

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



# Bulletin

April 2014



THIS YEAR  
IN  
JERUSALEM



# Pesach

## 2014/ 5774



### **Erev Passover**

**Monday April 14, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.**

### **First Day Passover**

**Tuesday April 15, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.**

Congregation-wide Service with the Temple Singers and our Simcha Band will include Songs of Freedom and Songs of Hallel. A festive Kiddush lunch will follow the service. Creative children's study program will be integrated throughout the morning.

### **Erev Seventh Day Passover**

**Sunday April 20, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.**

### **Seventh Day Passover / Yizkor Service**

**Monday April 21, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.**

At this Congregation-wide Service, we celebrate the last day of Pesach. *Following Yizkor Services, there will be a special Kiddush Luncheon for all to enjoy sponsored by the Bernard, Carol and Samuel Braun Memorial Fund in memory of Bernard, Carol and Samuel Braun.*



[www.holyblossom.org](http://www.holyblossom.org)





# HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE



# Bulletin

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# The Obligations of Freedom

Rabbi Yael Splansky  
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The contemporary poet, Marge Piercy, wrote a poem entitled, “Maggid,” the name of the section of the Hagadah when we “tell” the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Here’s an excerpt of that poem:

*We Jews are all born of wanderers, with shoes  
under our pillows and a memory of blood that is  
ours  
raining down. We honour those who changed.  
tonight, those who chose the desert over bondage,  
who walked into the strange and became  
strangers...  
We honour those who let go of everything  
but freedom, who ran, who revolted, who fought,  
who became other by saving themselves.*

I love the line, “who walked into the strange and became strangers...” Pesach reminds us that being rescued comes with a price – it changes you. Anyone who has had a personal “near-miss” knows this – a car accident, a heart attack. It changes you forever. It gives you perspective you never had before.

What does the rescued know that others don’t? To know how to count blessings. To know how to express gratitude. To know how to recognize a miracle – big or small. To testify to God’s greatness. Certainly. And these are already not so easy. But to live as one who is a part of a people, who has been rescued from slavery means even more.

In choosing to walk out of Egypt, in witnessing God’s saving power, there is more required

of us than simple gratitude. The Exodus – historical fact or mythic truth, no matter – requires that we not be reconciled with the evils of the world. Pesach, The Festival of Freedom, demands that we imagine freedom for all of humanity. The ability and the responsibility to the view the world through the lenses of justice and injustice are now ours.

I recently was invited to a church basement to meet the Pusuma Family. They are among the many Hungarian Roma seeking safe haven in Canada. I went as spontaneously as the invitation came. It was the first beautiful spring Sunday, but I went, compelled by their story. ([www.freelulu.ca](http://www.freelulu.ca)) A member of the church explained why he had come. Put simply: “justice” and “injustice” are not only legal terms. They are also religious terms. They are spiritual categories of right and wrong.

Yes, having been redeemed comes with a price – the obligation to imagine a whole world redeemed. May this Pesach call up our collective memories of slavery and newly found freedom. May the retelling of Rescue at the Sea, stir in us the sense of urgency to do our part to magnify redemption in the world. Bimhayrah v’yameinu – may it come speedily and in our day. Chag Sameach!

# This is exactly the performance we should expect of our leaders

Dr. Harvey Schipper  
president@holyblossom.org



From childhood I have been taught that Passover was a freedom festival, a celebration of our liberation from slavery in Egypt and a charge to us to be beacons of freedom for the oppressed wherever they may be. The Reform Movement has borne the sceptre of that responsibility with alacrity: civil rights, Israel, sexual identity, and more recently our Aboriginal community. Holy Blossom Temple has been an exemplar of that obligation.

There is, however, another lesson that grows on me under the mantle of leadership. It is the meaning of accountability. Our liberation was but the first step in our evolution from a biblical tribe to a unique people who in addition to a monotheistic belief, assumed the humbling responsibility of being directly accountable to God for our actions. No priestly intermediaries for us. The accountability is direct and personal. This differentiating learning did not happen overnight. Our acceptance of the Ten Commandments came at the expense of the blood of many. The layer upon layer of rules and distinctions governing relations among us and toward others, revealed in Leviticus, did not come easily. We wandered in the desert for forty years to bring forth a new generation untainted by slavery, and free of the complicity of the Golden Calf. And it took the destruction of the Second Temple before we, as individual Jews, assumed fully our personal accountability before God.

Each Passover, in the spring of the year, when we celebrate rebirth, sow the next crops, and begin new things it is with an eye to the future. Seen from the perspective of how we came to our unique identity as a People, “we shall reap what

we sow”, takes on another dimension of meaning for Jewish leaders.

Why does this weigh heavily on me as President? Because, it weighs heavily on all of our leaders at Holy Blossom, lay and professional. Because our accountability as your leaders is to Holy Blossom as a spiritual institution of immense consequence. We are building and reinvigorating our rules and our structures in a generational renewal. We have been and are making serious, consequential decisions about leadership, education, finance, and expressions of our identity. Those decisions involve choices which are not clear, often when the data to which one would aspire is simply unavailable or ambiguous. But they are choices we must make.

Though they may be contentious, we strive that our decisions not become divisive. Often that means threading the needle linking differing ideas. We blend objectivity with passion, for this is a place of the spirit. It takes time, work, energy and commitment. This is exactly the performance we should expect of our leaders.



From the Board



# A modern take on Pesach – in Ghana

article by **Mira Lyon**  
via [stories@holyblossom.org](mailto:stories@holyblossom.org)

On my most recent Me to We trip which I'm leading, I'm in beautiful Ghana on the west coast of Africa. A group of tired high school students from Saskatchewan land at the airport, bleary-eyed from travel and excited for our adventure. After a quick night's rest, the first place that we drive to is Cape Coast Castle, the fort used by colonizers as a shipping point in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. 2 million men and women, ripped violently from their homes across all of western Africa, were brought here. Our guide, Kwesi, leads our group down a steep passageway and we enter a suffocating room, with only one small window at the top. Thousands were kept in rooms like this, starving, living in their own filth, knowing that freedom was never going to come. We follow Kwesi to a closet-sized room with no windows, and he shuts off the light. We wait in the stifling darkness as he tells us that many were thrown in this room and forgotten.

At the end we pause by a large door where slaves were forced to walk through to the waiting ships. The small sign above it says 'Door of No Return.' Over 60 million souls were put on ships in West Africa – and only 12 million survived the journey.

Just on the other side of this door, as we step blinking in to the Tuesday sun, life is thriving. Fishing boats line the beach, decorated with flags declaring favourite sports teams. Amongst the noise, children sit repairing fishing nets and

cleaning the day's catch. When we later discuss the experience, we point out that we just spent over an hour learning about and seeing a horrific piece of human history that we perceive as being so long ago – and yet children right in front of us are working rather than learning in school. Without an education, their chances of being exploited their whole lives are much higher than those who get schooling.



The Door of No Return at Cape Coast Castle

As Jews, we talk about slavery once a year when we read the story of our years of hard labour under Pharaoh and our eventual redemption. We focus on making sure the cholent isn't burned and that the kids don't kick each other under the table. We don't raise four glasses to the estimated 30 million people who are currently still living as slaves today, in EVERY COUNTRY in the world, including right under our noses. We don't dip greens for those who work for a pittance under the threat of violence so that our shoes can be two dollars cheaper. We certainly don't recline in recognition of the children around the world for whom the barriers to receiving an education are too great to overcome.

I am so lucky to be part of a larger organization, Free the Children, which is fueled by young peoples' passion for social justice and is dedicated to removing those barriers; those include access to healthcare and clean water, alternative income options for families and food security. I am honoured to spend my summers at Take Action Camp ([www.metowe.com](http://www.metowe.com)) with youth who want to build their leadership skills,



learn about local and global issues in which they want to see change, and create plans to take action in ways that make them excited. I feel privileged to be able to bring excited school groups, families and individual youth on Me to We trips where we participate in development projects with our partner communities, and learn about existing challenges and what we can do. And we all can truly do so much.

We have an entire world of information at our fingertips on our computers, tablets and phones! Let's use that power and educate ourselves on issues about which we're most passionate. Check out [www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com) for ideas. On the topic of modern-day slavery, try [www.globalslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org) and [slaveryfootprint.org](http://slaveryfootprint.org). The Religious Action Center has some amazing free resources on Judaism and social justice year-round, and some fantastic Seder additions for Pesach ([rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/passover/](http://rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/passover/)). We can all make better choices when we consume, and research where our goods come from. There are even apps for that! Check out Buycott as an example. When we give tzedakah we should make sure that we're addressing root causes of issues and are involved in true justice work, not just charity.

As we stood blinking in the bright sunshine, having passed through the door, Kwesi asked us to turn around. On the other side of the door, the local community had put up a sign saying 'Door of Return,' signifying how far we have come even though we have more much more to do. With some hard work and responsible choices, we truly can return to a place past even tikkun olam – and end up at a repaired world.



Our group with our new local friends, proud of the work that we've done for the new classroom



A plaque on the wall at Cape Coast Castle – and a crucial vow

Carrying buckets of gravel the way that the locals do, while we work with the community to build a new classroom



Enjoying some R & R in the Atlantic Ocean!





# Passover Choral Festival of Music - Why?

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner  
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AZ YASHIR MOSHE UV'NEI ISRAEL ET  
HASHIRA HAZOT

Then Moses together with the children of Israel sang this song to God. The song of the Red Sea was an outburst of gratitude, an ecstatic, impulsive response of the Hebrews who were just saved from the Pharaohs and were liberated from bondage. The outburst of spontaneous song of Moses and the children of Israel in a great chorus was shortly rearranged for later generations by Miriam, Moses's sister, according to Professor Joseph Levine. Here, the orderly antiphonal response of the same song by the people of Israel became our antiquated form of worship and the style in which we conduct our conversation with our creator. Just as the heavenly hosts call out to each other "Vekara Ze El Ze Veamar", they call unto one another and say Kadosh! Kadosh! Kadosh! We acknowledge God's omnipotent greatness and sing Hallel Psalms of praises each Festival with a mighty chorus.

I vividly remember the early years after my arrival in Toronto, the magnificent Jewish Choral Festivals lead by Ben Steinberg and the Srul Irving Glick z"l. Many of the city's synagogues and community choirs participated with great enthusiasm in a celebration of Jewish secular and religious choral music. With the help of my colleagues we are reinventing this focal point of our heritage and are planning such an impressive festival during Passover for the second time this year.

What is the uniqueness of choral music and in particular for us and for our religious expression? What constitutes a choir and what is so special about singing together in a formulated effort? Can we not be happy just singing for ourselves at any time, any place and under any circumstances? In general terms Choir (also known as chorale or chorus) is a musical ensemble of singers. Choral music, in turn, is the music written specifically for such an ensemble to perform. A body of

singers who perform together as a group is called a choir or chorus. The term is very often applied to groups affiliated with a church or synagogue. Choirs also perform in theatres or concert halls. For our purposes choral synagogue music is of utmost importance.

Choral music may have preserved a few phrases in the reading of Scripture which recalled the song of the Temple but generally it echoed from the first tones which the Jew of each age and country heard around him, not merely in the actual borrowing of tunes but more especially in the prevailing tonality or description of scale on which the music was based.

We know for sure that some form of group levitical singing took place during Temple days in the recitations of Psalms and the established prayers during Temple worship. We know for a fact that Gregorian chant and church music is heavily influenced by Judaic tradition. However, the one responsible for high level synagogue choral music was the Italian Jewish composer Salomon Rossi 1580 – 1623. Rossi brought into the synagogue the highly sophisticated renaissance music. Since then Choral music developed in every corner where Jews lived and developed their own cultural Choral tradition.

We at Holy Blossom have been blessed with a rich legacy of highly recognized choral tradition which is reflected in our worship services throughout the year, as well as in the Musical Heritage Concert Series displaying the widest variety of Jewish choral tradition. It is in this spirit that we promote and celebrate the best of choral music in Toronto and invite you all to celebrate with us here at Holy Blossom Temple, Thursday April 17th Chol Hamoed Passover at 7:30 p.m.



# A Story Passed Down

article by **Stacey Weisberg**

via [stories@holyblossom.org](mailto:stories@holyblossom.org)

As we all know, stories that are told from generation to generation are often get treated like a game of broken telephone. Before I do tell this story, it would be prudent of me to preface by suggesting this is 'based on a true story'. I know the facts are true, and the outcome is positive, however it's the sequence of events that are a bit grey.

My grandfather's name is Sam Weisberg. He is unfortunately not with us, nor was he when I was even born. I have, none the less, always enjoyed listening to stories about him that were told by my grandmother Margaret Weisberg, and his children, Barbara, Paul, Allan (my father) and Nancy. He was an entrepreneur, a family man and a philanthropist.

Sam was born somewhere in old Russia. I've been told more specifically that it was in the Ukraine near Odessa. At the time leading up to the war, Odessa was not a great place to live. The opportunity, I imagine was in North America. He did have family, extended mind you, that had left and made it to Toronto. I will not spend too much time discussing the journey over, however the trip was a life changing one.

Because the cost of the ticket to leave was so expensive, only a few of the children in Sam's family were given the chance. Sam and his brother, both at ages less than 10 years old, started a journey from Russia to North America. Unfortunately, only Sam would make the trip alive, and upon arriving in New York was faced with burying his older brother.

He had landed in New York without a brother, without any money and with only the will to work in his soul. There was some family that had lived in New York near the meat packing district. Roughly at the young age of 10 he worked by the sides of butchers learning the skills, he would apply once his journey was complete.

In Toronto, there was family less extended, which he was ultimately travelling towards and after earning enough to make the trip across the border he had reunited with them. Knowing only the meat business he quickly saw entrepreneurial opportunities. Over the course of 30 years, Sam had amassed a chain of butcher shops, beef and pork processing facilities, owned restaurants and night clubs, and built a network open to helping those who had made similar long journeys to the place they would call home, Toronto.

Being philanthropic was a part of his makeup, as was being Jewish. He was a lifelong member at Holy Blossom. What came with welcoming Jews who arrived with nothing, often meant some bartering for belongings they had brought in exchange for money. One of those travellers brought a Torah and Sam graciously and amiably traded for it. Sam donated that Torah to Rabbi Feinberg at his shul, Holy Blossom, and as I understand it served to be one the first Torahs to be donated. I, as a third generation member, am so proud to know that one of those Torahs I see on the high holidays was donated from my grandpa Sam.

# Shabbat Shalom from Israel

article by **Lisa Isen Baumal**  
Director of Youth Engagement  
lbaumal@holyblossom.org

This past March, 7 of our students travelled to Israel during March Break with us for our Confirmation Israel trip. It was amazing to watch them experience Israel, learn about the land, the people and the history, and grow and develop both as individuals and a group throughout the week together. Here is some of what they have had to say:

Israel has been nothing as I expected. My picture of Israel was a desert and an occasional temple made of Jerusalem stone. From what I expected and what Israel is was a shock – a pleasant shock!

The Israel that I've seen in the past 48 hours is modern, stunning, and has surprisingly little sand. But with all of the amazing sites I've seen it has paled in comparison to the people I have met...despite our language barrier we have communicated and connected with Israelis...

As a Jew I feel more connected with Holy Blossom Temple, myself and our homeland Israel, ever since we came on this trip. Now that I have learned the meanings behind some of our prayers and rituals, I have learned to not only understand it, but also appreciate it more! This trip has expanded my Jewish education in a way religious school could never. Seeing my history, my roots first hand, I feel more connected to my Judaism, and to the Jewish community as a whole.

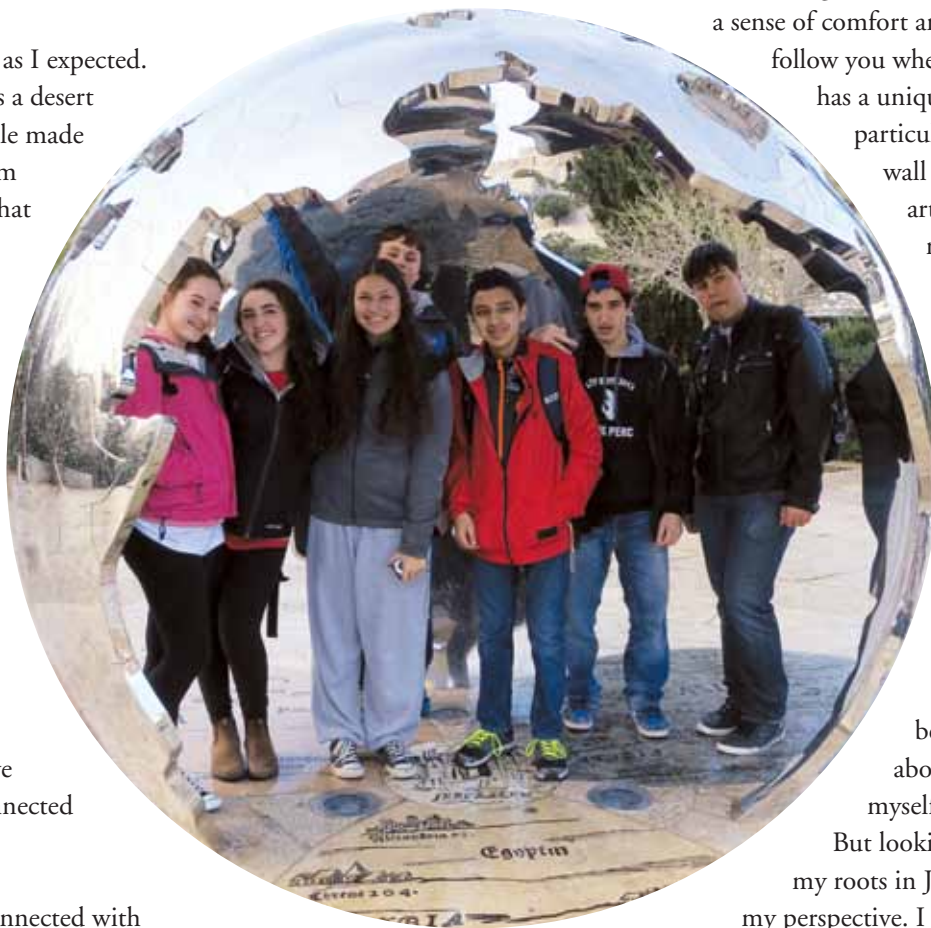
Being here has made me feel proud to be a Jew. I am so thankful to have had the chance to come here.

Being in Israel is nothing short of incredible. I came here not knowing what to expect, but so far I am thoroughly impressed. There is something in the air that is indescribable; a sense of comfort and love, that seems to follow you wherever you go. Israel has a unique type of beauty, particularly Jerusalem. Every wall here is an ancient artifact, and every corner, room, hallway, floor and door seems to have been crafted by the hand of an artist.

Before I got to Israel, I did not fully understand the full meaning of being Jewish. Since my arrival in Israel I started to realize that being a Jew is really about history. I never saw myself as big on Judaism.

But looking at the sites about my roots in Judaism has changed my perspective. I now see Judaism as a big thing. Visiting Massada and the site of where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written, made me think of how strong Jews are, even when pulled out of their roots and sent elsewhere...

While being in Israel for my confirmation trip I discovered Israel in a different way. I have been here several times and I am truly seeing it in a different way. We talked about Hachnasat Orchim, and the importance of helping people in need...this made me





realize that if I do something extra, even lend an extra hand to someone, it would do so much and might have a strong impact. Doing a mitzvah as a Jewish individual is extremely important.

Holy Blossom Temple has so many different opportunities for youth to connect, participate, engage with others, volunteer, learn and more. We encourage each of our youth to find their connection. For more information about all youth activities at Temple, please contact Lisa Isen Bauman, Director of Youth Engagement, and Debbie Spiegel, Director of Education.



# Early Childhood Centre



Our Early Childhood Centre continues to be a thriving community for our children, staff and families.

Fostering a positive Jewish identity in young children is an integral part of our program. Whether it is counting candles on the chanukiah or negotiating the sharing of toys, teachers help our youngest students become active learners and feel part of a larger community. Over any given school year, the children will have many opportunities to 'make a difference'. These experiences help build a bank of memories. They learn that taking action is a process that involves specific skills and our goal is to foster young children's natural desire to be 'fair' and right'.

Our many tzedakah projects to date have included:

Singing for the seniors at baycrest and collecting toys at holiday time. We also raised money for Philippine Relief by enjoying muffins and coffee with our caregivers. We've planted trees, brought in toonies to provide lunches for school children (through Second Harvest) and just recently, we offered our guests of the Out of the Cold program some comfort and love on Valentine's Day. Our families collected toiletry items and the children worked together to package them up. Calling our friends at home when they are sick, welcoming in visitors and role modeling kindness help strengthen moral development and build a feeling of caring and belonging.

Demonstrating these initiatives in ways that two and three year olds can understand and participate appropriately is vital.

On January 31st our Licensing officer from the Ministry of Education came for our annual inspection. He chose to join us for our kabbalat shabbat and story where we presented a scenario about a homeless and hungry person. He listened as the children called out offers of food, money or clothes and was awestruck. Afterwards Robert shared with me that in his 15 years he had never been to a school that engaged pre-schoolers in 'social action'. We are truly very proud of the work that we do.



# Youth Activities

This month you will be receiving a phone call from a HABSTY member, asking you to order a Bagel breakfast, as part of the annual HABSTY Bagel project fundraiser. This annual fundraising initiative, which delivers over 500 Bagel breakfasts across the city, and donates to several local women's shelters, will take place on Mother's Day – Sunday, May 11, 2014. The HABSTY Bagel project raises important funds that help support the myriad of youth activities that take place here at Holy Blossom for all our children. Monies raised also help send our youth to participate in activities and programs outside of Holy Blossom, such as NFTY events, and Camp George. However, the Bagel Project does more than just raise money. There are many

ways to support this great initiative. In addition to ordering Bagel breakfasts for your loved ones, you and your family can volunteer to do deliveries, students of all ages can come to Temple the day before and help pack, as well as participate in the telethons throughout the month of April. Volunteer hours will be awarded. The Bagel project is an opportunity for our congregation as a whole to come together to support our 'you(th) here always'.

Here are a few examples of some of the youth in our synagogue, who have participated in programs that are supported by the Bagel Project:

## Winter Kallah Reflection

article by **Melanie Wasser**

Camp George is my favourite place on earth. I get to see all of my friends, participate in amazing programs, and my personal favourite part, Shabbat. NFTY-NEL Winter Kallah is just like camp, but in the winter, so it was a given that I would sign up. All of my friends are there, there are so many fun programs, and Shabbat is always so special. On February 28th, eight HABSTY members boarded a bus to Cleveland for our weekend long event. We arrived late afternoon, which gave us plenty of time to catch up with friends and meet new ones. We then participated in a "Rock My Soul" Shabbat service, which was unlike any other service I've ever been to. The bima was full of instruments and microphones that had everyone up and out of their seats dancing to every song. Little did we know that a spaghetti Shabbat dinner would follow services. It was one of the best Friday nights I have ever experienced.

Saturday is when all the best programs take place. After our morning service we participated in different programs that focused on what calms us down. There was cooking, yoga, art, meditation, and many more. Throughout the day, everyone was very eager to try out all the different activities, and meet new people. The best part about NFTY events is that everyone is so welcoming to new members. The inclusive environment is what made me enjoy the events so much. The weekend was a blast. We had song sessions and havdallah, and of course, the best bus rides you will ever experience. I can't wait until Spring Kallah in April.

## JVC HOME... easy and fun

article by **Maddy Toker**

JVC HOME is a program that is held once a month where kids who are becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah are involved in doing different mitzvot for their Sharei Kehillah project. Some of the different activities that I have been involved in are:

'Attending the House of Study' where we made Purim themed book displays for the Youth Chapel and library, 'Welcoming the Stranger' where we baked goods for Out of the Cold and 'To Pray With Sincerity' where we joined the Mincha service and then wrote our own personal prayers.

JVC HOME is very helpful to fulfil the mitzvot for the Sharei Kehillah project and even though most of the mitzvot required can be done in our everyday lives, it is really great to have the chance to do mitzvot with your friends and to meet new people in the Temple community when doing them.

Personally, I like participating in JVC HOME because it makes doing mitzvot very easy and fun. I realized that there are many mitzvot that correspond to my hobbies and interests. For instance, I like to bake and I enjoyed making cookies and muffins for Out of The Cold and beading bracelets for One Family Fund.





# Congregational Appeal

## Soothing our Jewish Souls through Tzedakah

Chicken soup, matzoh balls, challah, brisket. For so many of us, these Jewish comfort foods symbolize our Jewish tradition and culture. With their mouth-watering aromas and unmatched flavours, these foods also remind us of all the ingredients and effort that go into creating a special place like Holy Blossom Temple. Together at our beloved congregation, we gather to celebrate milestones; to enrich our spirits through prayer and learning; to perform good works which uplift society and help repair the world.

Like chicken soup, Holy Blossom has come to symbolize that as Jews we are part of a larger community.

Whether we are rejoicing the occasion of a bar mitzvah or wedding, or we are mourning the loss of someone dear; we take comfort in knowing that Holy Blossom will be there to support us during the most important times in our lives both as individuals and as a community.

Yet for Holy Blossom to continue to be so much for so many, we need your help.

Our ability to be a spiritual home for all who wish to participate depends on you.

## Why an Annual Congregational Appeal?

For over 150 years, Holy Blossom has served as an international beacon of Liberal Judaism. As we have grown and changed throughout the years, we have continued to offer congregants leading-edge programming and services which are always rooted in our Jewish tradition and values.

But you may not realize that membership dues, tuition and other program fees do not fully cover Holy Blossom's operating budget. The Temple's steadfast commitment to remain open to all who enter our doors, regardless of financial circumstances, means that each year, we are left with a gap between revenue and expenses.

The Holy Blossom Congregational Appeal (HBCA) is a fundraising campaign conducted to raise funds and bridge this gap. The HBCA underwrites regular, ongoing and unexpected expenses and is vital to our congregation's financial health, allowing us to maintain an unmatched level of programs and services.

## Where does my gift go?

Think about what Holy Blossom means to you – those very special moments when you've come to Temple and experienced a life changing event. Now think about what your life would be missing without these majestic memories, whether hearing the





magic of our sanctuary during Kol Nidre or watching your grandchild take the bimah as a bat mitzvah.

Holy Blossom means so much to all of us. Yet like all North American congregations, we cannot make ends meet on dues alone.

#### Your gift to the HBCA enables us to:

- Maintain a wide variety of innovative programming for our children, teens adults and seniors
- Provide dues relief to members so that no one is denied membership to Holy Blossom Temple due to financial hardship
- Provide need-based scholarships to our Religious School students.
- Maintain the building and grounds.
- And of course – keep the lights, heat and air on!

This year's Congregational Appeal is all about nourishing our Jewish souls through tzedakah. By sharing our blessings with those who have less, we observe one of Judaism's most sacred commandments – that of actively ensuring the wellbeing of the community around us.

#### How will my gift be recognized?

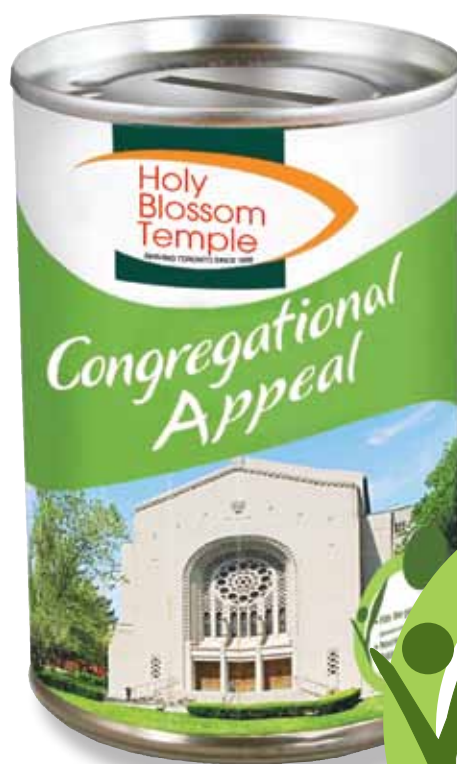
The names of those contributing at the Supporter level or higher will be gratefully acknowledged on

our 2014 Donor Wall, located outside the Sanctuary. All gifts will be recognized on our website and in the Temple Bulletin.

#### Every donation makes a difference

Like chicken soup, Holy Blossom has been a source of comfort and nourishment for our members through all of life's moments – births, Bnai Mitzvah, daily and Shabbat services, holidays, marriages, sicknesses, bereavements and every occasion in between. Our special mix of caring Rabbis, Cantors, and educators provide community services made possible only due to your generosity.

By contributing to HBCA 2014, you help make possible this wonderful, majestic house of spirituality and community that is our Holy Blossom Temple.



- Fills the gap!  
(between revenue and expenses)
- Nourishes the soul
- Rabbinnically Approved

#### Look at the following giving levels and how your generosity helps nourish the soul of Holy Blossom Temple:

**\$10,000 – Pillar** . . . . . Only **\$834/month!**

- Send two (2) confirmation students to Israel

**\$7,200 – Benefactor** . . . Only **\$600/month!**

- Fund three (3) congregational lunches for Yizkor

**\$3,600 – Patron** . . . . . Only **\$300/month!**

- Help send a child to Camp George, for a 3 ½ week session

**\$1,800 – Sponsor** . . . . . Only **\$150/month!**

- Allow a single person in need to enjoy Holy Blossom membership for a year.

**\$1,200 – Leader** . . . . . Only **\$100/month!**

- Allow four (4) seniors to attend Mondays @ the Temple, our senior's programming, for a year

**\$600 – Supporter** . . . . . Only **\$50/month!**

- Subsidize a teen's travel costs to a North American youth program

**\$360 – Friend** . . . . . Only **\$30/month!**

- Provide craft supplies for our Tot Shabbat and Craft programs

#### INGREDIENTS/INGRÉDIENTS

TEMPLE SINGERS, INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, ADULTS AND SENIORS, DUES RELIEF FOR MEMBERS IN NEED, NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS, CRITICAL BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE. **EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**



# Welcome to Our Congregational Family

## Mazal Tov



■ Mazal Tov to **Dr. Karen Mock**, Human Rights Activist, & **Dr. David Mock**, Professor and Former Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, U of T on receiving the 2014 Meir Hospital Israel Medical Medal of Merit.

■ Mazal Tov to **Judy Winberg** on being honoured by ICRF (Israel Cancer Research Fund) as a Woman of Action, 2014.

## Births

■ Shaina & Bryan Davis on the birth of a daughter, **Lailah Ruby Davis** and sister to Nathaniel. Proud grandparents are Sharyn Saltzberg Ezrin & Hershell Ezrin; and Rona & Robert Davis. Proud great grandmothers are Sophie Davis; and Faye Singerman.

■ Marcie & Barry Gordon, on the birth of a grandson, **Miles Lucas Gordon**. Proud parents are Michael & Katie Gordon. Other proud grandparents are Marlene & Michael Hartsman; and Meredith Coristine. Proud great grandmother is Vicki Levinter.

■ Donna Habsha & Mark Weinstock, on the birth of a daughter, **Audrey Florence Weinstock** and sister to Olivia. Proud grandparents are Jacqueline & Haim Habsha; and Faigie & Joe Weinstock. Proud great grandmothers are Miriam Wise; and Esperence Ezra.

■ Shawnee & Hersh Glicksman, on the birth of a granddaughter, **Lauren Jean Ungerman**. Proud parents are Jessy & Steve Ungerman and sister to Ryan and Cory. Other proud grandparents are Paul Slan; and Sally & Alan Ungerman.

■ Shelly Berenbaum & Chuck Litman on the birth of a grandson, **James Andrew Sidney Milroy**. Proud parents are Leslie & Darryl Milroy. Other proud grandparents are Marg & Gord Milroy. Proud great grandmother is Sybil Litman.



## B'nei Mitzvah



■ April 26, 2014  
26 Nisan 5774  
**Adam Oaknine**  
son of Andrea Brodey  
& Avy Oaknine



■ May 10, 2014  
10 Iyar 5774  
**Brandon Dale**  
son of Elise Teitler  
& Lawrence Dale



■ May 15, 2014  
15 Iyar 5774  
**Kacie Smith**  
daughter of  
Dr. Howard Smith  
and Nonnie Smith



■ May 17, 2014  
17 Iyar 5774  
**Josh Zalvin**  
son of Lynne &  
Andrew Zalvin



■ May 24, 2014  
24 Iyar 5774  
**Adrienne Klein**  
daughter of Gillian  
Helfeld & Eric Klein



■ May 29, 2014  
29 Iyar 5774  
**Olivia Stein**  
daughter of Hildi and  
Gary



■ May 31, 2014  
2 Sivan 5774  
**Jonah Belman**  
son of Dr. Robin  
Kutner and  
Dr. Noah Belman



■ June 7, 2014  
9 Sivan 5774  
**Marlowe Bederman**  
daughter of Sara &  
Nolan Bederman



■ June 7, 2014  
9 Sivan 5774  
**Ethan Richmond**  
son of Darren &  
Leslie Richmond and  
Joanne Silver



■ June 14, 2014  
16 Sivan 5774  
**Bryann Davidson**  
daughter of Dimitra  
& Michael Davidson



■ June 14, 2014  
16 Sivan 5774  
**Jonelle Grossman**  
daughter of Jennifer  
Grossman and Bob  
Grossman



■ June 21, 2014  
23 Sivan 5774  
**Peter Gelgor**  
son of Sara Gelgor &  
Jeffrey Goldman



## Engagements & Weddings

■ **Amy Glicksman**, daughter of Marsha & Harry Glicksman to **Daniel Lane**, son of Helicia Glucksman and Ed Lane, are to be married this May.



# In Memoriam

- **Lawrence Cherniak**, husband of Debbie Cherniak, son of Lucy Cherniak Weinstein, brother of Lloyd Cherniak, Linda Coleman and Leon Cherniak.
- **Robert Dorsey**, husband of Claire Dorsey, father of Doug Dorsey and Dede Dorsey, brother of Edith Hall Friedham
- **David Dunkelman**, husband of Rosalyn Dunkelman, father of Adam Dunkelman and Alanna Dunkelman, son of Toby Dunkelman, and brother of Ronnie-Lynne Billet.
- **Beth-Ann Duviner**, mother of Jonathan Duviner, sister of Sue Zaltz and Gil Duviner.
- **Rose Halpern**, mother of Ilisa Blidner, and Murray Halpern.
- **Leo Klausner**, husband of Estee Klausner, father of Zevi Klausner and Adi Klausner.

- **Ruth Koblin**, mother of Jason Sciommarella, daughter of Saul and Jackie Koblin, sister of Hal Koblin and Wendy Radzinski.
- **Ilana Liebermann**, sister of Akiva Marksu and Daniella Axelrod, mother of Talia Katz, Astar Liebermann, Rob Libermann and Maxine Leslau.
- **Sergio Rudnicki**, husband of Leni Rudnicki, father of Claudio Rudnicki, Dani Rudnicki and Ellen Rudnicki, Gordon Schwartz, father of Bernard Schwartz, Michael Schwartz and Carol Schwartz, brother of Ruth Turk and Susie Keshen.
- **Helen Sherman**, mother of Geraldine Sherman and Michael Sherman.
- **Dorothy Sugarman**, mother of Andrea Marcus
- **Rita C. Thal**, Step-mother of Barbara Thal-Hodes, Evelyn Toyton and Richard Thal.
- **Belle Wiesfeld**, mother of Hope Maissner, Joan Mack and Ellen Norman.

## We thank our generous donors

### Bernard, Carol and Samuel Braun Memorial Fund

**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Marcia & Ken Cohen

### Jean Fine Seniors Fund

**Sheila Bacher**, In Honour: Marilyn Hahn; Fagel Mitgang; Joy Wolfson; Gloria Wunder  
**Rhona Bennet**, In Honour: Mondays @ The Temple  
**Sidney Bregman**, In Memory: Ruth Green  
**Lawrence Cherniak**, In Memory: Gail & Gary Goodman  
**Bernard Goldman**, In Honour: Mondays @ The Temple  
**Pearl Goodman**, In Honour: Mondays @ The Temple  
**Belle Weisfeld**, In Memory: Daisy & Sydney Jacobs; Phyllis Wintraub

### Floral Fund

**Janice Bereskin & Ira Barkin** on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Kylie Barkin  
**Dimitra & Michael Davidson** on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Bryann Davidson  
**Jacky Fine & Jamie Gold** on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Toby Gold  
**Yvette & Jordan Ison and Family** on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Tira Ison  
**Ellen Lupu & Joshua Samuel** on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Lily Shoshana Samuel  
**Leslie & Darren Richmond** on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ethan Richmond  
**Elise Teitler & Lawrence Dale** on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Brandon Michael Dale  
**Judy & Richard Toker** on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Maddy Toker  
**Dr. Marcia Zemans & Adam Ronthal** on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jacob Zemans-Ronthal

### Holy Blossom Temple Foundation

**General Donation:** Rosemarie Berman; Margaret Green  
**Joseph Cass**, In Honour: Evelyn & Philip Rayson

### Brian Yitz Davidson, Yahrzeit:

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**Anne Melkmen**, In Honour: Evelyn & Philip Rayson  
**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Barbara Organ; Razelle Roebuck & David MacCoy; Avra Rosen & Mark Goodman

### Holy Blossom Temple Renewal Project

**Benjamin Applebaum**, In Appreciation: Sheila Smolkin  
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**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Carol Abumov; Nadejda & Efim Adler; Andrea Baltman; Carla & Alain Baudot and Family; Janice Bereskin & Ira Barkin and Family; Esther & Mel Bergman; Claudia Blumberger & Sidney Troister; Michael Bregman; Judy & Eric Breuer; Marilynne & Joseph Cass; Alice & Ron Charach; Henrietta Chesnie; Toby & Gordon(Gary) Ciglen; Susan & Peter Dan; Annem Freeman; Isabel Freeman; Paula Freeman; Sybil & Jack Geller; Etta Ginsberg McEwan; Elaine & Marvin Givertz; Bonnie Goldberg & Adam Abramson and Family; Fran & Bernie Goldman; Diana & Marvin Goodman; Denise Gordon & Dennis Chow and Family; Margaret Green; Margot & David Greenberg and Family; Grubert Family; Pam & Greg Hamovitch; Cynthia & Brian Hands; Holy Blossom Temple Fine Arts Committee; Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood; Frances & Paul Hellen; Jane & Rob Herman and Family; Jill Hertzman; Ruth Hussman & Barry Strauss and Family; Daisy & Sydney Jacobs; Jill Kamin & Murray Hart; Ellen Karabanow; Merle Kriss; Anita & Leon Lapidus; Eleanor & Peter Loebel; Judy Malkin & Elliott Jacobson; Kaylee Miller; Karen Minden & Harvey Schipper; Audrey & David Mirvish; Sharyn & Hershell Ezrin; Sylvia &

Harvey Naftolin; Neiss-Arbess Family; Joanne and Emily Polito; Ann & Gary Posen; Debbie Redner & Benjamin Applebaum; Joanne & Kevin Roher; Arlene Roth; Nancy-Gay & Max Rotstein; Marlene & Robert Ruderman; Mari Lynn Rusak; Marsha Sattin; Dee-Dee & Gary Shiffman; Neri & Peter Slan; Sheila Smolkin; Virginia & Carl Solomon; Barbara & Paul Soren; Cheryl Sylvester & Robert Schenk and Family; Debby Vigoda; Deborah Wolfe; Linda Wolfe; Jakobson Family; Esther Zeller & Morris Cooper and Family  
**Helen Tizel**, In Honour: Helen Mosoff  
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**Ruth Sax**, In Memory: Denise Gordon & Dennis Chow and Family

**Helen Sherman**, In Memory: Mari Lynn Rusak; Lily & Michael Shain  
**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Joanne & Kevin Roher  
**Belle Weisfeld**, In Memory: Annie & Michael Appleby; Helena & David Fine; Etta Ginsberg McEwan; Denise Gordon & Dennis Chow and Family; Jill Kamin & Murray Hart; Ellen Karabanow; Razelle Roebuck & David MacCoy; Joanne & Kevin Roher; Sandi & Andy Schafer; Mary Seldon, Phyllis & Manny Spivak; Linda Wolfe

### Out of the Cold Fund

**General Donation:** Anonymous; Evelyn Charendoff; Marianne Cizmar-Shapiro; Sasha Firestone; Sid Hebscher; Stefanie Hutson; Ann & Tom Sutherland  
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**Sidney Bregman**, In Memory: Sally Libman  
**Jonny, Matthew, and Ezra Cole**, In Honour: Etienne & Aubrey Cole  
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**Belle Weisfeld**, In Memory: Kathy & Maurice Green

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**Blanche Spiegel Posen**, Yahrzeit: Joy & Charles Cohen

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**Project Tikvah Fund**

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**Rabbi's Discretionary Funds**

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**Rabbi Teri Appleby**, In Honour: Holy Blossom Temple Chavurah

**Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner**, In Honour: Gail & Barry Silver

**Emma Lash**, In Appreciation (Rabbi Yael Splansky's fund): Felicia Sol

**Rosalia Markovitch**, Yahrzeit (Cantorial Soloist Lindi River's fund): Fine Family

**Avra Rosen & Mark Goodman**, In Appreciation (Rabbi Yael Splansky's fund): Felicia Sol and Family

**Avishai Sol**, In Honour (Rabbi Yael Splansky's fund): Mary & Jose Goldman; Beth Goldstein & Dr. Barry Rosen; Ann & Irving Shendroff; Celia & Rabbi Michael Stroh; Barbara Thal-Hodes & Bob Hodes

**Samuel Stanway**, Yahrzeit (Cantorial Soloist Lindi River's fund):

Lyle Stanway

**Belle Weisfeld**, In Memory (Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner's fund):

Matilda Bigio

**Lorraine Sandler Tribute  
Endowment Fund**

**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Lorraine & Alan Sandler

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**Dr. Irving Appleby**, Yahrzeit: Dr. Reva Gerstein

**Henry Berger**, Yahrzeit: Sadie Berger and Family

**Nancy Sara Bigio**, Yahrzeit: Matilda Bigio

**Morris Dublin**, Yahrzeit: Dublin Family

**Mel Goodman**, In Memory: Avra Rosen & Mark Goodman

**Esther Gorlicky**, Yahrzeit: Frances & Murray Ellis

**Phillip Gorlicky**, Yahrzeit: Frances & Murray Ellis

**Bella Gruenspan**, Yahrzeit: Myrna Sandler

**Lea Habib**, Yahrzeit: Yusuf Habib

**Natan Habib**, Yahrzeit: Yusuf Habib

**Leonard Herberman**, In Memory:

Esther Koven

**W. Bernard Herman**, In Memory:

Wendy & Elliott Eisen and Family;

Carole & Bernie Zucker and Family

**Paula Kates**, Yahrzeit: Rose Kates and Elaine Socol

**Nathan Kozloff**, Yahrzeit: Susan Himel & Neil Kozloff and Family

**Rosalia Markovitch**, Yahrzeit: Fine Family

**Irwin Miller**, In Memory: Matilda Bigio

**Wilfred Rován**, Yahrzeit: Rhonda Rován & Howard Rosenberg

**Jacob Sandler**, Yahrzeit: Myrna Sandler

**Samuel Sax**, Yahrzeit: Julia & Michael Sax

**Joel Schwartz**, Yahrzeit: Julie & Larry Schwartz

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**Samuel Strauch**, Yahrzeit: Daisy & Sydney Jacobs

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**Zelda Rebick**, In Memory: Viviane & Saul Ship

**Avishai Sol**, In Honour: Brenda & Fred Saunders

# Purim at Holy Blossom Temple:

Thank you to everyone who attended, helped out, and participated.

A joyous time was had by all.





# Life at Holy Blossom

For all programs between March 1 - April 30, 2014

## Monday

April 28, May 5, 12, 26	10:00 a.m.	Mondays @ the Temple
June 2, 9, 16 - No program April 21 or May 19		
Ongoing	7:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Zumba
Ongoing	8:00 p.m.	HABSTY Lounge
May 5	1:30 p.m.	Baycrest Speaker's Series, , How to Prevent Alzheimer's: Cognitive impairment, Causes, Risk Factors and Effects of Bilingualism and Spirituality Dr. Morris Freedman. At Beth Tzedec Congregation
April 28	7:00 p.m.	Yom Hashoah
May 5	6:00 p.m.	Yom HaZikaron Service followed by Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration with Jaffa Road Concert
May 12	7:30 p.m.	Harry and Blanche Posen Memorial Lecture Series, Professor Gabi Ben Dor
May 26 - June 16	7:30 p.m.	Guided Chevruta: Hot Topics in Jewish Texts, Rabbi Jordan Helfman

## Tuesday

April 8, May 6	2:30 p.m.	Library Book Club, Dr. Janna Nadler
April 29	1:30 p.m.	Baycrest Speaker's Series, Maximum Memory, Dr. Angie Troyer
June 3	8:00 p.m.	Tikkun Leil Shavuot Service, followed by dessert and learning, Reforms Greatest Opponent on the True Meaning of Shavuot, Rabbi Michael Marmur, Ph.D.

## Wednesday

Ongoing	9:30 a.m.	Sisterhood Torah Study, Rabbi Teri Appleby
Ongoing	9:30 am	Advanced Hebrew Grammar; Rabbi Edward Goldfarb
Ongoing	11:00 a.m.	Yiddish Novel, Rabbi Edward Goldfarb
April 9	7:30 p.m.	Laundry Kept me from Revelation at Sinai...and other musings on Jewish life by Israeli poet Hava Pinchas-Cohen, Rabbi Ilyse Glickman
April 9	5:00 p.m.	2017 B'nei Mitzvah Orientation Meeting
April 23	7:30 p.m.	Stars of David, Avery Saltzman, Director, Harold Green Theatre
May 7	7:00 p.m.	Sisterhood's Annual Maj Jongg and Scrabble Evening
May 14	7:30 p.m.	Harry and Blanche Posen Memorial Lecture Series, Professor Gabi Ben Dor
May 21	7:30 p.m.	First Born Plague or Privilege; Birth Order and Parental Expectation, Noam Zion, Hartman Institute for Learning

## Thursday

April 3-May 8	7:30 p.m.	Understanding Israel, Jane Herman
April 10	7:30 p.m.	The Future of Aboriginal Education, Rt. Hon. Paul Martin
April 24-May 22	8:00 p.m.	Beyond the Chuppah, David, Eileen Berger & Rabbi Helfman
June 12	7:00 p.m.	Sisterhood's, Metro Retro Treasure Party

## Friday

Ongoing until June 20 2014.	10:00, 11:00 and 12:00 p.m.	Little Blossoms
April 18		Chol HaMoed Pesach
May 16 and June 20	5:30 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Service & Craft
May 2; June 6.	6:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Service & Pot Luck Dinner

## Saturday

Ongoing	9:00 a.m.	Shabbat Torah Study, Rabbi Yael Splansky
May 3	1:00 p.m.	Shabbat Beit Midrash, Marla Powers facilitator

## Sunday

Ongoing	10:30 a.m.	Temple Singers
April 27	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Book Club, Sharon Singer facilitator
April 27	12:00 noon	Mitzvah Day, All activities at Leo Baeck South campus
May 6	9:30 a.m.	Brotherhood Breakfast Club. More information to follow.



## Youth Calendar

Tuesday, April 15	10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Holy Chag! Pesach JK – Grade 3.
Friday, April 25 – Sunday April 27		NFTY-NEL Spring Kallah, in Toronto – grades 7-12
Sunday, May 4	12:30 p.m.	YEAH (grades 4-6)
Monday, May 5	5:00 p.m.	JVC HOME (grades 7-8)
Saturday, May 10		HABSTY Bagel Project and Shul-in
Sunday, May 11		HABSTY Bagel Project

## Upcoming Worship Dates

Monday April 14		Erev Passover
Tuesday April 15	10:00 a.m.	1st Day Pesach Service
Monday April 21	6:00 p.m.	7th Day Pesach Service
Sunday, April 27		Yom HaShoah
May 5	6:00 p.m.	Yom Hazikaron
May 6	6:00 p.m.	Yom Ha'Atzmaut
June 3	8:00 p.m.	Erev Shavuot
June 4	10:00 a.m.	Shavuot (Yizkor Service)

