encounter can be a sacred text unto themselves. Rabbi Joel Nickerson aptly likened engaging young Jews to opening a closed book, exploring its pages, and contemplating how new chapters can be written. It's a profound blessing to work with individuals who are either new to our community or seeking to redefine their connection on their own terms, independent of their parents and grandparents.

We've experienced tremendous upheaval and pain throughout the Jewish world of late, but we have also seen so many unaffiliated folks turn to our community, looking for connection and belonging. This has been particularly evident in our 20s and 30s groups, where our YAD: Next Gen events have sold out, and vibrant cohorts of Young Professionals are actively engaging in various aspects of life at Holy Blossom, from Shabbat services, all manner of learning and volunteering opportunities, social events and around our Kiddish tables!



Making meaningful connections at Chag HaBanim



YAD: Next Gen Kugel Kindess Bake



Ruti Prikhoji and Matthew Cohen

Ruti Prikhoji and Matthew Cohen are a testament to this newfound enthusiasm and community-mindedness. Since deciding to make Holy Blossom their spiritual home, they've become a fixture at Shabbat services and YAD programming, often accompanied by their extended family and friends.

Their journey has inspired others in their circle to join Holy Blossom, marking the creation of new chapters in both their lives and the life of our community. Their enthusiasm and dedication ensure that they will be active and valued members for years to come.

Here is their journey to us in their own words!

Before joining Holy Blossom Temple late last year, we would regularly drive up and down Bathurst and remark on how big and nice it looked. Then, of course, we'd argue if the one we had just passed was Holy Blossom or if that one was Beth Tzedec, and which one was which, and who do we know that goes to one or the other. Nowadays, a place we only knew from our car window has quickly become an extension of our home and a place of connection and community.

When we began planning our wedding late last year, we knew we wanted to incorporate Jewish tradition into the ceremony, though we did not know exactly what, how, and where. More than that, however, we were looking to meaningfully connect with our Jewish heritage. Before we knew it, we were 'shul-shopping', a term we first heard during kiddush here. After meetings with our favourite married rabbinical duo—here's looking at you, Rabbi Baruchel and Rabbi Kaye—joining was an easy decision.

In a challenging world, we're glad to be a part of an inclusive and progressive congregation that reflects our core values. It's been such a treat to discover some familiar faces in the congregation and, of course, to have the opportunity to meet others. We're taken with the warmth of this place: a community that exists outside the functions of work or school – a point of contact between people grounded simply in human connection. The wealth of learning, humour, and ritual has been remarkable, and we feel that the decision to set our roots here is a landmark in our lives. And, lest it go unsaid, the promise of a bagel after service should not be ignored.

We've said that if we could host our wedding in our small home, we would love to do that. According to our beloved cat, this is not a good idea. Instead, we are inviting family and friends to join us as we celebrate right here at Holy Blossom, our other home.

Thank you for the warm welcome! We look forward to many years of contributing to and being part of this congregation and doing life together.

We hope to say 'hi' in person or by Zoom!

Ruti and Matt



May we continue to be a community that draws inspiration and meaning from both our sacred texts and the living texts of our community members! With so many folks joining us for the first time, or returning after years away, I invite you to search out unfamiliar faces when next you are at Temple and say hello. You never know what wonderful connections you might be about to make!

And if you know of a 20 or 30 something looking for that sense of belonging, please have them reach out; it would be my absolute pleasure to get them connected. You can reach me by email at tbaruchel@holyblossom.org or by text at (647)625-8718.



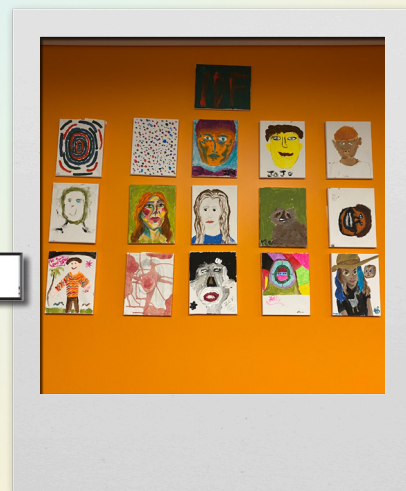
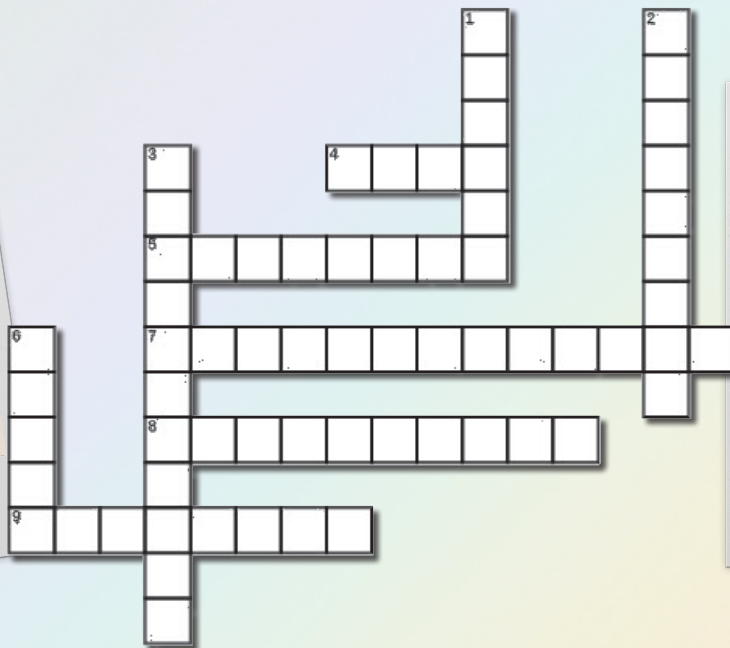
MOMENTS OF JOY IN THE YEC!

Lisa Isen Baumal, Principal of Youth Education and Family Engagement



We are encouraged to increase our joy in the month of Adar. Given that this year is a leap year, we have the opportunity to increase our joy even more, and this year, more than any, we need it. Many moments of joy, creating core memories and valuable lessons have taken place over the past couple of months in Holy Blossom’s Youth Education Centre, both on Sunday mornings, and Monday evenings.

In order to have some fun during this month of Adar, complete the crossword puzzle to learn about some of the special moments we’ve seen in the YEC!



Across

- 4. Senior School students started back this semester doing some reflection and community wellness with the help of friendly therapy _____. The furry visitors were a huge hit!
- 5. An evening where our grade 7 students explore community organizations, learning about the populations they serve, and the programs and services they offer to support various social justice needs in our community and city: _____ Fair.
- 7. Senior School students participated in a Beit Midrash program using text study resources from the Shalom Hartman Institute. This particular evening, focusing on Tu B’shevat, students studied _____ ethics.
- 8. To mark Tu B’shevat, students planted seeds that have begun to sprout and will be planted in the spring by our _____ staff to create a Holy Blossom vegetable garden.
- 9. Each Sunday morning class is working on special art projects that will be displayed in our end of year Art Show. The theme of this year’s projects is Jewish _____.

Down

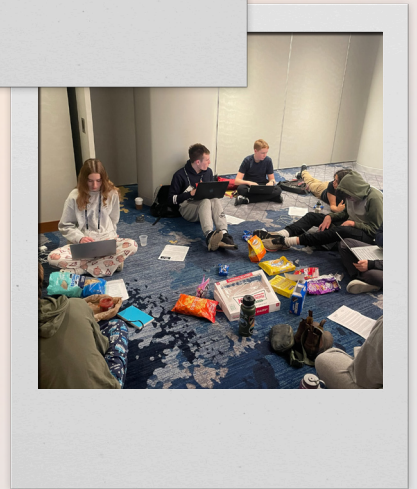
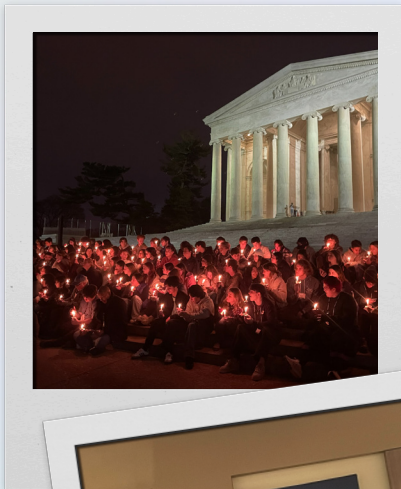
- 1. Our Grade 3 class learned about and practiced the important values of respect, kindness and unity in their ‘Be a _____’ unit.
- 2. Our wonderful volunteer _____ Caroline spent a morning with our grade 4/5 class, hearing stories and learning about child survivors of the Shoah in our Max Enkin Library.
- 3. Our kindergarten students learned a Hebrew song with Noa our shinshinit about _____. The students all made their own wings to show their beauty and uniqueness, and how freely they can fly.
- 6. Each Sunday morning, more and more parents join us for YEC T’fillah in our _____ Chapel, adding their voices to those of our students, in prayer and song.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING IS FULL OF LIGHT AND LEADERSHIP

Sophie Rivers, Youth Engagement Coordinator

Youth programming has already been very full this year. Lots of baking and cooking programs for Out of the Cold and Ve'ahavta Vans as well as fun lounge nights. We hung up our self portraits in the youth lounge (take a look next time you're on the third floor), and we are planning a HABSTY Purim corner for our carnival!

In February, we went with three teens to L'taken in Washington DC, where they learned how to lobby for meaningful social justice issues, and how to be advocates at the Canadian Embassy. We are planning more fun youth programming for the rest of the term for all ages, so look out online!



HAPPINESS CAN BE FOUND EVEN IN THE DARKEST TIMES

Wendy Steinberg Himmel, Director, Early Childhood Centre



This year, we welcomed three Israeli children and their parents/families to the ECC, who have since returned to their homes in Israel. They brought so much joy to our school, the children thrived and the parents found comfort and support at the ECC. Their strength and resilience inspired us.

Hi Wendy,

We hope you are well.

It has been a few days since we got back to Israel and we are finally starting to settle back into our routine (as much as possible).

We cannot thank you and the Holy Blossom family enough for taking us in during this hard time, and being a home away from home for Shiloh. Joanne and Gail are absolutely tremendous teachers and people, and we just don't even have enough words to describe how heartwarming it has been to have been a part of the Holy Blossom Family. The curriculum is the best we have ever seen, and Shiloh adapted so well with their warmth and love.

With that, anything we can do from here please let us know.

We hope to see you again soon in better times and please let everyone know that we would love to host anyone who comes to Israel in the future!

Lots of love,

Taire and Kyle Giddens

The Irreplaceable Hug

When my 3 year old Israeli grandson Adam came to Canada for a respite in early October, together with his 5 year old sister and their mother, but without their dad, doing Miluim in Search and Rescue within Israel, we didn't know what to expect. How to build a routine, to make them feel secure? Although they both spoke English, it was clearly a second language. And the culture of Israel, warm, uninhibited, with many fewer boundaries, is not Canadian.

Within a day of arriving, Adam had been accepted into Holy Blossom preschool, and he began to attend within a week. With the kindness that I now see is characteristic of the ECC, he was put in a kita with an Israeli Ganenet – not only for the language but also for the cultural understanding. And he was embraced in every way.

Three year olds are such wonderful little people. They live in the moment, joyfully, openly. Adam loved it all, from the security guard (now one of his friends!) to the policemen, to the kids in his kita and all of the kids in the ECC. He loved the teachers, he loved Wendy. And within a few days he loved them all in English.

He sang Canadian children's songs around our house. He was excited about Halloween and thrilled about Chanukah (we all learned so many English Chanukah songs!). Trucks are a universal language and he played with them at school and at his friends' homes.

He and his sister put blue stars on the wall in the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium for their Israeli grandparents and their dad.

One rainy morning he decided to hug every single child as they came into the building. I saw it as his way of reflecting the irreplaceable hug he had experienced, the warm embrace of Holy Blossom Temple.

Joan Garson

The Purim and Passover stories provide an important framework for the resilience of the Jewish people. Purim reminds us of resilience during a time where individual were seen as outsiders based on their differences in beliefs and religions. Passover reminds us of our ancestors overcoming adversity and the journey from slavery to freedom. Happiness can be found even in the darkest times. May we take lessons from our Israeli visitors to the ECC granting us rejuvenation, healing, health and resilience.

Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and twice as beautiful as you've ever imagined.” – Dr. Seuss



THE JOYFUL SHIFT TO REFORM JUDAISM

Wanda and Phil Kucharsky



Upon returning from Vancouver for the Shivah of Wanda's father on a Friday afternoon in late October we realized that Wanda needed to go to a Synagogue to say Kaddish. Since we live close to Holy Blossom and it was already 5:00 pm, Phil suggested that we go to Kabbalat Shabbat services that start at 6:00 pm. Wanda agreed, and we walked over.

Upon entering the building, we were warmly welcomed by Eric Klein and other board members, and several other volunteers. As we sat down in the Mishkan, Phil was entranced by the beautiful music and the meaningful service. It felt so "right" and relevant. Wanda was comforted by the words of condolence during the service and warmth of those around us.

Both Wanda and Phil have attended Shabbat services regularly since then and thoroughly enjoy the way the music and creative arrangements beautifully enhance the prayer experience, and the full participation of the congregation who join in. We particularly enjoyed the Shabbat Shira evening with members of the Israeli community. The clergy excel at creating a warm and safe community in words, actions, and deeds.

We have experienced tremendous comfort, meaning, inspiration and learning from the words of all the clergy during the services. In addition, they have shown a deep compassion and interest for Wanda during her period of mourning and have taken time to speak with us.

Wanda has been regularly attending morning and evening prayer services, met many wonderful congregants who will also become good friends. Wanda is already involved in other areas such as the Erev Tov Initiative, the Saturday Night Live in Shushan Purim Shpiel, Shabbat morning Torah study, the Dorot Generations Program, and is considering the Shalom Hartman Institute Inspired course led by Rabbi Kay. In addition, she is learning Torah chanting with Dalia and will be learning to lead morning and evening services to offer something back to this wonderful community. As a result, Wanda has made the joyful shift to Reform Judaism.

Phil really appreciates that Holy Blossom brings Judaism into our current world in a meaningful way that he can relate to. Holy Blossom has definitely enhanced our lives and has become a place where we have found meaningful place for prayer, Jewish activities, and a sense of community. It is definitely a place that we have turned to for comfort. We have happily joined Holy Blossom and hope to enjoy many years here.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT DEEPENING CONNECTIONS THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

Shira Lester, Director of Development and Donor Engagement



We are blessed by the generosity of the Holy Blossom Temple congregation. In this year, Temple has raised over \$7,000,000 in pledges to honour of Rabbi Splansky's 25th Anniversary, almost \$900,000 through the Annual Campaign and almost \$200,000 in sponsorship revenue.

Sponsorship is more than just a financial contribution. It's a vital way to deepen connections within the Temple community and support the vibrant programs and events that enrich our congregation. Whether it's sponsoring the Purim Carnival or Kugel Kindness, this act of generosity not only provides vital support, but also fosters a stronger bond between the sponsor and Temple.

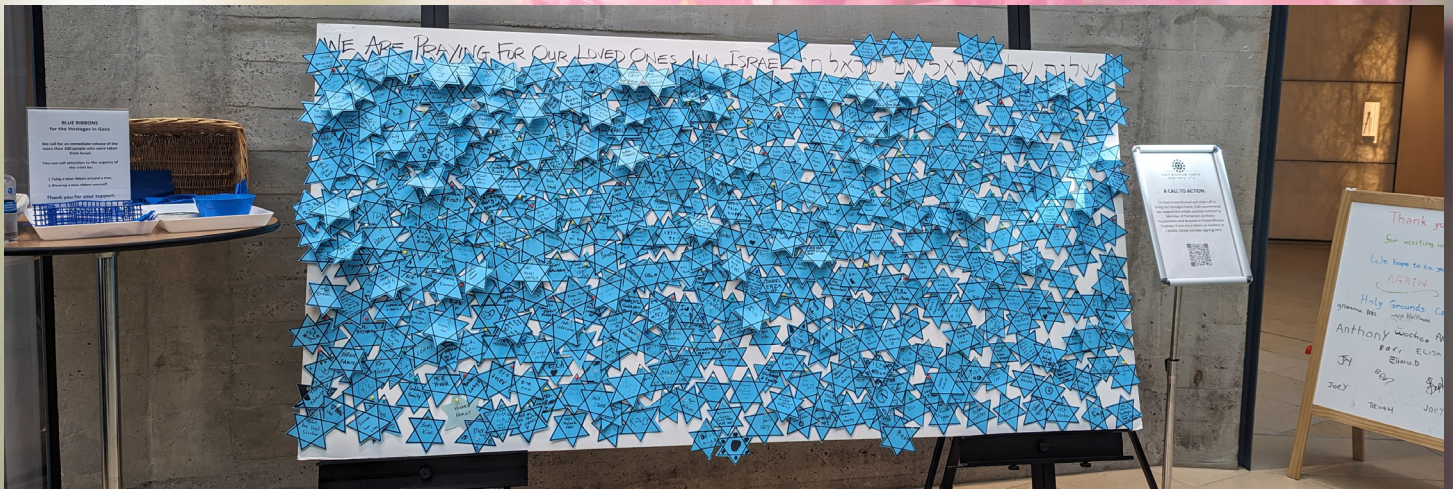


Harriette Laing has been a member of Holy Blossom Temple since her arrival in Toronto twenty-five years ago. When she joined Holy Blossom, she began supporting the Annual Campaign, following the example set by her parents, Ida and Max Pascal. Harriette's parents always supported Jewish causes in Halifax, inspiring a culture of giving from one generation to the next. On Kol Nidre, Rabbi Splansky's sermon spoke of our Home, Holy Blossom Temple, and our Homeland Israel and this resonated strongly with Harriette. She wanted a way to deepen her connection to Holy Blossom by aligning herself with a cause and initiative that was particularly meaningful to her and her family. After a few wonderful conversations, Harriette decided to sponsor a year of Israel Programming, as well as making a generous gift to the Annual Campaign, powerfully responding to Rabbi Splansky's call to action from the Bimah.

In Harriette's words, *"It's good for others to give from the heart. I'm happy to sponsor these knowledgeable people so that they can share their expertise with us. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do this."*

Through their generosity, sponsors become an integral part of Temple's mission, vision and leadership inspiring others to deepen their commitment to Temple in the same way.

If you would like to talk about your own meaningful sponsorship opportunities please contact me directly at slester@holyblossom.org or call 416-789-3291 x 261.



FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF FOUNDATION AND HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Joan Garson, President, Holy Blossom Temple Foundation and Phyllis Denaburg, President, Holy Blossom Temple



We have another reason to celebrate!

Rabbi Splansky's 25th anniversary celebration at Holy Blossom Temple, beginning last May, launched extraordinary community philanthropy. Generous congregants have, one by one, enabled Rabbi Splansky to work toward her vision for young families and education of children and teens at Holy Blossom Temple while strengthening our community. The celebration is not yet over; Rabbi Splansky's inspiring vision deserves all of our support.

And now we have another reason to celebrate. Rabbi Splansky's ten year anniversary as our senior rabbi will be celebrated this Pesach. It does not seem possible that ten years have passed – and yet at the same time the deep impact of her leadership is felt in every corner of our Kehillah Kedoshah and far beyond our congregation.

We are at an extraordinary moment in Temple life. The current crisis in Israel has demonstrated the centrality of Israel our homeland in the life of our community – and at the same time, the importance of supporting our Jewish home, Holy Blossom Temple. The number of new members since October 7 speaks for itself: our congregation wants to support each other and our future together.

If you haven't yet decided how to honour Rabbi Splansky, please contact Shira Lester by email at slester@holyblossom.org or by phone at 416-789-3291 x 261, or Joan Garson by email at garsonjoan@gmail.com.

With profound gratitude for our community and its support for our Jewish future.



ISRAELIS ABROAD AND HOLY BLOSSOM

Lior Sagi, North America Regional Director at The Department of Irgoon and Israelis Abroad of The World Zionist Organization & The Canadian Zionist Organization, and a member of HBT

Our love story with Holy Blossom Temple began six years ago, soon after coming to Toronto from Israel for Anna's studies. We arrived right before the High Holidays and realized that if we wanted to feel festive, that would mean going to services, which is not the case in Israel. From the moment we stepped into Holy Blossom Temple, we felt like home. We came on Yom Kippur eve and were amazed that the main sermon delivered by the rabbi dealt with Israel. That bond, which we first became familiar with that evening, continued to deepen. A few years have elapsed since then, and for a number of them, I (Lior), coordinated the activities of the YAD young adults group, Anna worked as a foundation associate, and our son, Avshalom, fit right in at Tot Shabbat.



But this year, a new kind of magic occurred. Rabbi Yael Splansky, like all her trailblazing women leaders, saw an opportunity to fulfill an old dream. And during a conversation we had at a conference in New York, which I came to wearing my regular hat, but also that of North America Regional Director of the Department of Irgoon and Israelis Abroad at the World Zionist Organization, we sensed a connection that was brimming with potential. By joining forces with the Department, headed by Gusti Braverman Yehoshua who represents the Reform Movement at the national institutions in Israel, as well as the Canadian Zionist Federation leading by Les Rothschild, we identified a vision that could be achieved – namely, integrating the Israeli community into Holy Blossom Temple.

And, in fact, we have implemented a number of collaborations since the beginning of the year. The first was a Ne'ilah service for Israelis at Holy Blossom Temple. Over 200 Israelis attended the event, and for most of them, it was the first time that they ever took part in an egalitarian service – where the entire family sits together, where a woman carries the Torah and, last but not least, where the Havdalah ceremony that follows it is conducted by a female rabbi.

Following the horrific events of last October, Rabbi Splansky, together with the synagogue's incredible staff, embraced us and displayed a desire to extend assistance and support and be at our side – and most of all, to open Holy Blossom's doors and make it a BAIT, a home for the Israeli community.

Furthermore, we had an Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat to commemorate the first 30 days that had passed since the October events. And this month, we opened a special track for Israelis in the Israeli Shnat Mitzvah program. We also held a Shabbat Shira and Tu B'shvat celebrations as part of a peak event attended by both communities in the congregation, led by Rabbi Splansky and Cantor Rosen.

Alongside Holy Blossom's dedicated staff, headed by the Executive Director Rachel Malach, Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers, and Iris Spitz, the Department's program manager, Yahav Barnea, and in collaboration with JNF-Canada - we all stood on the bimah together with the Israeli musicians, Amit Rozenblum and Tal Katz, and





enjoyed a joint Israeli-Canadian Kabbalat Shabbat. We concluded with a Shabbat dinner that lasted late into the night, and no one wanted to go home.

For me, to stand on the synagogue's bimah with my rabbi and my cantor, and serve as a 'Shaliach Tzibur' (public emissary) at all these events, was extremely moving.

This Kabbalat Shabbat was truly something special, and it's been on my mind and in my soul ever since. The positive atmosphere, the genuine smiles, the eye contact, and the overall togetherness left a lasting impact and provided much-needed strength.

Rabbi Splansky's leadership, both in her clergy role and as a person, is inspiring and boundary-breaking. I'm proud to be part of this community, and appreciate the opportunity to stand side as a partner, embracing my identity as a Jew and an Israeli in Canada with HBT support.



The positive feedback we've received is encouraging, and I look forward to our continued success in identifying meaningful events and projects and connecting with wonderful people around us.

IN MEMORIAM

Gabor Apor, father of Jane Apor

Wilfred Caplan, husband of the Honourable Elinor Caplan; father of Meredith Caplan, Mark Caplan and Zane Caplansky

Beryl Chernin, mother of Barbara Chernin, Franklynn Chernin and Nancy Chernin

George A. Cohon, husband of Susan Cohon; father of Mark Cohon and Craig Cohon; brother of Sandy Raizes

Louis Devor, husband of Sue Devor; father of Cheryl Devor, Karen Devor, Johanna Devor, Cynthia Devor, and Steven Devor

Otto Friedman, father of Elyse Friedman, Robyn Friedman and Danny Friedman

Isaac Givon, father of Victoria Givon and Elana Givon; stepfather of Jake Thomas

Rosemary Goldhar, wife of Morty Goldhar; mother of Carolyn Drebin and David M. Drebin; stepmother of Bradley Goldhar, Wendy Klein and Avraham Goldhar

Janet Gross, wife of Hershel Gross; mother of Jeremy Gross; daughter of Alma Simonsky; sister of Cathy and Andrea

Reva Henry, mother of Alex Henry and Harriet Gratian

Arnold Sheldon Herer, husband of Charline Herer; father of Nell Herer; son of Eleanor Herer; brother of Elaine Herer and Clifford Herer

Gloria Howard, mother of Rick Howard and Andrew Howard

Rene Katzman, wife of Mel Katzman; mother of Debbie Katzman, Chuck Katzman and Heather Goldberg; sister of Dave Warsh

The Honourable Fred Kaufman, husband of Donna Soble Kaufman; father of David Kaufman and Leslie Kaufman

Eva Kestenberg, mother of Michael Kestenberg, Debbie Kestenberg and Gerald Kestenberg

Irving Lipton, father of Suzanne Hurwitz, Jonathan Lipton and Jordan Lipton

Marcia Sue Robinson, partner of Elliot Gerberg; mother of Todd Keith Krinsky; stepmother of Matthew Robinson; sister of Francie Klein

Harry Rosen, husband of Evelyn Rosen; father of Larry Rosen, Andrea Rosen, Wayne Rosen, and Racheal Rosen; brother of Lou Rosen

Steven Rubin, father of Adam Rubin and Lacy Rubin; brother of Rhona Ornstein, Marilyn Rubin, Allan Rubin, and Harvey Rubin

Joel Sears, husband of Kate Taylor; father of Jed Sears; brother of Alan Sears

Gertrude Selick, mother of Mindy (Honey) Goodman and Rhona Selick

Shirley Tessler, wife of Leon Tessler; mother of Bill Tessler, Barry Tessler and Jody Tessler

Mildred Ulster, mother of Richard Ulster, Joel Ulster, Diane Ulster, and Penny Ulster

William (Sam) Warner, father of Ellen Warner, Gerald Warner and Leonard Warner; brother of Gordon Winemaker and Lillian Butovsky

Harvey (Hainey) Wengle, husband of Annette Wengle; father of Danny Wengle, Robert Wengle, Joel Wengle, and Susan Wengle; brother of Doreen Glick and Stephen Wengle

November 13, 2023 to February 22, 2024

2024 Unveiling Dates (Sundays)

April 21, May 5, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 29, October 27, and November 10.

And Jacob erected a monument by [Rachel's] burial site (Genesis 35: 20). After the period of shloshim and within a year after the death, the bereaved customarily gather at the cemetery to unveil the monument. The dedication of a headstone marks the transition from mourning to remembering.

Our Rabbis and Cantor are available to lead the service, or mourners may compose their own personal ceremony and lead the service.

To book your unveiling date with clergy or to ask about our unveiling booklets, contact Iris Spitz at ispitz@holyblossom.org.

WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

WELCOME TO...

Bruce Arron

Lesley Barsky

Svitlana Skrypnyk & Daniel Benin

Benjamin & Ida Caplan

Jedid & Lauren Maitland Carter
and children Harrison and Aaron

Herschel Chaiet & Michal Coret

Barbara Chernin

Jessica Cluet

Ari Danay

Olga Warshavsky & Vlad Dunaevsky

David Dzialowsky & Ilya Prigogine
and children Samuel and Joshua

Daniel Woolfson & Mandy Gareth
and children Leah and Maya

David Gelles

Arie & Deborah Gershon

Cory & Tori Graham and child
Peyton

Matthew & Tanya Holzapfel and
child Ari

Celeste & Leslie Kirsh and children
Ambrose and Jasper

Evan Kossman & Gabby Altman

Justine Kraemer

Philip Kucharsky & Wanda Haber-
Kucharsky

Hagai & Keren Lerman and
children Shia, Liev, and Rafaeli

Max Rabkin & Lara Liebovitz

Myra Piat

Bruce Pollock

Ruti Prikhoji & Matthew Cohen

Andrew & Kelly Ruston and
children Jacob and Asher

Jonathan Miller & Madison Sain-
Miller

Jed Sears

Michael & Susan Silver

John Bocti & Carly Silberberg

Alice Snaden and child Selah

Alan Price & Helen Snider Price

Ben Sokolowski and children Jerry
and Lucy

Stefan Solyom & Catherin
Manoukian and children Johannes
and Sebastian

Adam Dobkin & Jacqueline Stroz

Wei Wei Su

Ryan Lamers & Marta Switzer

Marissa & Elizabeth Vailer and
child Naomi

Emily Walker & Brendan Smith and
child Lyla

Roxanne Yanofsky & Matthew
Cunnane and children Nathaniel
and Gabriel

As of February 23, 2024

Mazel tov to...

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to Valerie & Rob Denaburg on the birth of their daughter Clara Joy Denaburg. Proud family includes grandparents Phyllis Segal Denaburg & Jeff Denaburg and Sue & Craig Wheeler; and great-grandparents Clara & Monte Denaburg z"l, Ralph Segal z"l & Barbara Liebgott, Phyllis & Marshall Wheeler z"l, and Ellen & James Shaffer z"l.

Mazel tov to Lyla & Billy Farbstein on the birth of their son Myles Farbstein. Proud family includes brother Tyler, grandparents Karen & Yoel Abells, Jan Schreiber & Joe Battle, Linda & Jeff Farbstein, and great-grandparents Mary Seldon and Shirley Farbstein.

Mazel tov to Jessica Stern & Mark Greenberg on the birth of their daughter Abigail Mackenzie Greenberg. Proud family includes brother Nate, and grandparents Barbara & John Greenberg and Jill Stern & Allen Stern z"l.

Mazel tov to Deborah Cole & Opher Moses on the birth of their daughter Lielle Moses. Proud family includes siblings Netanel and Amittai; and grandparents Michael & Josephine Cole and Meyer & Mehelbeth Moses.

Mazel tov to Abigail & Sarah Nemzer on the birth of their child Ma'ayan Lev Nemzer. Proud family includes sibling Kedem Aviv; grandparents Jay Brodbar, Cindy Carpenter & Jesse Winch, Eileen Nemzer, Teresa Tomas, and Sheila Weiner; and great-grandparents Ken & Mary Carpenter.

Mazel tov to Daniel Roher & Caroline Lindy on the birth of their son Gideon Alan Roher in Los Angeles, California. Proud grandparents are Joanne & Kevin Roher and Ruth & David Lindy. Proud great-grandmothers are Gloria Gordon and Lila Weiss.

Mazel tov to Jordana & Graham Rosen on the birth of their son Logan Samuel Rosen. Proud family includes grandparents Susan Jackson & Larry Rosen and Judy Litwack-Goldman & David Goldman; and great-grandparents Evelyn & Harry Rosen, Donna & Ralph Goldman, Mabel Jackson z"l, Peter Jackson z"l, Dora Litwack z"l and Sam Litwack z"l.

Mazel tov to Samantha & Benjamin Roy on the birth of their daughter Harper Roy. Proud family includes siblings Logan Roy, Matt Roy, Bram and Sarah Rosenberg; and grandparents Roberta Wardinger, Beth Rosenberg, Ian Roy, and Bernard Markowitz z"l.

Mazel tov to Mandy Gareh & Daniel Woolfson on the birth of their daughter Maya Miriam Ellie Woolfson. Proud family includes sister Leah June Olivia Woolfson; grandparents Debbie Anshan, Bruce Gareh, and Rhonda & David Woolfson; and great-grandparents Miriam Gareh z"l, Molly & Sidney Woolfson, Charlie Rotstein, and Lorraine Rotstein z"l.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Iolanda Formoso & Daniel Silverstein on their marriage on January 13 2024. Proud parents are Vanda Da Silva & Paulo Formoso and Arlene & Jeff Silverstein.

Mazel tov to Jill Smith & Conor Beer on their engagement on August 7 2023. Proud family includes their parents Ronna Rubin & Philip Smith and Karen & Bryan Beer.

Mazel tov to Hailey Smith & Stefan Wood on their engagement on January 13 2024. Proud family includes their parents Ronna Rubin & Philip Smith and Susan & Joel Wood.

Mazel tov to Samantha Wolfe & Tyler Grosman on their engagement on January 26, 2024. Proud parents are Michael & Beverley Wolfe and Sean & Candace Grosman. Proud grandmothers are Linda Wolfe, Barbara Stitt, Jacqui Grosman, and Judy Frank.

OTHER SMACHOT

Mazel tov to Dr. Sara Joy Angel who was named a Member of the Order of Canada for her work on Canada's visual history and culture as a journalist and founder of the Art Canada Institute.

Mazel tov to David Baskin who has been elected as Chair of RPB – the Reform Pension Board.

B'nei Mitzvah



Milo Gould
Saturday, December 2, 2023
Son of Carly Steinman
& Jonathan Gould



Willow Rodney
Saturday, December 9, 2023
Daughter of Brian Rodney and
Joanna Davidson



Violet Horwitz
Saturday, January 20, 2024
Daughter of Alix Paisley Horwitz
& Warren Horwitz



Simone Rothschild
Saturday, February 3, 2024
Daughter of Ronnie Shore
& Dene Rothschild



Noa Vernon
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Daughter of Stacey Grossman
& David Vernon



Ezra Goldman
Saturday, March 16, 2024
Son of Alison
& Corey Goldman



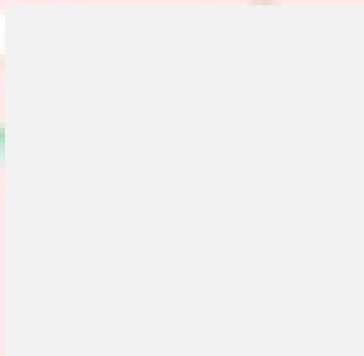
Ainsley Davidson
Saturday, March 23, 2024
Daughter of Sari Goldsmn Davidson
& Steve Davidson



Harper Fine
Saturday, April 6, 2024
Daughter of Ronit Fine
& Ben Fine



Nava Zelcer Noble
Saturday, April 13, 2024
Child of Sarah Zelcer
& Michael Noble



Leo Denburg
Saturday, April 20, 2024
Son of Avi Denburg
& Liane McDonald

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY

Larry Rosen & Susan Jackson

Ben & Jill Lustig

Caroline & Danny Mandell

Prakash Singh

Lorne Smith

Ed Treister

In Appreciation of Rabbi Splansky

Sara & Richard Charney

In Honour of Rabbi Splansky

Diana Tapper

In Honour of Willow Rodney

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Malcom Dombrowsky z"l

Sheldon Dale

In Honour of Yahrzeit of Itzhac Alalouf z"l

Dalia & Jacob Alalouf

In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Bernice Palef z"l

Barbara & John Greenberg

In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Ida Aster z"l

Prof. Sidney Aster

In Memory of Rose Herman z"l

Carole & Bernie Zucker

In Memory of Joel Greisman z"l

Susan & Peter Segal and Family

In Memory of Paul Ungar z"l

Susie Ungar & Ed Hussman

In Memory of Gabor Apor z"l

Debra Bennett

RABBI SAMUEL KAYE

Alma Simonsky

In Appreciation of Rabbi Samuel Kaye

Sara & Richard Charney

The children of Irving Lipton
(Suzanne, Jordan, Jonathan)

Heather Crawford & Larry Ritchie

RABBI ELIZA MCCARROLL

Zlata & Ron Huddleston

Michael Feldman & Nanette Rosen

In Appreciation of Rabbi Eliza McCarroll

Susan Baskin and Family

Sara & Richard Charney

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

Carole & Jay Sterling

CANTOR DAVID ROSEN

Caleb Czarny

Caroline & Danny Mandell

Michael Feldman & Nanette Rosen

Jill & Brian Rosen

Lili Tanz-Rosenbaum

In Appreciation of Cantor David Rosen

Susan Baskin and Family

Sara & Richard Charney

Holy Blossom Temple Chavurah

In Honour of Cantor Rosen

Frances Ellis

In Honour of Willow Rodney

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

CANTORIAL SOLOIST LINDI RIVERS

In Appreciation of Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers

Sara & Richard Charney

Heather Crawford & Larry Ritchie

In Memory of Adi Vital-Kaploun z"l

Jane & Russell Rendely and Family

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Sharon Neiss Arbess & Rebecca Eckler

Anonymous

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Glenda Bocknek

In Honour of Jack

Kugelmass

Glenda Bocknek

Cynthia Good: Good Books

Maxanne Ezer

In Memory of Gloria Howard z"l

Esther Szold-Bergman

Eleanor Loebel

Jean Lorie

Linda Miller & Jay Silverberg

In Honour of the Yahrzeit of Rachel Bolnick z"l

Kuperman Family

In Memory of Gloria Howard z"l

Kay Roumanis

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Susan Jackson & Larry Rosen

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In Appreciation of Larry Babins Teresa & Alberto Quiroz

In Honour of Joan Garson

Merle Kriss

In Honour of Ryan Faust - grandson of Linda and Abe Neufeld

Helena & David Fine

In Honour of Carole and Jay Sterling Merle Kriss

In Memory of Rose Mamie Garfinkel z"l

Barry & Susan Borden

Teresa & Alberto Quiroz

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In Appreciation of Dr. Yoel Abells

C. Fisher

In Honour of Jim Bookbinder

Isabel Freeman

In Honour of Ruth Ehrlich

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**In Memory of Marcia Sue
Robinson z"l**

Nancy-Gay & Max Rotstein

**In Memory of Marcia Norris
Robinson z"l**

Ruth Ellen & Sheldon Greenwood

In Memory of Gloria Howard z"l

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Joan Garson & David Baskin

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Weiss**

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

In Appreciation of Iris Spitz

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

**In Appreciation of Rebekah
Lobosco Gilli**

Brian Rodney & Joanna Davidson

In Honour of Joan Garson

Shami & Harvey Zimmerman

**In Honour of Rabbi Taylor
Baruchel**

Helena & David Fine

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Joan Garson & David Baskin

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*Donations from
October 20, 2023-February 20, 2024*



Toward the back of the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium, in the Lloyd & Gladys Fogler Archives & Seating area, are two beautiful new digital displays, thanks to the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation. All are encouraged to have a closer look next time you are at Temple!

These displays recognize Renewal Project donors as well as giving kavod to our Heritage Donors, those who contributed in honour of Rabbi Splansky's 25th anniversary, and the Annual Campaign.

The beauty of these digital displays is in both the design fitting seamlessly into the space, as well as the flexibility afforded by technology where recognition can be updated on an ongoing basis. It was delightful to celebrate the "first look" of the digital displays on Shabbat Chanukah, on Friday, December 8 (as pictured above).

The following corrections have been made to donor recognition that was published in the Chanukah Bulletin. With thanks for your patience and understanding, we are working towards the best means of recognition of all our cherished donors. We welcome your input as we continue with this project.

HALL OF HONOUR

180,000+

The Rotman Family

25,000+

Susan and Barry Borden

10,000+

Marilyn & David Gluskin

Frances and Paul Hellen

5,000-10,000

Lorne Wolfson & Lorie Shekter Wolfson

CELEBRATING RABBI SPLANSKY

Jill Kamin and Murray Hart

Jean Lorie

Join us in celebrating the vibrant growth of our community at Holy Blossom Temple!

Over the past three years, we've seen an incredible influx of new members. As we continue to thrive, it's natural that you may meet new faces at Temple. Our spirit of warmth and inclusivity ensures that every newcomer is embraced with open arms.

At Holy Blossom, connection is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in fostering a sense of belonging that goes beyond mere attendance services or programs. It's about forging meaningful relationships, finding spiritual nourishment, and discovering pathways to personal growth. In this sacred community, there are countless opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events where we'll gather to greet our newcomers and share some Jewish joy:

Saturday, April 13 @ 10:30 am: Special Family Service dedicated to our new members. Please join us to connect and share in the spirit of community!

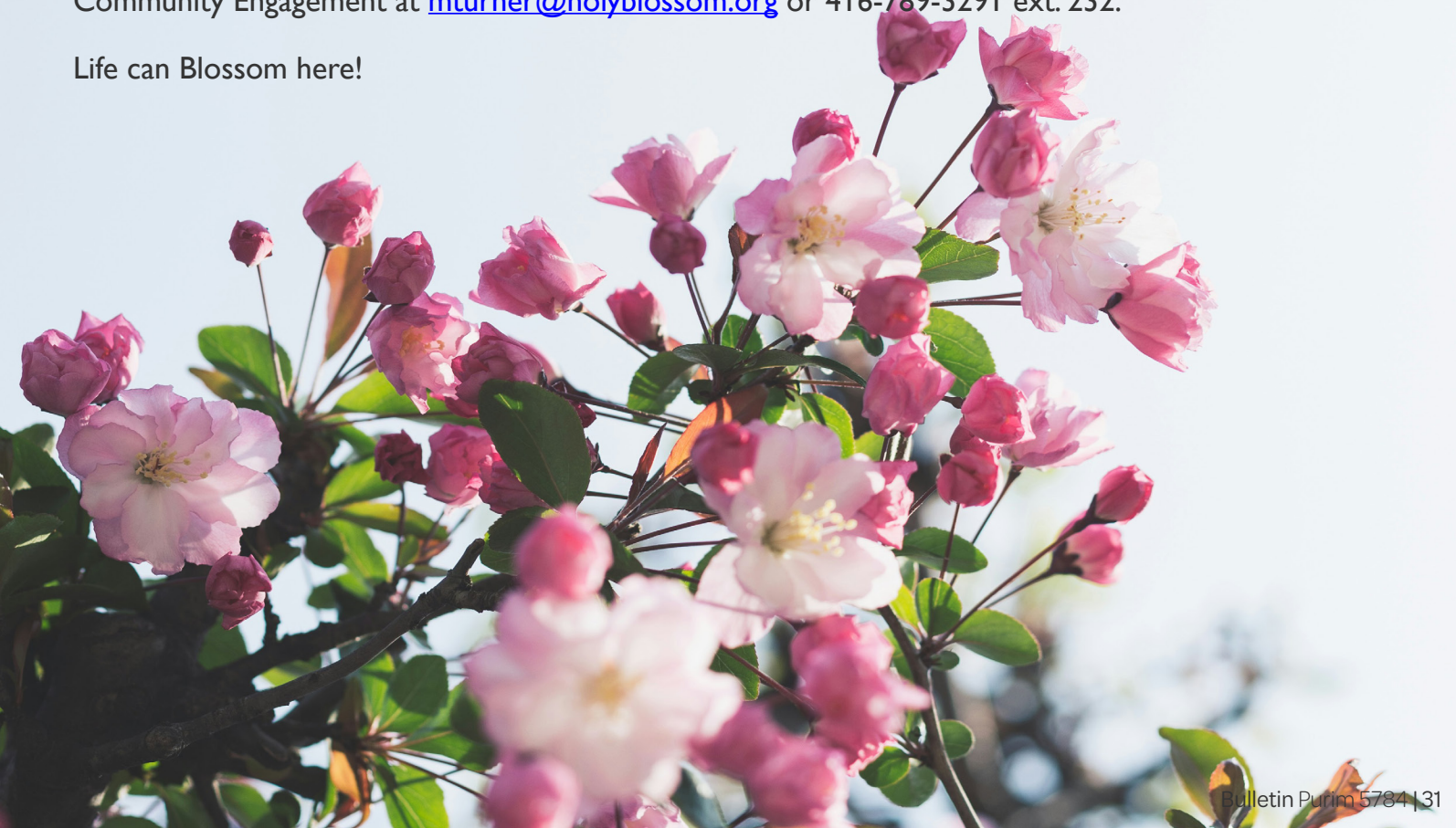
Friday, May 3rd @ 5:00 pm: Delightful Wine & Cheese reception preceding our Kabbalat Shabbat service. Let's celebrate new beginnings!

As we continue to grow and evolve as a community, let us never forget the importance of extending a warm welcome to all who enter our doors. Together, we build a community where everyone feels valued, supported, and inspired to thrive.

Have friends or family looking for a spiritual home?

It is easy to join Holy Blossom! Please reach out to Marni Turner, our Director of Membership and Community Engagement at mturner@holyblossom.org or 416-789-3291 ext. 232.

Life can Blossom here!



PESACH 5784 AT HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Let all Come and Eat!

If are in need of a place to go for seder and would like to be hosted by a fellow congregant, or if you have a place at your table to welcome others to join you for these holy day meals, please contact Marni Turner, our Director of Membership and Community Engagement (mturner@holyblossom.org, or 416-789-3291 ext. 232) by Monday, April 8, so we can make some joyful, meaningful matches. There's always room at the table for one more as we fulfill the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim*, or hospitality.

Tuesday, April 16, 11:30 am: Dorot Presents "B'Chol 'Dor VaDor"
Intergenerational Engagement and the Festival of Pesach with Rabbi Taylor Baruchel

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 pm: Matzoh-Crack Making with YAD: Next Gen!
Join your fellow young professionals and make this tasty toffee treat.

April 19-May 1, L'Dance Pesach Dance Camp

Friday, April 19, 5:30 pm: Tot Shabbat Pesach! Hunt the Chametz

Sunday, April 21, 10:30 am: YEC Pesach Celebration

Get ready for Pesach with the Youth Education Centre! This creative, experiential learning program is open to ALL Holy Blossom families, including our Jewish Day School families and those still searching for just the right educational program for their children 😊

Monday, April 22, 7:30 am: Siyum for the Firstborn

Calling all Firstborns! There is a simple service, special study session, and breakfast designed especially for you, so you'll be exempted from the traditional Fast of the Firstborn.

Monday, April 22, 6:00 pm: Erev First Day Yom Tov Service

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 am: First Day Yom Tov Service

With joyful songs of Hallel, creative Pesach-themed programs for kids, and a kosher l'Pesach Kiddush-lunch for all to enjoy.

Sunday, April 28, 6:00 pm: Erev Seventh Day Yom Tov Service

Monday, April 29, 10:00 am: Seventh Day Yom Tov Service

This includes our very moving Yizkor/Memorial Service when we dedicate new Yahrzeit lights in the Sanctuary. (If you'd like to make arrangements to memorialize a loved one with a Yahrzeit tablet, please contact Cindy Zimmer at czimmer@holyblossom.org.) A festive Kiddush-lunch will follow the service for all to enjoy.