

# IGNITE!

## Tikkun Leil Chanukah



### SCHEDULE

December 18, 2025 • Thursday • 6:30 - 11:30 PM  
Holy Blossom Temple  
1950 Bathurst Street



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

<p>6:30 - 6:50 PM in the Atrium</p> 	<p><b>GATHERING: INTERGENERATIONAL CANDLELIGHTING &amp; HORAH DANCING</b></p>
<p><b>7:00 - 7:50 PM</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 1 OPTIONS</b></p>
<p>Room 307 (3rd floor)</p> 	<p>Ayla Smolash - Ready, Set, Glow! (Kids Program, ages 5-12)</p>
<p>Mishkan (2nd floor)</p>	<p>Christina Crowder - Trampled Manuscripts: The Lost Klezmer Music of the An-ski Expeditions</p>
<p>Room 301 (3rd floor)</p>	<p>Ruth Rohn &amp; Paul Pascal - The Light that Emanates from Black Ink: A Joyful Introduction to Hebrew Calligraphy</p>
<p>Enkin Boardroom (1st floor)</p> 	<p>Zachary Kauffman with Rabbi Ryan Leszner - My Yiddishe Santa: What the Professional Santa World Can Teach Us</p>
<p>Lantern Boardroom (3rd floor)</p>	<p>Rabbi Stephanie Crawley - Kindling Words: A Chanukah Poetry Session</p>
<p>Room 308-309 (3rd floor)</p>	<p>Rabbi Robyn Fryer-Bodzin - Light in Jewish Tradition</p>
<p>Youth Chapel (3rd floor)</p>	<p>Cantors David Rosen &amp; Sid Ezer, &amp; Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers - Insta-Choir!</p>
<p>Herman Chapel (1st floor)</p> 	<p>Rabbi Tina Grimberg - Hidden Light: Concealment, Revelation, and the Wisdom of Deception in Torah and Life</p>
<p>Room 209 (2nd floor)</p>	<p>Rabbi Eliza McCarroll - Channukah, O Channukah: Dedication, Rededication, and What It Means for Us Today</p>



Synchronous hybrid session available on Zoom - links will be emailed to registered participants

<b>7:50 - 8:10 PM</b> <b>in the Atrium</b>	<b>SNACK BREAK</b>
<b>8:10 - 9 PM</b> <b>Concert in the Mishkan</b>	<b>Christina &amp; The Zamlers: Reimagining the Lost Klezmer Music from the An-ski Expeditions</b>
<b>9 - 9:10 PM</b>	<b>BIO BREAK</b>
<b>9:10 - 10 PM</b>	<b>SESSION 2 OPTIONS</b>
Herman Chapel (1st floor) 	Rabbi Ryan Leszner - Borrowed Light: The Spiritual Art of Illuminating Others, and Ourselves
Room 301 (3rd floor)	Rabbi Jennifer Gorman - Handcrafting Midrash
Room 307 (3rd floor)	Benjamin Miller - Whose Light is it Anyway? Some Hannukah Improv
Lower Level Gallery	Carly Ziniuk - All About Calendars!
Room 209 (2nd floor)	Cyrel Troster & Sheine Mankovsky - Yiddish Chanukah Bingo!
Youth Chapel (3rd floor)	Evelyn Tauben - SHVILIM: New Paths to Addressing Antisemitism
Enkin Boardroom (1st floor) 	Rabbis Lara Rodin & Steve Wernick - Igniting Flames: Texts About our Channukah Candles
Room 308-309 (3rd floor)	Rabbis Samuel Kaye & Taylor Baruchel - The Secret History of the Latke
HABSTY Lounge & Tower (3rd floor)	Rabbi Ilyse Glickman and Joel Glickman Rosen - The Great Dreidel Heist: Chanukah Escape Room
Lantern Boardroom & Pool Room (3rd floor)	Rabbi Yael Splansky & Daniel Abramson - The Candle Making Workshop: Learning and Light



Synchronous hybrid session available on Zoom - links will be emailed to registered participants

<b>10 - 10:10 PM</b>	<b>BIO BREAK</b>
<b>10:10 - 11 PM</b>	<b>SESSION 3 OPTIONS</b>
Room 301 (3rd floor)	Reb Aaron Rotenberg - Kislev Dream Ink Images
Atrium Cafe (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)	Natalie Fingerhut - The Light We Give, The Light We Get
Youth Chapel (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)	Aviva Chernick, Rabbi Nava Meiersdorf, & Naghmeh Farahmand - Shirat Halev: Singing the Song of the Heart
Enkin Boardroom (1st floor) 	Rabbi Aaron Levy - She Did What?! Women, Sex & Violence in Hanukkah Stories



**READY, SET, GLOW!**  
**Kids' Tikkun Leil Chanukah**

**6:30 PM** Join Intergenerational Candlelighting in the Atrium

**7:00 PM** Ready, Set, Glow with Ayla Smolash  
**Room 307 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

A fun-filled, glow-in-the-dark Chanukah breakout room for children ages 5 - 12. Join us for snacks, crafts, and music with HBT Songleader Ayla Smolash! Get ready to dance, sing, and spin like a dreidel during this special IGNITE kids' program. Parents are not required to supervise, but are always welcome to stay and participate.

**8:10 PM** Join parents in the Mishkan for the Concert!  
 Christina & The Zamlers: Reimagining the Lost Klezmer Music from the An-ski Expeditions

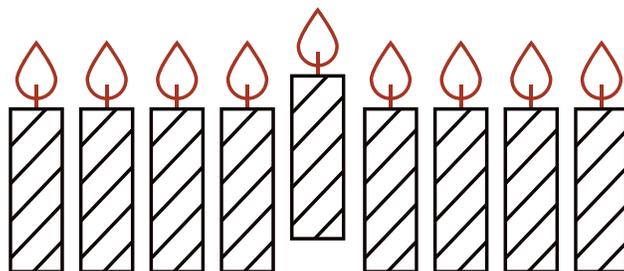


# FULL SCHEDULE

## Gathering: Intergenerational Candlelighting & Horah Dancing

6:30 - 6:50 PM  
Atrium

The community gathers to welcome the fifth night of Chanukah together with blessings, song, and dance. Our Horah leader, Paula Warren, is a retired social worker who has been Israeli Folk Dancing since her childhood growing up in Israel. She taught Israeli Folk Dancing at Camp Biluim and Camp Shalom, and now enjoys teaching the Early Folk Dances from Israel at Holy Blossom once a month after Shabbat Kiddush.



7:00 - 7:50 PM

SESSION 1 OPTIONS



## Kindling Words: A Chanukah Poetry Session with Rabbi Stephanie Crawley

7:00 - 7:50 PM  
Lantern Boardroom  
(3rd floor)

Explore poetry as a doorway into the holiday's central themes of resilience, resistance, light, and miracles. Poetry invites us to be playful with language and ideas - we'll read poems that spark imagination and then play with words and ideas to craft writing of our own. No prior experience is needed—just curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to see what emerges.

**Rabbi Stephanie Crawley** leads City Shul in downtown Toronto - a vibrant community rigorously grounded in tradition and animated by joy, inquiry, and building a more just world. An accomplished educator, poet, and advocate for refugee rights, she lives in Toronto with her husband and daughter. Originally from St Louis, Missouri, she is learning to appreciate the winter. | [cityshul.com](http://cityshul.com)



## Trampled Manuscripts: The Lost Klezmer Music of the An-ski Expeditions

with Christina Crowder

7:00 - 7:50 PM  
Mishkan (2nd floor)

Summer, 1913: writer S. An-ski sets off on an expedition to collect Jewish folklore in the Russian Pale of Settlement. This earnest group of strangers from St. Petersburg convinced shtetl musicians to hand over their personal manuscripts, which ended up in a Kyiv archive. Then, a chance encounter in Tokyo led to the release of thousands of these unique manuscripts. Trampled Manuscripts embodies S. Ansky's vision of Jewish folklore as a living "Oral Torah" of Jewish culture, inviting musicians to interpret and reimagine it for the present day and to celebrate the Jewishness encoded in these melodies with audiences around the world.

**Christina Crowder** has been studying and performing klezmer music and Ashkenazic dance for thirty years, and is executive director of the Klezmer Institute, where she oversees the Klezmer Archive Project, the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky Digital Manuscript Project (KMDMP), and year-round programming in support of Ashkenazic expressive culture. | [klezmerinstitute.org](http://klezmerinstitute.org)



## Light in Jewish Tradition

with Rabbi Robyn Fryer-Bodzin

7:00 - 7:50 PM  
Room 308-309 (3rd floor)

We will uncover and discover Jewish texts connected to light.

A sought after and well loved teacher, **Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin** serves Beth Tzedec Congregation. | [beth-tzedec.org](http://beth-tzedec.org)



## **Hidden Light: Concealment, Revelation, and the Wisdom of Deception in Torah and Life** with Rabbi Tina Grimberg

**7:00 - 7:50 PM**  
**Herman Chapel (1st floor)**

Hanukkah teaches that light often appears only after darkness. The Torah, too, is filled with moments of concealment—from Jacob’s disguise to Joseph’s hidden identity—that lead to insight and transformation. Rabbi Tina Grimberg explores the interplay of hiddenness and illumination in Torah, evolution, and human behavior, asking why deception is woven into life and how recognizing it can deepen our appreciation of the miracles that emerge from obscurity. Through text, science, and stories from the natural world, we will examine how layers of concealment can nurture growth, adaptation, and moral understanding.

**Rabbi Tina Grimberg**, born in Kiev and trained as a family therapist, was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 2001. Rabbi Grimberg has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Darchei Noam, Toronto’s only Reconstructionist synagogue, since 2002. A gifted storyteller, she is also the award-winning author of *Out of Line*. | [darcheinoam.ca](http://darcheinoam.ca)



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## **My Yiddishe Santa: What the Professional Santa World Can Teach Us** with Zachary Kauffman & Rabbi Ryan Leszner

**7:00 - 7:50 PM**  
**Enkin Boardroom (1st floor)**



To many Jews, Santa Claus is at best a mystery, at worst, a grating embodiment of cultural manspreading (not to mention, enemy number 2 of the Chanukah season, only slightly behind Antiochus). In the first part of this hilarious and thoughtful session, Jewish Torontonian Zac Kauffman talks about his first time meeting Santa. Or, rather 70 Santas. At a two-day professional Santa conference. He’ll also speak about some of the most well-known Jewish Santas, including Santa Rick Rosenthal and Santa Dana Friedman. Then Zac will be joined by Rabbi Ryan Leszner to discuss the ways Santa might be a model of pastoral care for kids, and the power of taking children seriously.

Born and brined in Toronto, **Zac Kauffman** is an audio storyteller, podcast producer, and aspiring grownup. He's recorded voices and stories around the globe; from street corners in Jerusalem to basements in rural Massachusetts to Jewish day schools in Toronto. He works on podcasts for the Canadian Jewish News and has previously been a producer at Israel Story / סיפור ישראלי and his work has been featured on CBC, PRI, and WCAI. He plans on moving into a dreamy loft apartment above a croissant bakery with his two brilliant children and eco start-up founder husband, as soon as he meets them.

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**Channukah, O Channukah:  
Dedication, Rededication, and  
What It Means for Us Today**  
with Rabbi Eliza McCarroll

**7:00 - 7:50 PM**  
**Room 209 (2nd floor)**



When we think about Channukah, we think of the latkes, the dreidels, the donuts and the candles. But did you know that Channukah actually means "Dedication"?

**Eliza McCarroll** is the Assistant Rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple. She was ordained from the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in 2022. Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, she grew up heavily involved in the Reform movement of her home country. Here in Toronto, Rabbi McCarroll takes on regular pulpit duties, such as Shabbat, holidays, and life cycle events, oversees our Kehillah Kedosha (Sacred Community) department, and is the clergy contact for Sunday mornings at our Youth Education Centre. Additionally, she sits on the Council for URJ Camp George, the International Leadership Committee of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), and the Board of the Canadian Friends of the WUPJ. | [holyblossom.org](http://holyblossom.org)

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**The Light that Emanates from  
Black Ink: A Joyful Introduction  
to Hebrew Calligraphy**  
with Ruth Rohn & Paul Pascal

**7:00 - 7:50 PM**  
**Room 301 (3rd floor)**

Explore the process of our traditional scribes while drawing meaning and fun from text, song and technique. Session limited to 12 participants: first come, first served.

**Ruth Rohn** is a Jewish educator who shares her love of Jewish learning and ritual with children, youth and adults. She is the Director of Tefillah Leadership and Education at the First Narayever Congregation. | [narayever.ca](http://narayever.ca)

**Paul Pascal** is a life-long teacher, now retired, specializing in Visual Arts. Most recently, he taught for 12 years at a Yeshiva high school, where Hebrew calligraphy was a significant and appreciated component of his curriculum.

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**Insta-Choir!**  
with Cantors David Rosen &  
Sidney Ezer, & Cantorial Soloist  
Lindi Rivers

**7:00 - 7:50 PM**  
**Youth Chapel (3rd floor)**

Do you like to sing in a choir? Please join us as we sing and teach some niggunim from the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky Digital Manuscript Project. This coveted collection of music from the National Library of Ukraine contains some musical gems that will be sure to get everyone into the Chanukah spirit. Singers of all abilities are welcome and reading music is not a requirement.

**Cantor David Rosen** is the Senior Cantor and Music Director at Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto's oldest and Canada's largest Reform synagogue. A respected leader in Jewish music, he is known for his vocal talent, his contributions to contemporary Jewish prayer, and his collaborations throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. Ordained by the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, Cantor Rosen is a collaborator by nature, organizing several Jewish and interfaith concerts bringing communities together through music. He serves on the Executive Board of the American Conference of Cantors and chairs its Ethics Committee, and he founded the Reform Cantors and Cantorial Soloists of Canada. In his spare time, he enjoys watching his son Joel sing opera, spending time with his wife, Rabbi Ilyse Glickman, and their Shih Tzus, Lucy and Willow—and can often be found singing/cooking in the kitchen. [holyblossom.org](http://holyblossom.org)

**Cantor Sidney Ezer** is the Hazzan at Beth Tzedec Congregation. | [beth-tzedec.org](http://beth-tzedec.org)

**Lindi Rivers** is the Cantorial Soloist at Holy Blossom Temple. | [holyblossom.org](http://holyblossom.org)

7:50 - 8:10 PM  
in the Atrium

SNACK BREAK

**Christina & The Zamlers:  
Reimagining the Lost Klezmer  
Music from the An-ski  
Expeditions**

**8:10 - 9:00 PM  
Mishkan (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

Discover a rare treasure trove of previously unknown Ashkenazic musical heritage in this very special concert featuring accordionist **Christina Crowder**, joined by violinist **Keryn Kleiman** and tsimbler **Daniel Kunda Thagard**. The musicians will perform repertoire from a unique corpus of musical manuscripts unearthed from the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine in 2017. Over the last few years, volunteers around the world have worked together to digitally notate and translate these manuscripts as part of the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky Digital Manuscript Project (KMDMP). This international project has connected participants with the work of important klezmer musicians from late-19th and early-20th centuries, allowing this rare repertoire to be brought back to life. The project and this concert also explores legendary ethnographer S. An-ski's radical vision that the folklore of the Jewish people is an oral Torah as important as the Talmud of the sages. An-ski hoped that the Jewish people would become Zamlers (collectors) who would continue to engage with Ashkenazic folklore as a living, breathing legacy. This concert, and the preceding lecture (7pm), bring that bold vision to life.

Presented by Ashkenaz Foundation



9 - 9:10 PM

BIO BREAK

9:10 - 10 PM

SESSION 2 OPTIONS



**The Great Dreidel Heist:  
Chanukah Escape Room**  
with Rabbi Ilyse Glickman &  
Joel Glickman Rosen

9:10 - 10 PM  
HABSTY Lounge (3rd floor)

URGENT BULLETIN FROM THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY: The museum's priceless dreidel collection has vanished! Your mission: Crack the prankster Professor's puzzles and recover the dreidels before it's too late! You'll work with your fellow elite detectives to decode gematria secrets, solve menorah mysteries, and uncover hidden clues.

**Rabbi Ilyse Glickman** is the spiritual leader of the Danforth Jewish Circle in downtown Toronto. A fan of both puzzles and Chanukah, she can't think of a better way to celebrate the holiday. | [djctoronto.com](http://djctoronto.com) | **Joel Glickman Rosen** attends Northern Secondary School. A fan of escape rooms, clever puzzles, and all things Chanukah, he's excited to bring this dreidel heist to life.



**Handcrafting Midrash**  
with Rabbi Jennifer Gorman

9:10 - 10 PM  
Room 301 (3rd floor)

Channel the joyous light of Chanukah with a burst of whimsy! Through the art of collage, paint, or drawing, we'll craft art midrash that dances between the holy and the humorous, the historical and the delightfully happy. Using riddles ancient and modern, we'll let our creativity spin like a dreidel. Spark joy and wonder as we illuminate Chanukah's meaning in imaginative ways.

**Rabbi Jennifer Gorman** serves Beth Torah Congregation. Having entered the rabbinate to change individuals' worlds by sharing joy in Judaism, she is dedicated to teaching, to seeking what inspires both others and herself, and building kedusha (holiness) through these moments. | [bethtorah.ca](http://bethtorah.ca)



## The Secret History of the Latke with Rabbis Samuel Kaye & Taylor Baruchel

9:10 - 10 PM  
Room 308-309 (3rd floor)

The delightful and not so well known history of (most) Jews favorite Chanukah treat!

**Rabbi Samuel Kaye** is the Associate Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple. He is team sour cream but is apple sauce adjacent. **Rabbi Taylor Baruchel** is the Director of Outreach and Next Gen Engagement at Holy Blossom Temple. She is team apple sauce and Rabbi Kaye is wrong. Together they have made kosher Latke Poutine and they are not ashamed. | [holyblossom.org](http://holyblossom.org)

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## Borrowed Light: The Spiritual Art of Illuminating Others, and Ourselves with Rabbi Ryan Leszner

9:10 - 10 PM  
Herman Chapel (1st floor)



A flame loses nothing by lighting another. Hanukkah teaches that spiritual light grows through generosity of spirit. Mussar deepens this by affirming that our character traits, presence, and actions ignite light and joy in others. Joy is not private but relational—its nature is to be shared. This session explores how the imagery of Hanukkah lights can illuminate Mussar teachings on chesed (lovingkindness), achrayut (responsibility), and simchah (joy). Participants will reflect on how spiritual light and joy are shared, expanded, and nurtured through relationships.

**Rabbi Ryan Leszner** is honoured to serve as the Assistant Rabbi and Director of Jewish Living and Learning at Congregation Darchei Noam. He received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College, specializing in Pastoral Care and Spirituality & Social Justice Leadership. He currently serves as a Faith Leader at the University of Toronto's Multifaith Centre, is a member of the New Israel Fund Canada Clergy Cabinet, and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. | [darcheinoam.ca](http://darcheinoam.ca)

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## Whose Light is it Anyway? Some Hannukah Improv with Benjamin Miller

9:10 - 10 PM  
Room 307 (3rd floor)

Curious about improvisational drama? Interested in learning Jewish texts in a totally new way? Then come play! In this session we will play through specially adapted improv games to explore different aspects of Hannukah. No prior experience required.

**Benjamin Miller** played and then coached in the Canadian Improv games throughout high school and continued improvising into university. He has delivered improv and Tefillah (prayer) classes and improv and character classes for City Shul and the MnJCC. He is currently delivering a 8-week Torah-based improv class at the Kiever. | [downtownjewisheducationtrust.wordpress.com](http://downtownjewisheducationtrust.wordpress.com)

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## Will the Real Hanukkah Please Step Forward: The Book of Maccabees vs. The Talmud? with Rabbis Lara Rodin & Steve Wernick

9:10 - 10 PM  
Enkin Boardroom (1st floor)



Join us for a textual exploration of the varying stories of Channukah and their meaning and significance.

**Rabbi Steve Wernick** is the Senior Rabbi at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, where **Rabbi Lara Rodin** is the Assistant Rabbi. They love sharing Torah, asking meaningful questions, and discovering what our tradition has to offer. | [beth-tzedec.org](http://beth-tzedec.org)

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## The Candle Making Workshop: Learning and Light with Rabbi Yael Splansky & Daniel Abramson

9:10 - 10 PM  
Lantern Boardroom  
(3rd floor)

Try your hand at an ancient art form -- candelmaking! Back from the original IGNITE festival, just in time for the fifth night of Chanukah, create a few candles to give as a gift or to illuminate your own Chanukiyah. Local artist and educator, Daniel Abramson, and Rabbi Yael Splansky will co-teach about the significance of these thin candles that bring so much joy!

**Daniel Abramson** is a multi-media artist and educator. He is passionate about helping learners of all ages explore ideas through creative and artistic practice. He has worked with students and teens at Jewish day schools, supplementary schools and at URJ Camp George. He is the Curriculum Development Director for the Tikkun Project at The Leo Baeck Day School.

**Yael Splansky** is the Senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple and currently serves as the President of the Toronto Board of Rabbis. | holyblossom.org



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**SHVILIM: New Paths to Addressing Antisemitism**  
with Evelyn Tauben

**9:10 - 10 PM**  
**Youth Chapel (3rd floor)**

Join curator and community leader, Evelyn Tauben, for a conversation about the groundbreaking SHVILIM initiative that she's been leading for the last two years, commissioned by the Ontario Arts Council, to offer a new path towards addressing antisemitism through and in the arts. In honour of the 5th candle, Evelyn will share five hopeful "sparks of light" emerging from the SHVILIM project and their new educational resources on understanding antisemitism entitled, Bridging Worlds, created by and for artists. She'll invite reflections and impressions from the group on the ways that her team is aiming to "flip the script" on how we talk about and approach antisemitism.

Producer, curator and writer, **Evelyn Tauben** is a leader in the field of contemporary Jewish arts and culture in Canada. In 2016, she founded FENTSTER, offering a window into Jewish life through exhibitions, programs and gatherings. Over the last two decades, she also has produced performances, festivals, and cultural conversations featuring local and international luminaries. Evelyn has worked at Smithsonian Museums, Philadelphia Museum of Art and Koffler Centre of the Arts.



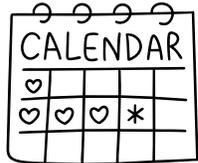
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**Yiddish Chanukah Bingo!**  
with Cyrel Troster & Sheine Mankovsky

**9:10 - 10 PM**  
**Room 209 (2nd floor)**

Learn Yiddish words and phrases that describe the holiday of Chanukah by playing Yiddish Bingo. There will be prizes and a booklet of Yiddish words and translations to take home.

**Cyrel Troster** and **Sheine Mankovsky** are members of the Committee for Yiddish. They were responsible for the creation of the first Committee for Yiddish website. Both Cyrel and Sheine have been involved as volunteers in many Jewish organizations. | [committeeoforyiddish.com](http://committeeoforyiddish.com)



**All About Calendars!**  
with **Carly Ziniuk**

**9:10 - 10 PM**  
**Lower Level Gallery**

Sometimes it seems like trying to understand the Jewish Calendar is a joke all on its own! As we close the 2025 secular Calendar, join me to discuss how Jewish math, space, and culture helped build our own unique calendar and then how we changed science as a result!

Science Communicator **Carly Ziniuk** connects astronomy and mathematics (2016 Descartes Medalist, 2024 Exceptional/Creative Teaching Award). As a NASA Space Apps Universal Judge, Carly showcases inclusive space resources for all learners. Her recent presentation ‘Jews in Space’ was featured in the 2024 NASA Space Apps Global Summit. [www.cityshul.com](http://www.cityshul.com)

10 - 10:10 PM	BIO BREAK
10:10 - 11 PM	SESSION 3 OPTIONS



**Shirat Halev: Singing the Song of the Heart**  
with **Aviva Chernick, Rabbi Nava Meiersdorf, & Naghmeh Farahmand** -

**10:10 - 11 PM**  
**Room 209 (2nd floor)**

Join musician and Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Wellbeing Aviva Chernick, Nava Tehilah Spiritual Leader and Adath Israel clergy Rabbi Nava Meiersdorf and award winning Iranian master musician Naghmeh Farahmand as they guide us in a participatory circle of song cultivating music as a spiritual practice. Prepare to go deeply into wordless melodies touching into the light and delight of the darkest moment of the year.

Award winning world music artist, co-founder of Na'aleh - Toronto Jewish Mindfulness Collective and Director of the Beth Tzedec Centre for Spiritual Wellbeing, **Aviva Chernick** brings her attention and expertise to the exploration of music as a spiritual practice. | [beth-tzedec.org](http://beth-tzedec.org)

**Naghmeh Farahmand**, the daughter of master percussionist Mahmoud Farahmand, has vast experience performing with many well-known ensembles and conducting master classes throughout the world. She has released her solo Percussion album “Unbound” and her first Instructional DVD on Persian rhythms “The Iranian Daf” in international drumming language. 'Immersed', a project that features Naghmeh has recently been nominated for a Grammy. | [naghmehfarahmand.com](http://naghmehfarahmand.com)

**Rabbi Nava B. Meiersdorf** is passionate about engaging in spaces of prayer and spirituality, rooted in the understanding that there are many ways to be Jewish. She is an Associate Rabbi at Adath Israel, one of the core leaders of Nava Tehila based in Israel, a fellow of the Honey Foundation, and, together with Rabbi Yerach, raises their two children—Maayan and Ariel. | [navatehila.org/t-en](http://navatehila.org/t-en) | [adathisrael.com](http://adathisrael.com)



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## **The Light We Give, The Light We Get** with Natalie Fingerhut

**10:10 - 11 PM**  
**Atrium Cafe (1<sup>st</sup> floor)**

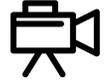
Come and hear about the experiences of outreach workers who help their fellow human beings caught in the multi-tentacled crisis of poverty, homelessness, hunger, addiction and mental health issue. How do we bring light to those we help and how do those we help bring light to us? We will also be making candy bags with holiday messages for people served by Ve'ahavta: A Jewish Humanitarian Response to Poverty and by the Meal Program at Saint Luke's United Church.

**Natalie Fingerhut's** day job is in publishing at University of Toronto Press and New Jewish Press. Her many gigs include street outreach work at Ve'ahavta and at Saint Luke's United Church, serving on the boards of the Milles Nadal Jcc and Mazon Canada, and adult figure skating. You can check out her Substack where she writes about her outreach experiences. | [mnjcc.org](http://mnjcc.org) | [natfingerhut.substack.com/p/outreach](http://natfingerhut.substack.com/p/outreach)



## **She Did What?! Women, Sex & Violence in Hanukkah Stories** with Rabbi Aaron Levy

**10:10 - 11 PM**  
**Enkin Boardroom (1st floor)**



We all know the nice story about the miracle of oil lasting eight days. Let's learn some not-so-nice Hanukkah stories about women who led and inspired the Jewish People by acting in surprising, even shocking, ways. We'll study ancient and medieval sources and discuss their presentation of Jewish women's roles, actions, and legacies. Everyone is welcome, even men! No prior Jewish learning experience necessary; sources presented in Hebrew and English.

**Rabbi Aaron Levy** is a leader in the revival of downtown Jewish life, where he is the founder and spiritual leader of Makom: Creative Downtown Judaism. Ordained in the first graduating class of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, a Modern Orthodox Rabbinical School, he is an avid drummer, cyclist, hiker, and vegan. | [makomTO.org](http://makomTO.org)

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## **Kislev Dream Ink Images** with Reb Aaron Rotenberg

**10:10 - 11 PM**  
**Room 301 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

The Torah portions in this Hebrew month of Kislev are replete with dreams, which provide a more visual language than our often text-heavy tradition. We will play with the slippery connection of text and image in our dreams by illustrating a dream snippets using home-made natural ink. Bring a recent dream of your own to work with our choose one from the Book of Genesis. Perhaps you'll be inspired to start your own image-making practice this dark and dreamy season!

**Rabbi Aaron Rotenberg** is the Director of Multigenerational Engagement at Congregation Darchei Noam. He has a practice of making natural ink from foraged sources and is interested in how Torah and Jewish practice can help us connect with our personal and collective subconscious. He also is a leader at Ha'Sadeh: Toronto Jewish Renewal. | [darcheinoam.ca](http://darcheinoam.ca)

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