

BULLETIN

Tekiah! High Holy Days 5785



HOLY
BLOSSOM
TEMPLE

Fall Festivals 5785

SUKKOT

Celebrate the festival of Sukkot with your Holy Blossom community!

Inter-generational Sukkah Decorating:

Tuesday, October 15, 5:00 pm

Erev Sukkot Service:

Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 pm

First Day Sukkot Service:

Thursday, October 17, 10:00 am

First Day Sukkot Service, Children's Program, & Lunch in the Sukkah!

Thursday, October 17, 11:00 am (approx.)

Shabbat Family Service

Saturday, October 19 10:30 am

YAD Pizza in the Hut

Monday, October 21, 7:00 pm

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:

Wednesday, October 23, 6:00 pm

Service and Yizkor:

Thursday, October 24, 10:00 am

SIMCHAT TORAH: WE WILL DANCE AGAIN

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

Consecration:

Thursday, October 24, 6:00 pm

Flagmaking:

Thursday, October 24, 6:15 pm

Service and Celebration:

Thursday, October 24, 7:00 pm



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE **Bulletin**
CONTENTS

Rabbinic Reflection 4

From the President 5

From the Executive Director 6

Musical Notes: 2024-2025 7

Simanim: Signs for a Good Year 8

Home from the Happy Place 9

Lessons in Belonging 10

From the Director of Development 11

Annual Campaign 2024 12

Introducing Foundation 5785 Board 14

From the HBT Foundation 16

From the Education Department 17

Youth Engagement: Community Building 18

Unleash the Joy at the ECC 19

Program Guide: Fall 2024 20

In Memoriam 22

Our Congregational Family 23

Our Generous Donors 26

On the cover: *Tekiah! Four generations of Holy Blossom Temple members, the Toker family sound the Shofar to welcome in the New Year. Not too loudly, the fourth generation was napping during the photo shoot!*

RABBINIC REFLECTION



Make Way! Make Way!

Rabbi Yael Splansky,
Senior Rabbi

This Temple bulletin is filled with proud reflections over the year past and joyful anticipations for the year ahead of us. I am in awe of how our Holy

Blossom Temple team of professionals and lay leaders has worked tirelessly and intuitively to meet the moment of 5784. Since October 7th, our sacred mandate has taken on many new and complex dimensions. Organizing rallies, raising emergency funding, cultivating interfaith relationships, advocating for Israel and Jewish Canadians, creating new curricula for young and adult learners, providing for local Israeli families, revisiting our security systems and protocols, meeting with elected officials, answering calls from the media, and most significantly, supporting the emotional and spiritual needs of congregants who are, to varying degrees, impacted by the assault of October 7th and its aftershocks. All this, in addition to the routine work of running a vibrant and aspiring congregation.

Because I am protective of our community, I am furious that Canadian Jewish life has been so abruptly upended and at the same time, I am extraordinarily proud to see how many congregants – across the life stages – are stepping up to play leading roles in their schools, campuses and workplaces, in volunteerism, and in generosity. I am not at all surprised, but I am very moved to see how our people are devoting their unique talents to meet the trials of our time.

Most years, we approach the new year with joyful anticipation and curiosity. Normally, we are energized by the thought of turning the page to greet a new year of possibility and promise. This year, however, it seems many are approaching the new year with trepidation. It's understandable. What will we have to face? What hard truths will we have to witness? What burdens will we have to carry? How will we protect the next generation from hardship? Who will stand with us? What will become of the Canada we love? What will become of the Israel we love?

In Hebrew, the High Holy Days are called “Yamim Noraim.” This can be translated as Days of Awe or even, the Days of Dread. That trepidation before the unknown is exactly what Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are designed to address. We do not pretend it

away. Instead, we name it, we ritualize it, we make it sacred. Most importantly, we do so TOGETHER. Many have described experiences of a new kind of loneliness this year. Some have lost friends. Some relationships with family members have cooled. Some feel isolated or misunderstood by work colleagues. So we congregate, where we know we belong. We feel a magnetic pull towards the synagogue, where our stories intermingle with ease and we take sanctuary in one another. Bring your innermost prayers and they will be elevated and reinforced by the prayers of fellow congregants. Bring your worries and they will be tempered by newfound confidence in the never-ending story of the Jewish People. Bring your intentions for the new year and they will be met by good and capable partners, because we each have a role to play now. And bring your song. It will be made more beautiful and more powerful, when it is woven together with the voices of hundreds more.

In Sephardic Machzorim (High Holy Day prayerbooks), there is a medieval liturgical poem for Rosh HaShanah. It is called “Ahot Ketanah, Little Sister.” Its refrain echoes the words of the Talmudic Sage, Rabbi Abaye, who prayed: “May the year come to an end, and with it, its curses.” In the final stanza, however, the poem adds another prayer: “And may the new year begin and with it, its blessings.” *“Tichleh Shana v’Kililoteha. Tachel Shana u’Virchoteha!”*

Excerpt from “Little Sister,”

by Rabbi Avraham Chazan Gerundi, 13th-century Spain

The little sister,
her prayers she arranges, and her praises she recites.
Please, God, heal what ails her now.

May the year and its curses come to an end.

With pleasant words she calls out to You
and with song and praises that befit You.
Until when will You hide Your eyes?
May the year and its curses come to an end!

...Be strong and rejoice,
And you shall ascend to Zion.

God shall declare:

“Make way! Make way! Clear her paths.”

May the New Year and its blessings begin!

So may it be for us. *L’Shanah Tovah*. I wish you and those you love a year of abundant blessings. For Israel and the Jewish People everywhere may it be a year of peace.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Phyllis Denaburg,
Temple President**

It feels as if we have been given a few extra weeks of summer this year but I'm not complaining. Like Holy Blossom Temple professional staff and clergy, I have a few items on my plate that I planned to accomplish over the summer.

Fortunately, my deadlines are self-imposed and flexible, and I have been able to carve out some time to sit on a cousin's dock in the Laurentians and to drive to New Hampshire to see friends with my husband Jeff. Lounging on a dock, and long drives are the perfect time to be introspective, in my case to think about the High Holy Days and how quickly my two-year term as President has gone by. When I first introduced myself formally to the congregation as president in December 2022, I spoke about our updated strategic plan, our plans to commence its implementation, and our continuing focus on our members – welcoming everyone back to our home at 1950 Bathurst Street and increasing their feeling of belonging. Those plans are all in progress, and we have done more.

In May 2023 we celebrated Rabbi Splansky's 25th year as *our* Rabbi, and as our rabbi. We kicked off our year of celebration with a multi-generational party that included a shuk filled with artwork made by our students, klezmer music, Israeli dancing, and many words of tribute. We welcomed back our members with a joyous celebration. Through the generous donations in Rabbi Splansky's honour, we were able to hire a Director of Outreach and Next Gen Engagement (Rabbi Taylor Baruchel) to support our young families and young adults and to reach out to those not-yet members, with a warm welcome and connection to our Membership Department. Over the past 3 years, we have grown over 20%. One in five member households is new to Holy Blossom. Life is definitely blossoming here.

While not as exciting as our growth in membership, I am very proud of our ethics and governance-related achievements. Together with many of our fellow North American Reform congregations, we developed and implemented a Congregational Code of Ethics that sets out principles and expectations for adherence

to standards of conduct for our community. Also, we enhanced several Board related processes and procedures regarding succession planning for the role of President and running efficient and effective board meetings using technology, without retiring the trusty gavel. As well, we rewrote HBT by-laws to comply with a new Ontario requirement. In the Torah and in the Jewish tradition, leadership and governance are inextricably tied to our values and ethics.

People ask me what I enjoyed most and what surprised me most, about being President. It has been an honour to walk in the big shoes of my predecessors, and I am very grateful for their support and friendship. I've particularly enjoyed working in sacred partnership with Rabbi Splansky and Rachel Malach, our Executive Director. While I have worked as part of teams in a fairly large workplace, helping to lead a Jewish organization adds another dimension to a relationship. A sacred partnership is a commitment to building and nurturing relationships that elevate the work of leadership to a level of holiness. I will miss our weekly Wednesday meetings where we discuss everything from the sacred to the profane.

What surprised me the most? I am not unique in saying that I have been humbled and honoured during my time as President, regarding all that Holy Blossom does 365 days a year. In fact, being the risk manager that I am, I sometimes worried about our clergy and our professional staff being spread so thin. Fortunately, we are working on that. I have a much greater appreciation for what is involved in running the largest Reform congregation in Canada and one of the 20 largest Reform synagogues in North America. There are so many moving parts.

I am eternally grateful to our incredible clergy team, our very professional and amazing staff, the bright and enthusiastic lay leaders who sit on the Board of Directors, and countless unsung volunteers without whom Holy Blossom wouldn't be the vibrant, warm and welcoming community that we are today. Thank you for bestowing on me the pleasure and the honour of being President of the awesome Holy Blossom Temple.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy 5785, and a year filled with goodness, sweetness and peace. *Shanah Tovah.*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rachel Malach, Executive Director

As the High Holy Days of 5785 draw near, we at Holy Blossom Temple are filled with a profound desire to be together as a community. This sacred season offers us a unique opportunity to gather one and all in song and prayer, to support one another as we put the past year behind us and start anew, and to reflect and celebrate our Judaism with pride and joy.

We invite you to join us in creating a warm, inclusive environment where every member of our congregation feels valued and supported. Whether you are a long-standing multi-generational member or new to our congregation, we look forward to sharing these meaningful moments with you. Our commitment to supporting one another is at the heart of everything we do. The High Holy Days provide a perfect backdrop for us to reaffirm our connections and extend love and support to those in need.

Please refer to your High Holy Days ticket package for all details. In the package, you will find your tickets, website details and password, Frequently Asked Questions (and answers), a Family Guide, Celebration & Commemoration dates for 5785, a letter from our amazing Temple President, and information about Holy Blossom Memorial Park.

In addition to our carefully crafted worship services, Holy Blossom Temple is a vibrant centre for life-long learning, growth, and community. This High Holy Days season, we invite you to explore the many opportunities on offer, including educational programs for all ages, social gatherings, and spiritual enrichment. I know each of you will find meaning through your High Holy Days experience at Temple. Our wonderful Rabbis, Cantors, and professional team members are here to support and welcome you.



I am delighted to share that over the summer we welcomed Ela Paz to the HBT Professional Team in the position of Outreach & Engagement Administrator, working with Rabbi Baruchel. Ela brings to Temple almost two decades of experience in administration in various organizations in the United Kingdom, Gibraltar, and here in the GTA. She holds a B.A. in Management and Political Science from the Open University of Israel in Ra'anana. Ela can be reached at epaz@holyblossom.org, and extension 228.

In addition to the holidays, Holy Blossom is here for you all year round. We continue to grow and consider new ways of connecting with our congregation and community. As we approach the Fall, we are excited to dive into our new Full Day Child Care program, as well as our new After School @ Holy B program! We are equally excited to continue our well-loved Youth Education Centre programming, including Sunday morning and Monday evening programs for children JK to Grade 5 and Grade 6 – 12, respectively. We are here to provide the next generation with a solid foundation when it comes to Jewish Education. To learn more, visit: holyblossom.org/early-childhood-youth-education/.

This year especially, let us embrace the opportunity to come together, support one another, and celebrate our strong Jewish identity with pride. May this season be a time of reflection, renewal, and profound connection for each and every one of us.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah — wishing you a sweet and good year ahead!

MUSICAL NOTES: 2024-2025

Cantor David Rosen, Senior Cantor



As the summer winds down and we look to the year ahead, I could not be more excited about what we have accomplished and for what lies ahead for music at Holy Blossom Temple.

On April 4th, 2024, we launched the new fund, “Music@HBT” at our “Life is a Cabernet” gala featuring delicious food, wine-tasting, and stellar Cantorial performances. Thanks to the generosity and support of sponsors and attendees, we were able to raise over \$40,000. It is because of this encouragement that I can share with you a preview of this year’s exciting musical highlights.

On Tuesday, November 12th, The Centre for Arts and Culture at Holy Blossom will partner with the organization “Looking at the Stars” to bring you an unforgettable and intimate evening with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) Chamber Soloists. Led by Concertmaster Jonathan Crow, The TSO Chamber Soloists will perform Vivldi’s *Four Seasons*. Thank you to Dmitri Kanovich and Ellen T. Cole for their generous support of this incredible event. This will be a unique opportunity to enjoy some of TSO’s world class musicians in our very own Mishkan. Ticket sales start in late September, with a limited number of seats (150) available. Stay tuned for more details!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 pm for our 5th annual Interfaith Holiday Concert *Gifts of Light*. Featuring top GTA youth and adult choirs as well as special guest performers, this concert will bring a smile to your face and warmth to your heart. With the generous support of Steven and Gillian Bookman, we are humbly able to be an exemplar in our greater community, to pave the way to create opportunities for different faith communities to come together to raise funds and highlight worthy charitable causes.

On Sunday, February 9th, as part of our Shabbat Shira festivities, we are partnering with Opera Atelier as they present a sneak preview of their North American premiere of Marc Antoine Charpentier’s, *David and Jonathan* for an afternoon performance in our beautiful Mishkan. Be prepared to be moved by the gorgeous repertoire and heartfelt psalms that paint a picture of this fascinating biblical narrative. Opera Atelier will present the piece in its entirety at Koerner Hall in early April 2025.

Of course, you don’t have to wait for these events to enjoy great music at Holy Blossom Temple. Shabbat mornings are often graced with the sounds of our glorious Temple Choir and Temple Singers. And this year, with the generous support of Michael and Anita Greenstein, we are once again blessed to feature some of the top musicians in the GTA as part of our Kabbalat Shabbat Services. This one-hour worship experience serves as the perfect oasis to welcome Shabbat and to set the tone for a most restful and wonderful weekend.

I look forward to experiencing music and so much more with you this year through the Centre for Arts and Culture at Holy Blossom Temple.

Wishing each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year ahead. *L’shanah Tovah Tikateivu!*

SIMANIM: SIGNS FOR A GOOD YEAR

Rabbi Samuel Kaye, Associate Rabbi



We all know about the apple and the honey that we eat on Rosh Hashanah. The apple is round and represents the circle of life and the year that is coming, while the honey is sweet and represents all the sweetness we hope to receive this coming year.

This is an ancient custom we are all familiar with...but it is not the only symbolic food we eat on Rosh Hashanah! The 'symbolic foods' are called *simanim* in our Talmudic literature, beautified in the Sephardic tradition, and there are eight of them.

Each, like the apple and the honey, come with a corresponding symbol and an ancient Hebrew pun!

The ancient invocations come with a prayer for...

Dates, that all of our troubles will come to an end!

Black-Eyed peas, anise, or sesame seeds, that our merits will multiply!

Leeks, that our enemies will be but cut off!

Chard or beets, that all who would harm us will be driven away!

Pumpkin or carrot, that God will rip up the verdict of judgment against us!

Pomegranate, that we will be as filled with mitzvot as the seeds of this fruit!

And of course... the apple and honey, so that we may have a sweet new year!

Ah...you noticed that there are only seven blessings here. Where is the eighth blessing?

This is the least popular one. It is over fish... heads. We pray that we should be like the head, and not the other end. Don't worry, those little red candy fish can do the job as well as any creature from the sea!

Every year it is my tradition to whip up a Rosh Hashanah menu that captures the essence of these blessings, and the ingredients themselves, to serve to my family and our guests. Last year we had chard and

carrot buerakas and leek pancakes from the Israeli restaurant down the street, home made stuffed Lebanese style zucchini, Egyptian black eyed pea stew, and some Moroccan spicy fish called *chraime*.

This year I'm still working on the menu! However, one of the things I look forward to most about Rosh Hashanah is the creative expressions of taking this ancient tradition and forging it anew every year.

That concept, the interplay between tradition and modernity, is one of the pillars of who we are here at Holy Blossom Temple. Looking forward to 5785, it remains one of the things I am most excited about and proud to continue working on. From co-teaching with my clergy colleagues so that our new members can feel more at home in this storied place, to continuing the *Beit Midrash* on Wednesday night and expanding new visions of our ancient texts. I'll be spending plenty of time with our teens, helping them navigate these challenging days and I'm proud to be taking them to Ottawa for the first Canadian L'taken! Of course, alongside our incredible lay people, we're continuing our mitzvah work in Tikkun Olam and Advocacy, where every year the challenges of our nation transform the tzedakah that we do and the people that we fight for.

5785 is also a year I'll also be traveling to Israel, where ancient and modern intertwine, and our history and our future dwell together.

There's a lot on the menu, both figuratively and literally, for this coming year. But it looks rich, exciting, and fulfilling for the body and soul. I hope you'll join me, and we can enjoy it together.

From my family to yours, *Shanah Tovah! Tizku L'Shanim Rabot!* May you merit many more good and healthy years!

HOME FROM THE HAPPY PLACE

Rabbi Eliza McCarroll, Assistant Rabbi



The Sa'adiah Gaon teaches that there are ten reasons given for the blowing of the instrument from which the “tekiah” resounds: the shofar.

These reasons range from the shofar being a symbol of God's continued sovereignty, an alarm clock to the work of repentance and awe of the Divine, a reminder of Abraham's attempted sacrifice of his beloved son Isaac, a hearkening to the Messianic era, and even, an echo of the primordial scream.

Each of these reasons comes to mind as I write this, having just returned from a week up at Camp George with our youngest of our Holy Blossom community.

Our theme of “tekiah,” of a piercing noise calling us to attention, was palpable here more than ever on the magical Maple Lake.

Not just because they were loud, shouting and causing ruckus as only kids know how (perhaps this is the primordial scream...); they did it with joy, singing and dancing and cheering, revelling in their Jewish identities and friendships.

I could not be prouder of them as they were able to simply be their full selves, as campers, counsellors, and specialists for the summer, a necessary break after what I learned had been a particularly difficult ten months for our students.

In a panel with community leadership over Shabbat, the students – high schoolers and university-aged – described what they had been facing since October 7, enduring bullying (sometimes physical), harassment, and the loss of relationships as they navigated the veritable wave of antisemitism and anti-Zionist sentiment.

Yet, camp was there. Camp was the breath they needed to take. The hug they needed to feel. The silence they needed to hear. It was their “tekiah,” their glorious stretch of almost two months of relief, happiness, and authenticity.

Each one of those young people spoke to the idea that their “tekiah” was the strength they felt from their people and their Jewish community, including their synagogues. Each of them also spoke about how their experiences made them stronger and surer of who they were and what they stood for as Jews.

In the time that has followed, I have been thinking about how we can be that “tekiah,” that source of strength and resilience, to not just our youngest but to all members of our congregation.

The solution I've come to is that we are uniquely positioned to provide our members with safe spaces. Just like our campers, at Holy Blossom there is a place for each one of us to exhale, and to come together in strength and unity.

To highlight but a few examples from my portfolios:

- ✧ Our Youth Education Centre (YEC) is back starting September 8th with an Open House and Grandparents Day intergenerational bonanza with our partners at PJ Library
- ✧ Our Bikkur Cholim (Caring Community) committee is hosting an open training on September 10 about the good work they do and their best pastoral practices for our volunteers
- ✧ Dorot will launch for the fall season with a lively musical performance with our friends from Concerts in Care Ontario
- ✧ Our HaTzipporim (Empty Nesters) are kicking off their year of programming with a tour of Jewish Kensington on September 29

As we head into 5785, I encourage you to take heart from our students, to scream, to shout, to return, to reflect, to cry and to celebrate as we declare: “Tekiah!” - We are here, and we are strong.

L'Shanah Tovah!

FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES: LESSONS IN BELONGING

Rabbi Taylor Baruchel, Director of Outreach and Next Gen Engagement



For a household headed by two rabbis, I think the most elevated *neshama* in the family is doubtlessly our four-year-old, Selah. This is not a surprise to any regular Shabbat attendee, as her sagely sayings are frequent sermon-fodder for Rabbi Kaye. This past week, as we packed up and headed home from kiddush lunch, after joyfully skipping out of the atrium, her whole energy changed in a moment as she let out a soul-deep, mournful cry.

“Selah?!? What’s wrong sweetheart?” I spurted out, doing the requisite mom-check over her tiny frame, worrying she had somehow managed to hurt herself on the arduous adventure to Ava Road.

“I don’t want to leave our Temple, mommy. Temple will be so lonely without us!”

Sure, we may have some work to do with her on her conception sentience vs inanimate objects, and what is capable of feeling, but in the purest way she has already internalized a core truth of Jewish life: She belongs so fully to this place. Every member of our community does. Not because of what we can do, or produce, but because the community is more whole when we are together.

Holy Blossom Temple is so much more than our building at 1950 Bathurst Street. Truly, a synagogue is all the people in our *Kehillah Kedoshah* - our sacred community - and indeed - we miss you when you are not here, because we are less of whole without you!

With this in mind, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to our Young Professionals to join us for a special **YAD: Next Gen L’Chaim** ahead of **Erev Rosh Hashanah**. As we raise our glasses together, we’ll usher in 5785 with a spirit of connection and hope for a brighter new year. If you are 20/30-something or know and love one who needs a home for the Holy Days (and beyond), please have them contact me. We would love to welcome them!

Similarly, our **Littlest Blossoms** and their grown-ups can join us for family services and special holiday experiences designed just for them (**Little Blossoms & Young Readers services** holyblossom.org/guestfamilies/). Our family services are crafted to engage and inspire our youngest members, providing them with a meaningful and enjoyable introduction to the High Holy Days. These services are a wonderful way for families to come together in worship, creating lasting memories and traditions.

Beyond the High Holy Days, we have an exciting year ahead filled with opportunities for our young families to connect and celebrate. Look forward to our rocking Tot Shabbats on the final Fridays of every month, where music and joy fill the air, making Shabbat a festive occasion for all ages. Additionally, our exuberant monthly family service is a highlight, offering a space where children can truly revel in the Jewish joy of belonging in our community.

So, please listen to Selah’s wisdom...you wouldn’t want Temple to be lonely, right?

Together, let us create a year filled with warmth, joy, and a true sense of belonging. *Shanah Tovah U’Metukah* – Wishing you a good and sweet year!

If you would like more information or wish to join any of our events, please contact Rabbi Baruchel at Tbaruchel@HolyBlossom.org. We look forward to celebrating with you!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Shira Lester, Director of Development and Donor Engagement



2024 Annual Campaign and Our Growing Community

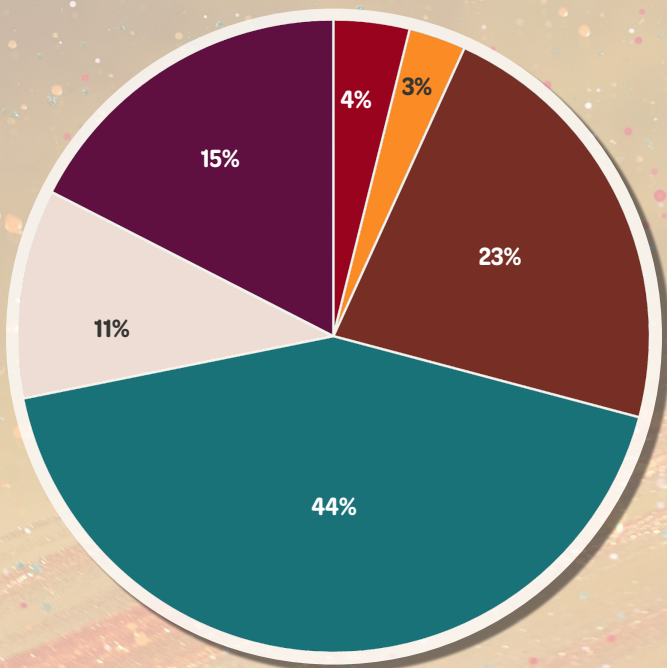
Holy Blossom Temple has always been a beacon of Jewish life in Toronto, and now, more than ever, our role is crucial. As we launch our 2024 Annual Campaign, we're proud to announce that our congregation is growing, welcoming more new members than ever before. This growth reflects the vital role our Temple plays as a spiritual home, especially in these challenging times.

In an era marked by rising antisemitism in the diaspora, Holy Blossom Temple stands as a Mezuzah for our community - providing comfort, pride, strength, and a sense of belonging. Just as a Mezuzah guards the entrances of our homes, our Temple guards and nurtures our collective Jewish spirit.

At Holy Blossom, we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be part of our vibrant community. One of the cornerstones of our inclusive approach is the Terumah program. This program allows families with children aged 8 or younger to determine a meaningful membership contribution. By empowering families to decide what they can contribute, we open our doors wider and welcome more people into our community.

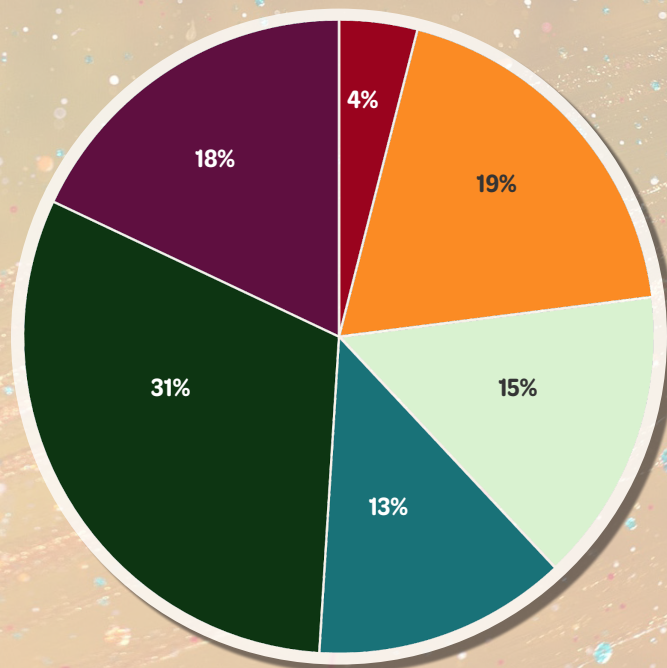
However, it's important to understand that membership contributions alone are not enough to sustain our operations. In fact, these contributions cover less than 50% of our operating costs. The pie charts included below illustrate where your support goes, providing a transparent view of how we allocate our resources to serve our community effectively.

Projected Revenue



- Cemetery
- Facility Rental
- Fundraising
- Membership Contributions
- Special Fundraising
- Youth & Adult Education

Projected Expenses



- Cemetery
- Facilities
- Admin & Communication
- Membership & Development
- Worship & Programming
- Youth & Adult Education

This is where the Annual Campaign plays a crucial role. Your gifts to the campaign help bridge the gap between membership contributions and our actual operating costs. They directly support programs like Terumah and ensure we can continue to provide the wide range of services and programs that make Holy Blossom a vibrant centre of Jewish life. Your contribution helps ensure that young families can join us in prayer, that children can receive a Jewish education, and that our community continues to grow and thrive in the face of external challenges.

Moreover, by strengthening Holy Blossom Temple, we are also reinforcing our connection and commitment to Israel. Our Temple serves as a vital link between our local Jewish community and our spiritual homeland, providing support, education, and a platform for engagement with Israel.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Your support helps us stand strong against antisemitism, provide a nurturing environment for our growing membership, maintain our deep bonds with Israel, and ensure the financial stability of our beloved Temple.

To make a secure donation online to the 2024 Annual Campaign please visit holyblossom.org/donate. To make your gift by phone, please call Mercy Afuye, Development Administrator at 416-789-3291 ext 227.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our community. In these times, your support means more than ever.

The Annual Campaign Team:

Daniel Wilson (VP Development), Ellen T. Cole, Joan Garson, Jonathan Gould, Albert Oppenheimer, Elana Paice-Lidsky, Sam Sapera, and Shira Lester

Thank you to Our Generous Annual Campaign 2024 Donors to Date

Elaine & Joel Abrams	Warren Blatt, Jody Shapiro, Oliver, and Georgia Blatt	Jessica & Jordan Chittley	Frances M. Dvorchik
Bonnie Goldberg, Adam Abramson, Arly and Remy	Cheryl & David Blinick and family	Michael & Phyllis Cincinatus	David Baskin & Joan Garson
Samantha & Loren Ackerman	Stephen Chris & Debra Birnbaum and Family	Susan Cohen	Diana Goodman
Dalia & Jacob Alalouf	Murray & Ellen Blankstein	Morris Cooper & Esther Zeller Cooper	Anita & Michael Greenstein
Michael & Sara Angel	Carol & Ira Bloom	Michael & Josephine Cole	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ehrlich
Brenda Spiegler & Mark S. Anshan	Lawrence & Frances Bloomberg	Ellen T. Cole	Einav Family
Bob & Dorothy Aaron	Jim & Susan Bookbinder	Andrew Cohen	Wendy & Elliott Eisen
Cynthia Good & Dan Aronchick	Barry & Susan Borden	Devra Cohen	Buddy & Leigh Eisenberg
Joyce & Sidney Aster	Charlie Newman O'Brien	Marcia & Kenneth Cohen	Maxanne Ezer
Harriet Bain	Shimon Brownstein	Jean & Garson Conn	Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin & Hershell Ezrin
Jodi & Steven Bager	Gloria Bruner	Barbara & Richard Conway	Bruce & Jodi Feldman and Family
Eleanor & Miriam Baker	Elise Cachia	Merav & Iain Cooper	Helena & David Fine
In Loving Memory of Sam Baker z"l	Lisa Ritchie & David Carroll	Dr. Raquel Adelstein & Mr. Stewart Cramer	Elissa & David L. Fingold
Alan Banks	Charles Cass	Robert Henry & Bonnie Croll	Maxwell Fingold
Susan Baskin	Joseph & Marilynne Cass	Peter & Susan Dan	Joey Fingold
Carla & Erica Baudot	The Castellano Family	Michael Bernstein & Nandini Dasgupta	Michael F. Firestone & Carol Albert-Firestone
Lisa Isen Baumal & Aaron Baumal	Drs. Alice & Ron Charach	Prof. Rena Mendelson & Prof. Alan Detsky	Anne Freeman
Ann MacPherson-Bederman	Bob & Nadine Charendoff	Phyllis & Jeff Denaburg	Paula Freeman
Neil & Corinne Berinstein	Sara & Richard Charney	Susan Davis & David Dewitt	Tom & Jacqueline Friedland and Family
Vivian Berman	Diana Fridlyand & Brent Charles	Arti Dhand	Mark Fromkin
Murray & Ellen Blankstein	Michael Leese and Children	Michael & Janette Diamond	Joy & Barry Gales
		Marla Spiegel & Joe Donahue	Gans Family

Arthur & Shelley Gans
Giewercer family in memory
of Russ Joseph
Marilyn & David Gluskin
Gail & Gary Goodman
Avra Rosen & Mark Goodman
Carly Steinman & Jonathan
Gould
The Gottlieb Family
Gabriel & Lauren Granatstein
Barbara & John Greenberg
Barbara L. Grossman
Ruth Morayniss & Leland
Harris
Noam & Emily Hamovitch
In Memory of Harold Heft
Robert & Jane Herman
Sharon Herman
Dr. Dane & Mrs. Sherrill
Hershberg
Eric Adelson & Andrea Himel
Elaine Herer & Stephen
Holzapfel
Fundscrapr Capital Inc.
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Megan Stephens & Daniel Iny
and family
Beverly & Milton Israel
Ms. Happy Iscove
Larry Rosen & Susan Jackson
Jan Joseph and Family in
Memory of Russ Joseph z"l
Murray Hart & Jill Kamin
Etienne & Aubrey Kaplan
M. Kardish
Danielle Himel & Allan Kates
and family
Bambi Katz
Shelley Greene & Joel Kirsh
Paula Kirsh
Francie & Stuart Klein
Susan Himel & Neil Kozloff
Helfield-Klein Family
Susan Kulczycki
Maddie Axelrod, David
Kogan, and Family
Kuperman Family
Harriette Laing
Marta Switzer & Ryan Lamers
Robert Lantos
Alan & Carol Lavine
Brian Lidsky & Elana Paice
Lidsky
Rhonda Richer & Tim Lipa
Lisser Family
Eleanor J. Loebel
Ben & Jill Lustig

Tima Steinberg & Jason
Machtinger
Mark & Eva Madras
Rachel Malach & Dr. Jordan
Silverman
Elliott Jacobson & Judy
Malkin
Wendy & Les Mandelbaum
Caroline, Danny, Maya and
Simone Mandell
Dr. Sharon Domb & Mr.
Stephen Manly
Professor Jacob and Odette
Masliyah
Joanne Rosenberg & Jerry
McIntosh
Anthony & Valerie Melman
Keith & Suzette Meloff
Theresa & Seth Mersky
Zane, Katherine & Axel
Mersky
Ellen Sue & David Mesbur
Julie Markle & Joel Mickelson
& Max and Jonah
Lesley & Ron Miller
Sharon & Shelley Miller
Naomi Miller
Robyn & Eli Mogil
Sarah & Marc Morgenthau
Sylvia & Harvey Naftolin
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JoAnn Nyquist
Lesley Binstock Offman
Albert & Bonnie
Oppenheimer
Alexandra Kuperman &
Mitchell Ornstein
Shoshana Paice
Julia & Randolph Paisley
Dr. Stephen Pearl
Bernice Penciner
Lana Liss-Perlin & Daniel
Perlin and Family
Rachel & Harvin Pitch
Alison & Gary Polan
In Memory of Lloyd Pollack
Ann & Gary Posen
Geraldine Prendergast
Stephen & Suzie Pustil
Val & Anita Rachlis
Alexandra Raphael
Jane & Russell Rendely
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Carl & Judy Ritchie
Joanne & Kevin Roher
Beth & Eric Roher

Cantor David Rosen & Rabbi
Ilyse Glickman
Arlene Roth
Rotman Family
Beverly & Les Rothschild
Shari & Ron
Rotman Family
Adam Breslin & Erika Rubin
Shanna Rosen & Adam
Rubinoff
Robert & Marlene Ruderman
Janet & Michael Ryval
David & Sandra Sandler
Brenda & Fred Saunders
Michael & Julia Sax
Mrs. Lilian Schacter
Ted & Terri Schipper
Robert Schipper
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Judy & Gerald Slan
Peter & Neri Slan
Jeff Dicker & Sandi Smith
Ronna Rubin & Phil Smith
Marina Somogyi
Roberta & Richard Sol
Lisa & Cary Solomon
Janis & Gary Soren
Theodore Spevick
Rabbi Yael Splansky & Adam
Sol
Joni Stossel & Graham Stairs
and Family
Marlene Stein
Eleanor Steinberg
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Matthew Sapera & Darren
Sukonick
Rosalie Sussman
Ann D. Sutton

Adam & Nikki Stivnick and
family
Francie & Martin Storm
Jay & Linda Swartz
Terry S. Tator
Seymour & Gloria Temkin
Daniel Wilson & Amy Ticoll
Esther & Marvin Tile
Frank & Janie Tizel
Mitchell Toker
Edward Treister
Gail Sax & Michel Trocme
Claudia Blumberger & Sidney
Troister
Gerald Schwartz & Heather
Reisman
Ruthe Schipper & Jerry
Rotstein
John & Rosie Uster
Michael, Lily, Josh and Mia
Uster
Troy Ungerman
Arieh & Vallry Waldman
Paula & Alan Warren
Mel Wasserman
Joanne Weigen
Janet & Mark Webber
Terese & Allan Weisberg
Diane & Jonathan Wilson
Shari & Michael Wilson
Jack & Judy Winberg
Gordon Winemaker
Jill Witkin
Sareh Wodlinger
Amal Wolfe
Elizabeth Wolfe
Linda Wolfe
Carol Wolfson
Lorie Shekter-Wolfson &
Lorne Wolfson
Harriet Wolman
Teresa & Alberto Quiroz
The Yakobson Family
Steve Zalvin
Susan Lieberman & Mannie
Zeller
Debra Katzman & Robert
Zipursky
Carole & Bernard Zucker
Anonymous (63)

January 1- August 14, 2024

INTRODUCING FOUNDATION 5785 BOARD

Joan Garson, HBT Foundation Chair

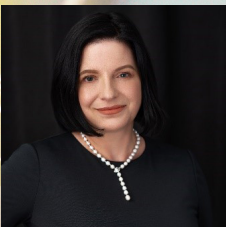
On behalf of the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation and our entire congregation I am delighted to welcome three new members to the Holy Blossom Foundation Board: David Fine, Martha Cass and Maddie Axelrod. As you see from their biographies below, they bring a wide range of skills to the Foundation Board and represent a range of Temple members. The continuing elected members of the Foundation Board, Ilsa Blidner, Sara Charney, Nancy Cohen, Lesley Offman, Sam Saper, past Chair Elliott Jacobson and me, are also featured below.



Maddie Axelrod: I grew up at Holy Blossom Temple and am so pleased to now be raising my young family here with my husband David. What a joy to sit in Tot Shabbat or Family Services and point out the quilted tapestries and try to find the square I made when I was a kid! Over the years I have served on various Temple Committees as well as the Temple Board of Directors, and have also participated in Holy Blossom's Emerging Jewish Leadership Institute and represented Holy Blossom at the Shalom Hartman Institute Toronto Lay Leadership Learning Cohort. In my professional life, I am a management-side labour and employment lawyer at Canada's largest law firm. I'm looking forward to combining the personal and professional to deepen my community involvement on the Foundation Board.



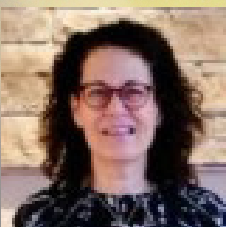
Ilsa Blidner has extensive experience consulting in the health and social services sectors. She is an experienced facilitator and has lectured and presented workshops on various topics. She has served as Board Chair, Vice Chair and lead of task forces in the health sector and with professional associations. Ilsa is a past chair of the Baycrest Foundation Board and serves on advisory and governance bodies at the provincial level with Ontario Health-CorHealth, and at the regional level with Ontario's Stroke System. Ilsa and her husband, Jeff Blidner, have been Holy Blossom Temple members for more than 35 years.



Martha Cass: Martha is an accomplished executive with decades of experience working with Fortune 500 CEOs and senior leadership teams. She recently retired from her role as Vice president of Finance Business Operations at PayPal, where she served in senior operations, human resources and communication roles for four years. Martha became a member of Holy Blossom Temple in 1999, the year she was married at the synagogue to long-time member Randy Cass. They have raised their three children in the Holy Blossom community and last year she co-chaired Rabbi Splansky's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Martha is joining the Foundation Board because she recognizes the pivotal role the Foundation plays in helping the Temple achieve its mission and in turn strengthen the Jewish community.



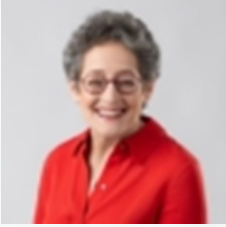
Sara Charney is the first Canadian to hold the office of President of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism. Sara enjoys connecting with Reform Jewish women and our grantees throughout our vast network across North America, in Israel and in Europe. Locally, Sara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



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



David Fine: Helena and I have been members of Holy Blossom for 40 years. Being new to Toronto at that time, Holy Blossom was central to our lives and has remained so over this period. Our children Ben and Ariella grew up in the Temple and recently we celebrated our first granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah at Holy Blossom. I was a top seller of hamantaschen at the Purim carnival for many years and have been involved in the Alternative Revenue Committee and various other Temple groups. I look forward to contributing to the Foundation.



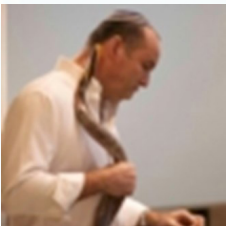
Joan Garson (Chair) Neither my husband David nor I were members of Holy Blossom Temple before we had a family. Our children's Jewish identity began at Holy Blossom nursery school. We picked the school because it was around the corner from where we lived and we quickly became engaged in Temple life. Our children now live outside Toronto and belong to other shuls so we stay committed to Holy Blossom to make sure we can take care of other people's children and our Jewish future. I am very lucky to be a fundraiser in such an extraordinary community that cares deeply about making a better world. Together, we are performing a Mitzvah. I also take great pleasure in supporting our outstanding staff who are working so hard to write the next chapter for Holy Blossom Temple. Fundraising is a joyful experience. I have the privilege of working to ensure that our big dreams as a congregation come true.



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



Lesley Offman: One of my cherished childhood memories is of standing on a table at the Hadassah Bazaar, helping my mother's Chapter sell used clothing to raise money for Israel, and volunteer leadership continues to play a central role in my life. Among many other leadership roles, I sat on the Women's Auxiliaries at Baycrest and Mt. Sinai Hospital. I chaired UJA's Women's Philanthropy in 2001 and co-chaired UJA's Annual Campaign In 2006. I am the Past Chair of the Past Women's Chairs Council, also of UJA. At Holy Blossom Temple, I was a member of the Renewal Committee and I am delighted to currently hold a position on the Foundation which I have taken on because I believe passionately in the strengthening of our Temple home for our Jewish future.



Sam Sapera: I have been a member of Holy Blossom all my life as were my parents and grandparents. I grew up in this shul and I have raised my family at Holy Blossom. I feel very connected to the wonderful clergy and meaningful worship at our Temple and it holds a special place in my heart. I have always been a very active volunteer fundraiser. I have run the Lymphoma Golf Tournament since 2015 and I am currently the Chair of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, and it is my pleasure to bring my experience to Holy Blossom. I am looking forward to a continuing role on our Foundation, realizing our collective dream of a new educational wing and continuing to professionalize the development team. Let us continue to go from strength to strength to strength.

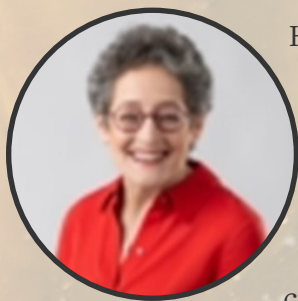
In addition, currently representing Temple on the Foundation board are President Phyllis Denaburg, Immediate Past President Avra Rosen and Vice President of Annual Development Daniel Wilson.

Thanks to the outstanding philanthropy of our congregation and inspired by the celebration of Rabbi Splansky's 25 years as our Rabbi and 10 as our Senior Rabbi, substantial funds have been raised by the over the last two years. In addition to continued fundraising, the Foundation Board will be undertaking longer range thinking and planning for the future needs of Temple.

The entire Foundation Board looks forward to engaging with and learning from all members of our congregation as we work together to strengthen Holy Blossom Temple and achieve its aspirational goals.

FROM THE HBT FOUNDATION

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



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

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

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

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

The Board of the Foundation currently includes seven elected voting members and the Immediate Past Chair, chaired by Joan Garson.

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

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

Our Holy Blossom Temple Foundation website is coming soon!

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lisa Isen Baomal, Principal of Youth Education and Family Engagement



The Tekiah sound of the shofar is a proclamation – a coronation marking the start of something grand and important. The Tekiah blast has also been interpreted as a sound to represent joy, hope, and trust in the future. In these trying times, it is more important than ever to hear sounds of joy and hope, and the Youth Education Centre (YEC) is the perfect place to find them.

We are so excited for this new year that lies ahead, and have many exciting things planned in the coming months. Our YEC community is strengthened by many new families and students who are joining us in every grade, both on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. The YEC faculty look forward to welcoming all our new students and integrating them into our community of learners, forming new relationships and sharing experiences together throughout the year.

Our YEC year begins with many exciting programs: Sunday, September 8th we'll be celebrating International Grandparents Day, as part of our opening Sunday, YEC Open House, and Holy Grounds Café Re-Opening! Partnering with PJ Library, we'll welcome all grandparents and grand-friends for a morning of special crafts, a visit with a local author, and more!

The following Sunday, September 15th, all are invited to join the YEC at Applewood Farm for a morning of orchard fun.

Sunday, September 29th, all families are invited to participate in a special challah bake in preparation for

Rosh Hashanah. Please visit our website to learn more about all these opportunities to be together.

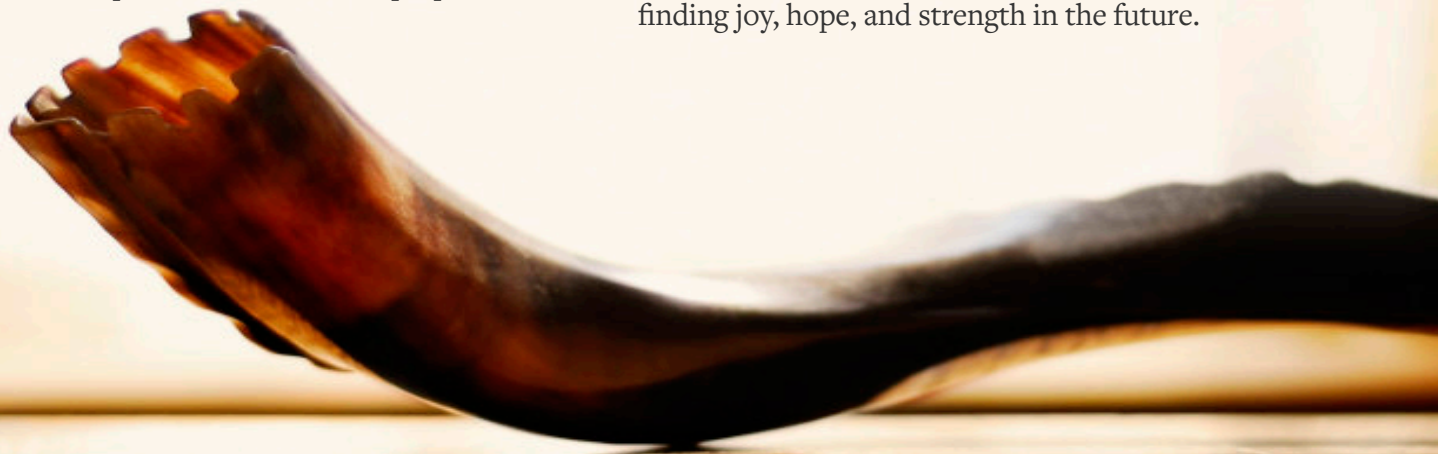
Our new Shinshinit, Neta Wijsboom is with us for this whole school year, and is eager to meet as many Holy Blossom families as she can. She will be an invaluable link to Israel for our students and families, and we look forward to learning from her and making her a part of our Holy Blossom family.

We are welcoming our new HBT songleader, Ayla Smolash, who will bring wonderful music and song to our YEC each week, as well as train up-and-coming song leaders so that we can increase the joy of music and singing amongst our youth.

We are thrilled to be launching After School @ Holy B! To start, this new pilot program will be running Tuesdays and Wednesdays for students in JK to Grade 3, and will provide a fun environment for interactive activities infused with Jewish content. Students attending any school during the day are welcome to participate in this new and unique program, and those students at Cedarvale Community School can also join our 'walking school bus' that will accompany students directly from school to Holy Blossom.

Our teens and pre-teens have many exciting things on the horizon for this coming year! Travel opportunities including our annual Grade 6 & 7 Shabbat retreat at the end of September. This is always a 'fan favourite' and a wonderful way to kick off the year, building trust and friendship amongst classmates and building a strong community for our youth.

Tekiah! Wishing you a *Shanah Tovah*, and hope for finding joy, hope, and strength in the future.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Sophie Rivers, Youth Engagement Coordinator



This year, community building with our youth is ever more important in light of the events of the past year. Peer connection and friendship is a salve to sorrowful thoughts and uncontrollable news. We are excited about a stronger than ever HABSTY board, with goals to plan programming for their fellow teens and younger groups as well. Right off the bat they will join the grade 6/7 retreat as madrichim and help build connections with our Junior Youth Group (JYG) group. They will be helping to plan the first National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) event of the year, co-hosted by our congregation.

We are so excited for some travel opportunities this year as well. Our grade 8 and 9s (JTEM class) are going to Montreal in November with a couple other Toronto congregational youth. We will hang out with Montreal's youth group, MOFTY and get to know the city together. The first year of L'taken Canada is taking place also in this upcoming school year. This teen trip to Ottawa is just like the Religious Action Center's Washington seminar we went to last year. We are hopeful that this social action focused trip will connect Jewish teens from across Canada.



UNLEASH THE JOY AT THE ECC

Wendy Steinberg Himmel, Director, Early Childhood Centre



The Early Childhood Centre at Holy Blossom Temple has been very busy preparing for the expansion of our offerings in September, and more specifically, for our full day program. The response has been very positive and it is obvious that there is a need for full day child care in the community.

As our ECC community continues to expand, our foundation remains constant providing enriched and loving Reform Jewish learning experience in our warm, nurturing and stimulating learning environment. We will remain a pillar of excellence in the community. Our ECC families, parents and grandparents, are an integral part of the vibrant Holy Blossom Temple community, engaging with Temple Clergy and participating in Holy Blossom Temple offerings.

The long straight sound of Tekiah indicates stability and peace and is consistent with the values to which we aspire, building strong hearts and strong minds.

May the sound of Tekiah bring joy, hope and trust in the future to our Littlest Blossoms. *Shanah Tovah!*



PROGRAM GUIDE: FALL 2024

Schwartz/Reisman Centre for Adult Jewish Learning

- ✧ Please check the website for detailed descriptions and registration links.
- ✧ Programs are open for in-person and online participation, unless otherwise noted.
- ✧ Registration is always appreciated and sometimes required.

DURING THE HIGH HOLY DAY SEASON

- ✧ **Selichot, Saturday Night, September 28:** *Judaism is about Love* with Rabbi Shai Held, President of the Hadar Institute
- ✧ **Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday, October 5, 10:30 am:** *When the Enemy Tells the Truth, Believe Him: Reflections on Resistance and The Rav*, with Rabbi John Moscovitz, Rabbi Emeritus
- ✧ **Yom Kippur Afternoon, Saturday, October 12, 1:00 pm:** *How the Light Gets In: Reflections on the Last Year* with Bob Rae, Ambassador to the U.N. one among multiple Study Sessions (livestream available for congregants only)

VISITING RABBIS AND SCHOLARS—IN—RESIDENCE

- ✧ **Shabbat Ki Tavo, September 20-22:** Rabbi Michael Zedek, *Taking Miracles Seriously: A Journey to Everyday Spirituality*, Kabbalat Shabbat Drash, Shabbat Morning Torah Study & Sermon, and Sunday Book Talk
- ✧ **Shabbat Bereshit, October 26:** Rabbi Seth Goren, CEO of Hillel Ontario, *Preventing and Responding to Antisemitism on Campus*, Torah Study & Sermon
- ✧ **Shabbat VaYera, November 16:** Rabbi Erica Asch, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, *How Our Stories Shape Future Generations*, Torah Study & Sermon
- ✧ **Shabbat Chayei Sarah, November 22-24:** Rabbi Hadas Ron of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, *Israeli Resilience*, Kabbalat Shabbat Drash, Shabbat Morning Torah Study & Sunday Workshop

WEEKLY LEARNING

- ✧ **Saturdays, 9:00 am:** Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Splansky
- ✧ **Wednesdays, beginning September 18, 7:00 pm:** *Beit Midrash*, Learning Inspired by the Shalom Hartman Institute, with Rabbi Kaye
- ✧ **Thursdays, 9:00 am (online):** Gleanings from the Talmud with Mark Goodman
- ✧ **Mondays-Thursdays, 5:00 pm (online):** L'Chayim! with Jack Kugelmass
- ✧ **Tuesdays after Mincha/Maariv, 6.30 pm (online):** Bereavement Discussion Group with Jack Kugelmass, MSW

CENTRE FOR ARTS & CULTURE

- ✧ **Every second Tuesday starting September 3, 10:30 am (online):** Good Books with Cynthia Good
- ✧ **Tuesdays, September 10, 10:30 am (online):** What Gillian's Watching with Prof. Gillian Helfield
- ✧ **Thursdays, October 31, November 7, 14 & 21, 10:30 am (online):** Contemporary Jewish Fiction with Cynthia Good
- ✧ **Monday, November 4, 7:00 pm (in-person):** *The Man Who Saw the Angels Fall: A Leonard Cohen Tribute* with author Christophe Lebold
- ✧ **Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 pm (in-person):** The Toronto Symphony Orchestra Chamber Soloists play Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*
- ✧ **Sunday, December 8, 4:00 pm (in-person):** Gifts of Light, Annual Interfaith Concert
- ✧ Charles Pachter, *Selected Works*, Exhibit in our Lower-level Gallery, **until December 7, 2024**

ISRAEL & ADVOCACY

- ✦ **Thursdays, starting September 12, 12:00 pm (online):** *Israel Dialogues* with International Scholars and Commentators
- ✦ **Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 pm:** *PAdi Vital Kaploun z"l of Kibbutz Holit: One Heartbreaking and Inspiring Story from October 7*, as told by her parents, Jacqui Rivers Vital and Yaron Vital.
- ✦ **Monday, October 28, 7:00 pm (in-person):** *Count Us In: How the Soviet Jewry Movement Can Inspire Today's Activism*, with Wendy Eisen
- ✦ **Wednesdays, 11:00 am:** *Crisis and Continuity*, with Mark Goodman

KEHILLAH KEDOSHAH (Sacred Community for Life's Ages & Stages)

- ✦ **Sunday, September 29, 10:30 am (in-person):** *The Old Cosmic Spine: A Walking Tour of Jewish Spadina* for HaTzipporim (Empty Nesters)
- ✦ **Sunday, November 3, 10:30 am (in-person):** *Caregiving for our Aging Parents* over bagels
- ✦ **Monday, November 11, 7:30 pm:** *In God's Image: Mental Health in the Jewish LGBTQ+ Community*, with thanks to the Luke Sklar Mental Health Initiative

Dorot Programming for our Wisdom Generation is generously sponsored by Carole & Jay Sterling and Family

- ✦ **Tuesdays, 12:30 pm (in-person):** Dorot Games & Gathering in the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium
- ✦ **Tuesday, September 17, 11:00 am (in-person):** Dorot Fall Launch with Concerts in Care Ontario
- ✦ **Tuesday, November 12, 11:00 am (in-person):** *Grandparenting in Today's World*
- ✦ **Tuesday, November 19, 11:00 am (in-person):** *Dorot Presents: A Chat with Charlie Pachter*
- ✦ **Tuesday, December 10, 11:00 am (in-person):** *A Joyful Pre-Chanukah Celebration*

IN THE BEGINNING

- ✦ **November 25, December 2 & 9, 7:00 pm (in-person):** *HBT 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About Holy Blossom Temple, but Never Had the Chance to Ask*, team-taught by Holy Blossom leadership
- ✦ **Mondays, beginning October 28, 1:00 pm (in-person):** *Hebrew for Beginners* with Dalia Alalouf
- ✦ **Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, beginning February 2025:** *Introduction to Jewish Living (IJL)*, a two-semester, pre-requisite course for conversion to Judaism, Rabbinic sponsorship required. (online, with in-person components)
- ✦ Independent Study, *Choose Your Own Learning Adventure in our Max Enkin Library* (Temple hours)

YAD: NEXT GEN (Young Professionals)

- ✦ **Friday, September 20, following 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service (in-person):** YAD Shabbat Dinner
- ✦ **Wednesday, October 2, 5:30 pm (in-person):** An Erev Rosh HaShanah L'chayim
- ✦ **Monday, October 21, 6:30 pm (in-person):** *Pizza in the Hut* with Ha'ikar, in Celebration of Sukkot
- ✦ **Thursday, November 14, 7:00 pm (in-person):** Board Games and Bevvies
- ✦ **Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 pm (in-person):** *Axe-Throwing like M'axe-a-bees*, in Celebration of Chanukah

IN MEMORIAM

Agnes Adler, mother of Judy Adler-Lotin and Andrea Gregor

Judy Birenbaum, wife of Morris Birenbaum; mother of Audrey Birenbaum, Eric Birenbaum and Arthur Birenbaum

Richard Brodlieb, husband of Rhonda Brodlieb; father of Jesse Brodlieb, Dawne Eisenberg and Daniel Brodlieb; son of Bernice Brodlieb; brother of Dale Brodlieb

Barbara Cooper, mother of Peter Cooper, Douglas Cooper and Paul Cooper; sister of John David Lipson

Bernard Crystal, father of Carol Crystal and Adam Crystal

Sandra Czarny, wife of Gary Goyette; mother of Abigail Goyette, Jonah Goyette, Eden Goyette, and Zuche Goyette; daughter of Rita & Samy Czarny; sister of David Czarny

Leslie Davis, father of Michael Davis, Elise Davis and Bonnie Davis

Gertrude Diamond, mother of Annie Appleby and Brenda Brown

Tamara Dunaevsky, mother of Vlad Dunaevsky and Arkady Dunaevsky

Ruth Durbin, mother of Norman Durbin, Susan Goldberg and Michael Durbin

Matthew Hershberg, son of Judy & Richard Hershberg; brother of Jed Hershberg

Sidney Hoffman, father of Ted Hoffman and Lori Scheim; brother of Bernice Penciner

Marvin Kay, husband of Sondra Kay; father of Jeffrey Kay, Michael Kay and Sherry Kay; brother of Robert Kay and Arlene Gryfe

David Kellen, father of Amber Kellen and Leslie Kellen

Miriam (Mimi) Kronby, wife of Malcolm Kronby; mother of Matthew Kronby and Miles Kronby

Simon Liberbaum, brother of Lilian Schacter

Heratch Manoukian, father of Catherine Manoukian, Armen Manoukian and Andre Manoukian

Natalie Pressburger, daughter of Paula Freeman; mother of Toby Wellington; sister of Howard Pressburger

Carol Schipper, wife of Lionel Schipper; mother of Ruthe Schipper, Marilyn Gotfrid, Stuart Schipper, and Michael Schipper

Evelyn Tepper, mother of Rabbi Bill Tepper and Rhonda Tepper; sister of Sheila Feldman

Larry Turkish, father of B'jamiin Melamed-Turkish and Kai Melamed-Turkish; brother of Fran Stern

Deborah (Debby) Vigoda, mother of Alan Vigoda and Marcy Vigoda

Arthur Weingarden, husband of Madie Weingarden; father of Pam Albert, Howard Weingarden and Janice Handelman; brother of Jerry Weingarden

April 26 to August 12, 2024

WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

WELCOME TO...

Daniel Berens & Sarah Willinsky and Family
Meryl & Chris Nirenberg and Family
Jerry & Donnie Friedman
Jay Yair Brodbar
Leah & Ivan Lavrence
Lesley Simpson & Dr. Mark Guttman
Gwynne Schwartz
Alison Harnick & Blair Trudell and Family
Noah Kleiman
Daniel Kleiman
Caroline Novak
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Barbara Appelbaum
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As of August 5, 2024

Mazel Tov to...

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to Leah Babins & Zach Roher on the birth of their daughter Sarah Aviva Roher. Proud family includes brother Ryan; grandparents Susan Babins & Michael Segall and Joanne & Kevin Roher; and great-grandparents Gloria Gordon and Lila Weiss.

Mazel tov to Tara Disenhouse & Edward McCloskey on the birth of their daughter Riley. Proud family includes sister Milly; grandparents Ron McCloskey, Faryl Hausman, Gillian McCloskey, Nathan Disenhouse, Elaine Disenhouse; and great-grandparents Karen Hausman, Larry Hausman z"l, Mary McCloskey z"l, Roy McCloskey z"l, Robert Disenhouse z"l, Helen Disenhouse z"l, Mildred Lesser z"l and Mo Lesser z"l.

Mazel tov to Madison & Robert Keegan on the birth of their daughter Mackenzie Ann Keegan. Proud grandparents are Faryl Hausman, Ronald McCloskey, Paula Keegan, and Timothy Keegan.

Mazel tov to Ashlyn Kettner & Eitan Levitt on the birth of their son Miller Levitt. Proud grandparents are William Kettner, Avril Rosenberg, Sheldon Levitt, and Maureen Shandling; great-grandparents are Maxwell Kettner, Ruth Kettner, Asher Rosenberg, Sybil Rosenberg, Eric Levitt, Sylvia Levitt, Hyman Shandling, and Rebecca Shandling.

Mazel tov to Jacqueline & Harrison Lepofsky on the birth of their daughter Harley Summer Lepofsky. Proud grandparents include Janet & Norman Shiner and Judy & Paul Lepofsky; and great-grandmothers Joanne Weigen and Esther Cohen.

Mazel tov to Lauren & Zach Mandel on the birth of their son Ben Samuel Mandel. Proud family includes grandparents Lisa Ritchie & David Carroll, and Glennie & Dave Mandel; and great-grandparents Judy & Carl Ritchie, Jane Carroll & Brian Carroll z"l, Beverley Mandel, Bill Mandel & Shila Cohen, Sam Brown z"l, and Yetta Brown z"l.

Mazel Tov to Erin & Marlon Paisley on the birth of their daughter Ariella Paisley. Proud family includes big sister Taylor, and grandparents Julia Paisley, Randolph Paisley, Lili Litwin, and Jeffrey Litwin z"l.

Mazel tov to Kate & Ian Rosen on the birth of their daughter Zoë Hazel Rosen. Proud family includes sisters Ella, Olivia, and Isabelle; grandparents Susan Jackson, Larry Rosen, Joan Shnier, and Jacob Chazan; and great-grandparents Evelyn Rosen, Harry Rosen z"l, Mabel Jackson z"l, Peter Jackson z"l, Malca Ross z"l, Clifford Shnier z"l, Rachel Chazan z"l, and Urcio Chazan z"l.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Jonah Kotzer & Sofie Bedard on their marriage on June 16, 2024. Proud parents are Gisele & Ric Bedard, and Beverly Kahn & Robert Kotzer.

Mazel tov to Lauren Weingarten & David Couture on their marriage on June 16, 2024. Proud parents are Patricia Seigel & Michal Weingarten, and Susan & Stephen Couture.

Mazel tov to Lauren Hoffman & Adam Strub on their marriage on June 27, 2024. Proud parents are Leslie & Andrew Hoffman, and Debbie & Marty Strub.

Mazel tov to Lisa Huang & Sam Daviau on their marriage on July 4, 2024. Proud parents are Karine Krieger, Daniel Daviau, and Bing Ying Lau & Lester Huang.

Mazel tov to Thomas Kessler & Shoshana Rubens on their marriage on July 12, 2024.

Mazel tov to Marta Switzer & Ryan Lamers on their marriage on July 28, 2024. Proud parents are Wendy Slomen-Lamers & Wolfgang Lamers, and Kathalin Toth-Switzer & Robert Switzer.

Mazel tov to Michal Coret & Herschel Chalet on their marriage on August 4, 2024. Proud parents are Christine & Randall Chalet, and Judith Coret-Simon & Alexander Coret.

Mazel tov to Ruti Prikhoji & Matthew Cohen on their marriage on August 4, 2024. Proud parents are Yulia & Oleg Prikhoji, and Sheila Keenan & Mark Cohen.

Mazel tov to Leah Sack & Lior Valitsky on their marriage on August 4, 2024. Proud parents are Natalia & Gregory Valitsky, Susan Sack Liss & Howard Liss, and Mark & Sidra Sack.

OTHER SMACHOT

Mazel tov to Esther & Marvin Tile on their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Mazel tov to both Isaiah Gould and Sam Mogil on being awarded Camp George's Rookie of the Year Award.

B'nei Mitzvah



Zoey Tizel
Saturday, September 7, 2024
Daughter of Eliana & Josh Tizel



Leo Icyk
Saturday, September 7, 2024
Son of Erica Richler
& Bryan Icyk



Lucy Ispanovic
Saturday, September 14, 2024
Daughter of Katy Pitch
and Eric Ispanovic



Lev Abramson
Saturday, September 14, 2024
Son of Karen Kollins
& Daniel Abramson



Sadie Jamieson
Saturday, September 21, 2024
Daughter of Meredith Caplan
Jamieson & Robert Jamieson



Ethan Dalgorf
Saturday, September 21, 2024
Son of Elisa
& Dustin Dalgorf



Jamie Berman
Thursday, October 17, 2024
Son of Sonja & Gary Berman



Gabriel Solomon Feldmann
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Son of Diana Solomon
& Adam Feldmann



Tasha Iny
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Daughter of Megan Stephens
& Daniel Iny



Benjamin Adair
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Son of Jennifer Stulberg
& John Adair



Alexis Schipper
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Daughter of Pamela Kraizel-
Schipper & Noah Schipper



Isla Singer
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Daughter of Jodi & Alex Singer

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Paul Kay

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SELICHOT: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

Yom Kippur

Youth Chapel & Atrium 8:00 pm
Havdalah, Study & Dessert Reception
Service, Mishkan & Online 10:00 pm
A contemplative night to prepare for the New Year

KEVER AVOT: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

First Service 10:30 am
Holy Blossom Memorial Park, Brimley Road
Second Service 1:30 pm
Pardes Shalom

Rosh Hashanah

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024

Apples & Honey & Candle Lighting, Atrium 5:00 pm
YAD L'Chayim!, Lantern Boardroom 5:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah, Mishkan
Family Service 6:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Service 6:00 pm
Adult Service Rebroadcast (Online Only) 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

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) 2:30 pm
Youth Chapel
Young Readers Service (age 6-9) 2:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

Tashlich, Don River, Glendon Campus Entrance
Ceremony with Shofar & dessert 4:00 pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Service 10:00 am
Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Mishkan
Family Service 10:30 am

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

Yom Kippur Morning Services
Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
First Family Service 9:00 am
Second Family Service 11:30 am
Yom Kippur Morning Service, Sanctuary & Online
Adult Service 9:30 am
Study Sessions, Various Locations
Teen Experience 1:00 pm
Multiple Sessions 1:00 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon Services
Philip & Fannie Smith Congregational Hall
Little Blossoms Service (age 5 & under) 1:30 pm
Youth Chapel
Young Readers Service (age 6-9) 1:30 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon Services, Sanctuary & Online
Mincha/Martyrology Service 2:30 pm
Yizkor Memorial Services
Sanctuary & Online 4:30 pm (approx.)
Neilah Services
Main Sanctuary & Online
Adult Neilah 5:30 pm (approx.)
Mishkan
Family Neilah 5:30 pm
Havdalah & Honey Cake
Location to be determined 6:30 pm (approx.)

For more information please visit holyblossom.org/hhd and enter the password provided on your High Holy Day 5785 Ticket.
If you require assistance, please contact reception@holyblossom.org or call 416-789-3291 ext. 221



HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

ק"ק פרחי קדש

Full-Day Toddler & Preschool Child Care & After School Program!

OPEN TO ALL!

Your Family Can Blossom Here!

At Holy Blossom Temple, we cherish every family that is part of our community. Whether you're looking for early childhood education, youth programs, after school activities, or a welcoming membership for young families, we have something special for you. Our mission is to nurture growth, foster connections, and create a warm, supportive environment where you and your children can thrive. Welcome to our vibrant, inclusive community – we can't wait to share in your family's journey.

Enroll now!

For more information about these new programs and all the wonderful youth and family offerings at Holy Blossom, including our Youth Education Centre classes on Sundays and Mondays, scan the QR code!

