



Sivan, 5786/June 2026

Dear Congregants,

Holy Blossom Temple is 170 Years Strong! While Israel is often misunderstood on the world stage and Jewish Canadians are often misunderstood here at home, the Holy Blossom Temple community continues to be a beacon of strength and stability.

Because our congregation is blessed by a baby boom and a swell of young families, because we believe we must respond to the news of the day by raising up the next generation of knowledgeable and confident Jews, we've announced **The Honourable Irwin Cotler School of Holy Blossom Temple** to offer children and teens the finest part-time Jewish education. This fall, we will welcome our own students, as well as six JK classes of Bialik Hebrew Day School students, into renewed third-floor classrooms. Our excellent Early Childhood Centre now has a waiting list. Our Tot Shabbat & Friday Night Lights services are brimming with a joyful spirit.

While we never deny the heaviness of the news of the day, we have refused to let it keep us from the fullness of Jewish life. Every Shabbat brings uplift. Every lifecycle event brings joy and comfort. Every concert and occasion for lifelong learning enriches our appreciation for our heritage. Every Out of the Cold meal demonstrates that we are responsible for our neighbours. Every holyday reminds us that we are part of a much larger and longer story than the one we write for ourselves. Our insistence that Jewish life endures despite the fears makes the slogan "Am Yisrael Chai" a reality. The Jewish People lives – right here at 1950 Bathurst Street!

This approach has earned us the trust of long-time members and newcomers alike. We are proud of the extraordinary generosity our congregants have shown this year, enabling us to expand and fulfill our mission. And we are proud to share with you that **30% of our membership is new in the last five years**. This is remarkable and rare. We are confident that Holy Blossom will enrich the lives of all our members, all of whom are a cherished part of our Holy Blossom community.

There are two ways you can help to further our reach.

First, please welcome family and friends, colleagues and neighbours to join you at Holy Blossom Temple. Our **Terumah** membership model for young families and our **YAD: Next Gen** membership model for people ages 19-40 are our investment in the next generation. We will make it easy and meaningful for newcomers and returning congregants to join, but we need your help in extending a personal outreach. Please drop a note to Abigail Nemzer, our Director of Membership & Community Engagement at anemzer@holyblossom.org, for everyone else, so they can reinforce your invitation with an extra warm welcome.

Second, your membership is, of course, much more than a matter of filling out these forms. We see the act of renewing your **membership as a mitzvah**, a sacred act. We admire you for it. By renewing your commitment to Holy Blossom Temple, you are entering into a Brit, a Covenant of Belonging. How might you choose to animate this **Covenant of Belonging** in the year ahead? Consider these four over-lapping paths:

A commitment of LEARNING. For example, you can enjoy study with our rabbis, start-up a new Chavurah, come learn from visiting thought-leaders, or join HBTravels for immersive learning trips to Israel or Argentina. Meet with **our new Director of Lifelong Learning, Dr. Cindy Kozierok** to share your ideas. Please recommend The Cotler School to parents, children, and teens you know. Introduce us to them, so we can roll out the red carpet and welcome them to the part-time Jewish education program that is the best match for them.

A commitment of PRAYER. For example, you can comfort our mourners by ensuring a minyan at our daily services, bring your not-yet-member grandchild to our Little Blossoms or Young Readers Services on the High Holy Days, take up the mitzvah of chanting Torah or Haftarah, join us for Cottage Shabbat this summer and Snowbird Shabbat this Winter.

A commitment of MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEERISM. For example, you can be an usher for the High Holy Days, enjoy a weekly phone-visit with a congregant-elder, host a new member for a Shabbat meal, volunteer for Holy Blossom's nights on the Ve'ahavta Vans.

A commitment of TZEDAKAH. For example, you can give to the Annual Campaign, drop off nonperishable items in our Tiny Food Pantries at the corner of Bathurst and Dewbourne, sponsor a holyday or a Temple initiative you are passionate about.

This is an invitation. If and how you approach these four commitments is entirely up to you. The need for sacred community is strong now and we are heeding that call. Holy Blossom Temple is strengthened by YOU. Thank you and Kol HaKavod!

Wishing you and those you love a restorative summer,



Yael Splansky
Senior Rabbi
Baskin-Garson Senior Rabbinic Chair



Eric Klein
Temple President
Holy Blossom Temple Board of Directors