UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6  Town Hall on Shul Food Policy
May 6  Come plant with us, Evergreen at the Brickworks
May 13 Lag B’Omer bonfire, Dufferin Grove Park
May 13 Movies at the Narayever “Paradise Lost”
May 21 Walk with Israel
May 26 Downtown Tikkun Leil Shavuot at MNjcc
May 27 & 28 Shavuot services
June 5 Israeli Movie Night for Adults: “Footnote”
June 17 Annual General Meeting
President’s Message

If I Only Had the Time

The Living Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary defines “altruism” as “devotion to others or to humanity, as opposed to selfishness”. Webster’s defines “selfish” as “caring only or chiefly for oneself; regarding one’s own interest or advantage...”

What does Wikipedia say about volunteering? It says: “…it is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life; but people also volunteer for skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, to have fun, and a variety of other reasons that could be considered self-serving.... While if a person volunteers they may not earn money, it produces a feeling of self-worth and volunteers earn respect and favours instead of money.”

This curious play on words implies that being a volunteer is a selfish act which is largely to the advantage of the volunteer. Well, if that is true, there are a lot of selfish people in this country!

A Canadian website (volunteering.ca) dedicated to statistics on volunteering says that volunteers work to improve the lives of their neighbours and, in return, enhance their own. “Every day, thousands of people voluntarily give their time and talent to thousands of organizations across Canada. Their hours of service ensure that many activities are accomplished and many people are helped. They are youth group leaders, program coordinators, coaches and fundraisers. They represent every walk of life - professional, homemaker, student, and retiree - as well as every age and cultural group.”

Any textbook on volunteerism will tell you why people volunteer:

- It brings people together.
- You get to meet new people and make new friends
- It promotes self-growth. You use existing skills and learn new ones.
- You make a difference.

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to give back what has been given to you.
- It strengthens our community.
- Volunteering makes you feel appreciated and needed.

The Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating says that in 2010, a force of 13.3 million Canadians over the age of 15 contributed 2.1 billion total volunteer hours!

Volunteerism is the cornerstone of the charitable and not for profit sector in Canada. Just over half of Canada’s 160,000 not for profit organizations operate solely through volunteer labour and every registered charitable organization is governed by voluntary boards (Statistics Canada, 2004).

Volunteering is essential for the Narayever’s existence. Our Shabbat morning services are largely voluntary in nature. The very heart of governance of the Narayever, the Board and the many Board sub-committees are all populated by volunteers. Last year I counted a total of eighty-four volunteers serving our membership, including the Executive Committee, Board chair people and their committee members. If we include the religious services volunteers we had a very impressive percentage of our membership volunteering in one capacity or another. I am so proud of everyone who is playing their part.

Over time volunteers move on and their positions have to be filled. You may be approached to fill a vacancy on a committee or a portfolio chair. When you are asked, think of those millions of busy Canadians who find the time to volunteer for their organizations, and the dozens of Narayever members who do the same for our shul. Although it will be an altruistic act, you will benefit so greatly that it will feel like you are being selfish.

Joel Edelson
Rabbi’s Message

Dear Friends,

I don’t know that any single book has had more impact on my life than the Plaut Torah commentary. This humash was published in 1981, when I was in university and very tentatively exploring what a life of deeper Jewish engagement would look like for me. I had been studying Japanese, and was intending to major in international relations with a specialty in East Asia. But something was tugging me in another direction. I began attending Friday night services at Hillel, and as soon as the Plaut commentary appeared our small kabbalat Shabbat group began studying from it under the guidance of a student rabbi.

I was not a terribly sophisticated reader of Jewish books at the time, but even I sensed what a radical a departure the Plaut commentary represented. Any other Torah study I had done in the past was deeply apologetic in content and tone. The purpose was to convince the reader that our Torah was the best – the most elevated, the most ethical, the truest reflection of God’s will that any human being could ever find. Although I found it exciting to be part of a people which was the recipient of such a unique book, I was always rather dubious about some of these claims. And I wasn’t alone – many people I knew scoffed at these notions and rejected their Jewish inheritance altogether as a result.

The Plaut Torah commentary was different. Its purpose was not to convince its readers that the Torah or Judaism is the best way of life possible. It didn’t feel compelled to endorse the truth of every passage. Its purpose was to enable thoughtful, intelligent readers to engage with the Torah seriously and lovingly but also honestly, validating the legitimacy of even the hardest questions. On the fundamental question of whether God was the author of the Torah, for example, Rabbi Plaut said no. Rather, he saw the Torah as a record of ancient Israel’s search for God. But this record is “often touched by God’s ineffable Presence,” and so means much more than some dusty old historical tome. Rabbi Plaut saw the Torah as a living document for the Jewish people of today, and challenged us as readers to do our part by making the text come alive in our words and deeds.

Because of his approach, Rabbi Plaut included references to the idea that the Torah is composed of different strands of tradition that were written at different times and places, and brought together in the form we have it by a very skillful editor. No humash had legitimated the documentary hypothesis before. Another innovation: in the “Gleanings” which followed each section, Rabbi Plaut would sometimes quote relevant parallel passages from other ancient Near Eastern literatures, and from the New Testament or the Koran. He would also cite pertinent passages from the midrash, from medieval commentaries, and from contemporary Jewish and non-Jewish philosophers and writers like Elie Weisel, Martin Buber, Karl Barth, Mordecai Kaplan. The wisdom and perspective of all peoples and all generations were therefore portrayed as legitimate resources for contemporary Jews as we try to make connections with these ancient words.

For me, the main effect of studying the Plaut commentary was to help me realize just how fascinating and exciting the Torah really was on an intellectual level. On every subject that it covered, the commentary made me want to learn more. And so in time, I let go of my ambition to become an expert in the Far East and changed my academic focus to my own tradition – ultimately deciding to devote my career to transmitting that heritage to others.

There have been other humashim published since Rabbi Plaut’s, including the Conservative movement Etz Hayim humash that we use in our shul. Each makes an important contribution. But all subsequent humashim have in some way built on or responded to Rabbi Plaut’s pioneering masterpiece. Rabbi Plaut died last month here in Toronto. I want to acknowledge the role that his extraordinary scholarship played in my life, and pray that his work and his memory will continue to be a blessing for generations to come.

Rabbi Ed Elkin
Holidays Matter

Purim Report

Narayever celebrated Purim with a rocking Purim Spiel created by Max Ackerman and Marcia Beck.

Thanks to all the people who brought Broadway to Brunswick! Many people came in inventive costumes to hear the Megillah and to drown out Haman’s name with Wacky Mac gregors sold by Beth Komito-Gottlieb and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. We enjoyed fresh homemade organic hamantaschen. People exchanged mishloach manot purchased from the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. All proceeds and food donations went to charity.

At the spirited Narayever carnival downstairs, winners chose prizes from toy donations collected from the congregation. This year marked our second, highly successful gently-used toy drive organized by Yael Schacter. Shinshanim Roni and Itay added some Israeli-themed fun to the festivities.

Thanks to them and to all the members of the Celebrations Committee, Food Committee, Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and youth who pulled together to make this event happen!

Shavuot

After the Downtown Jewish Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot, what better way to celebrate Shavuot than to take part in our annual Narayever holiday Kiddushim. On Sunday, May 27th and Monday, May 28th, we will enjoy delicious dairy treats featuring local, sustainable ingredients. To support these special Kiddushim, please consider a donation in honour or memory of someone by contacting the shul office at 416.927.0546.

Ann Komaromi

celebrations@narayever.ca

High Holidays 5773

Would you like to help with the High Holy Day services this fall? We need leyners, haftarah readers, and service leaders. The earlier you sign up, the longer you have to get ready, and we can help you prepare if you want. If you’re interested, please contact Dalia at dalia_margalit@hotmail.com. We’ll collect the requests and get back to you to confirm your participation.

Wishing you a sweet remainder of 5772 and an excellent summer.

Kivi Shapiro

hhd@narayever.ca
**Shul Matters**

**Adult Education**

**Sing with Aviva!**

*After Kiddush,*

**Saturday, May 12**

(around 1:30)

ZEH HAYOM - How to begin the day with delight through ritual, prayer and music.

Join Aviva Chernick for another in a series of musical, prayer-filled, and participatory learning sessions. This session will offer insights into some of the ritual and prayer moments that begin the day including putting on tallit and the brachot of Nissim B’vehol Yom (Miracles of Everyday). No prior singing experience is necessary.

If you have a tallit, please bring it. If not, a shawl will do.

**Liturgy Series**

*with Rabbi Michal Shekel*

**Shabbat May 12 & June 16, 10-11 am, Solarium**

The Siddur is the most frequently used Jewish book and at the same time it is the one that is least studied. Join Rabbi Michal Shekel, known to many of us for her help to our congregation during Rabbi Elkin’s sabbatical, to look at different aspects of the Siddur - from the structure of the service to the meaning of individual prayers.

**Movies at the Narayever**

**Paradise Lost: A Documentary (46 min.)**

**Sunday May 13, 4 pm**

Elaine Kalman Naves’ childhood was crowded with memories of a lost paradise. Her father’s stories about his years on the estate of Count Vaja in Hungary molded her childhood. Paradise Lost tells the story of this prosperous Jewish family, shattered by the Holocaust and years of communism. Follow Elaine as she revisits Vaja to find remnants of her family’s history.

Elaine Naves lives in Montreal and is the author of *Journey to Vaja: Reconstructing the World of a Hungarian Jewish Family.*

Maggie Siggins, the writer and producer and Gerry Sperling, the executive director and Narayever member, will be in attendance at the showing of the film to facilitate the discussion.

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot**

**Saturday May 26, 9 pm – 6 am**

Meet up at the corner of Spadina and Bloor (Miles Nadal jcc 750 Spadina Ave at Bloor) for our biggest Downtown Tikkun Leil Shavuot yet!

The downtown Toronto Jewish community will gather for an all-night Jewish learning festival to mark the occasion on which the ancient Israelites stayed up all night awaiting the revelation of the Torah at Sinai. Drop by for an hour or stay the whole night; enjoy a variety of classes including: Torah and Talmud study, philosophy, Jewish yoga, meditation, and more. There are special programs for the kids and teens. It is FREE and all are welcome.

The Tikkun is co-presented by Annex Shul, City Shul, Congregation Shir Libeynu, Darchei Noam, Downtown Jewish Community School, First Narayever Congregation, Habonim Dror/Camp Gesher, Holy Blossom Temple, Jewish Family and Child, Kulanu Toronto, Limmud Toronto, Makom, Miles Nadal jcc, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, and Shoresh: Jewish Environmental Programs.
NARAYEVER NEWS

Shul Matters

Membership & Shul Community

Often people ask how many members we have at the Narayever. As of April 1, 2012, we had 645 individuals representing 426 families. This compares to our numbers in 2008 when we had 587 individuals representing 381 families. It’s wonderful to have so many new members join our community every year.

The committee plans to develop a package for prospective members, describing all that the shul offers. If you have a suggestion, please email me.

As we draw to a close for this program year, I would like to thank my committee members: Paul Budovitch, Elaine Lesniak, Isabel Malkin, Harvey Roff, Mary Lou Smith, Alexa Sulzenko, Marcia Zamble and ex officio member Rabbi Elkin. They have been such a fantastic group, always interested in discussing ways to help the shul welcome new members and link current members. If you would like to join the committee, please email me.

Liz Bohnen
membership@narayever.ca

Save the Date

May 6
Town Hall on Shul Food Policy

May 13
Lag B’Omer picnic, Movies at the Narayever

May 21
UJA Walk with Israel, with the shinshinim

June 5
Israeli movie night for adults "Footnote"

We warmly welcome these new members

- Elaine Smith
- Eyal Katz, Arie Grispun and children Leo and Jacob
- Rebecca Rustin
- Shelly Howard, Susan Bonner and Sam

Adult Education

Dan Mendelsohn Aviv: END OF THE JEWS
Post-Kiddush Talk, Saturday, June 2

Dan Mendelsohn Aviv’s new book End Of The Jews: Radical Breaks, Remakes and What Comes Next explores a pattern of crisis followed by a radical break and remake as a persistent theme in Jewish history. Over four millennia, the Jewish people have braved many turning points and each time did so by making a radical break from past forms of worship, notions of self and nation as well as sense of place in the world.

Dan will talk about the Destruction of the Second Temple and how it might not have been as radical a break or as much of a remake as one might think.

Dan has been involved in Jewish learning for almost twenty years as an educator, lecturer, professor, published scholar and author. A dedicated teacher and blogger (www.endofthejews.com), he and his wife Noa and their three children are all active Narayeverniks.

If you have any ideas for programs or are interested in joining our committee, please contact me.

Peter Gold
education@narayever.ca

Elaine Smith, Eyal Katz, Arie Grispun and children Leo and Jacob
Rebecca Rustin
Shelly Howard, Susan Bonner and Sam

We warmly welcome to our community these new members

MAY, JUNE 2012 • IYYAR, SIVAN and TAMUZ 5772
**Board Highlights**

The Board welcomed former Building Chair Victor Helfand to the meeting, during which he reviewed the proposed building expansion which was presented at two town hall meetings last year around this time. There were several questions raised, which were answered by Victor as well as Glenn Rubinoff, our Communications Chair and an architect by profession. It was a good opportunity to refresh the Board on the issues of accessibility, safety and space requirements which the proposed expansion would address.

The Board members are in the midst of planning for next year, and some of the chairs are still very busy with May-June activities. There was general agreement that there is a lot going on in the shul!

Julia Gluck, Past President, and her Nominating Committee are looking for a new Treasurer, a new chair for the Youth Committee and possibly one other chairperson.

If you are interested, please contact her at 416.962.2939 or pastpresident@narayever.ca; she will be pleased to have a chat with you about joining the Board for 2012-13 and beyond. Please be in touch with her before May 4, 2012.

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**Mazel Tov to...**

- Arthur Ripstein, on receiving the University of Toronto Alumni Association Faculty Award
- Carrie Davis and Yochanan Morris, on their wedding on Feb. 26, 2012, at the shul
- Stuart and Joan Schoenfeld, on the marriage of their daughter Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld to Dan Hyman on March 25, 2012, in Boston
- Louis Kalikow, Aurora Mendelsohn, Kohava and Hadar, on the birth of their daughter and sister Shalvi Haskallah on Feb. 15, 2012, in Toronto
- Harry Fox and Tirzah Meacham, on the birth of their grandson Boaz Lev on Feb. 17, 2012, in New York
- Goldie Kurtz and Ben Fisher, on the birth of their son Oren Avraham on March 3, 2012, in Toronto
- Judita Pamfil, on the birth of her granddaughter Gabrielle Joy on March 19, 2012, in Markham
- Isabel and Mendl Malkin, on the birth of their granddaughter Kiori on March 21, 2012, in Toronto
- Joshua and Marina Schuster, in honour of the birth of their son Raphael Asher Francois on Nov. 9, 2011 in Toronto
Social Action

Come plant with us!
The First Narayever congregation will be returning to the wonderful Evergreen at the Brickworks to plant trees and flowers at 2 pm on Sunday, May 6. Please join Dianne Saxe and the Social Action committee to help re-naturalize this growing doorway to Toronto’s ravines. Everyone is welcome – there is something for all ages to do.

We have to order the correct number of trees and flowers, so please let us know who is coming and whether they prefer to dig big holes or little ones. Please bring gloves, water, enthusiasm and clothing suitable for the weather (rain or shine). Shovels and training will be provided. Please RSVP to the office by May 1 at 416.927.0546.

If you have any ideas about new ways to do Tikkun Olam, or want to join the committee, please get in touch with me.

Orrin Wolpert
sanarayever@yahoo.com

Hesed

In this newsletter, I’d like to share an interesting perspective on Hesed from Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow.

A term often used is *gemilut hasadim*, commonly translated as acts of loving-kindness. It is used to describe everything from the work done by synagogue bikur holim committees (who visit the sick), to service projects designed for high school students, to lessons on how to treat a homeless person you pass on the street. The words gemilut and hasadim actually communicate very specific ideas as well.

What does “gemilut” mean? The dictionary meaning of the root g-m-l that is most supported by Talmudic usage is reciprocal acts. Gemilut signals that these are acts done in the context of a relationship with a built-in notion of benefit or compensation in return for the act. This immediately differentiates our tradition from those that emphasize the selflessness of service. The Talmud supports this, stating that the reward for service is in this world, not in the world to come. Service can and should be valuable in some way to the person engaged in it.

The Talmud further establishes hesed as one of the core pillars of human behavior. (“The world rests upon three things, Torah, avodah, and gemilut hasadim.” Pirkei Avot 1:2) The term gemilut hasadim is distinctly post-biblical and occurs for the first time in the Mishnah. In the Babylonian Talmud, Sukkot 49b, a discussion is related which defines hesed by contrasting it with the other fundamental Jewish value of tzedakah.

Our Condolences to...

- The family of Ceciel Levinson of our congregation
- Nan Weiner, on the loss of her mother Gertrude Weiner
- Yael Karshon, on the loss of her mother Rony Karshon
- Isabella Meltz, on the loss of her mother Flora Meltz

“ויתר בברור товаров שאין[vertex not accessible]”
Shul Matters

Hesed is laid out as the broader value because it can be done not only with money, but also with one's person. It can be given to the rich and the poor, the living and the dead. It furthermore states that, "The reward for charity depends entirely upon the extent of the kindness in it."

Rashi’s comment on this line succeeds in communicating the essence of the Rabbis’ thinking. He writes that the actual giving of money or goods is tzedakah, and the tirkhah (the care, the bother) is the hesed. For example, when a person takes the trouble to give money to a poor person in a compassionate manner and at a time when the poor person can use it well, he or she has brought hesed to the act of tzedakah. Rashi further states that hesed is when you give your heart and mind to the well-being of the poor person. Hesed occurs when there is understanding between two people and when the command to "love your neighbour as yourself" is fulfilled.

Acts of hesed are the active representation of a covenant among people, a social contract. This is not about getting a request in the mail for funds and writing a cheque, or bringing a can of soup to a box at your JCC or synagogue. It is not even about showing up once a year at the homeless shelter or soup kitchen or writing letters to your MP to affect social policies. Those are truly important, relevant acts, but they fail to engage people in relationships of understanding. It is when we become engaged with real people and communities on the other end of the giving of our time and resources, that we realize the covenantal aspect of hesed.

On a different subject, those who have loved ones buried at the Narayever cemetery at Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park (BLMP) may have received information from BLMP regarding the planting price list and contract. BLMP provides a service to have a low hedge or flowers planted, annually or longer as per a signed contract. The price list for plantings is just for information. The plantings are entirely optional and have nothing to do with the plot or the headstone care and maintenance. The planting money goes to BLMP and not to the Narayever. For details, please call Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park, 416.223.1373.

Avi Schonbach
hesed@narayever.ca
Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Daniel Camenietzki Library has made some significant new acquisitions. They are now on the shelves and available for congregants to read and borrow. Among the many new titles that we now have available are:

**Making Prayer Real: Leading Jewish Spiritual Voices on Why Prayer is Difficult and What To Do About It**, edited by Rabbi Mike Comins. Over 50 Jewish teachers from across the denominational spectrum reflect on the challenges and opportunities for contemporary Jews as they engage in prayer.

**The Death of Death: Resurrection and Immortality in Jewish Thought**, by Rabbi Neil Gilman. Beginning with the near-silence of the Bible on the afterlife, Rabbi Gilman traces the development of these two doctrines through Jewish history. He also describes why today, somewhat surprisingly, more contemporary Jewish scholars have unabashedly reaffirmed the notion of bodily resurrection.

**God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony Between Science and Spirituality**, by Daniel Matt. By drawing on modern cosmology and ancient Kabbalah, Matt shows how science and religion can together enrich our spiritual awareness and help us recover a sense of wonder and find our place in the universe.

**Discovering Jewish Meditation: Instruction and Guidance for Learning an Ancient Spiritual Practice**, by Nan Fink Gefen. Learn to meditate on your own, and start on the path to a deeper connection with the Divine and to greater insight about your own life.

**My People’s Prayer Book**, edited by Lawrence Hoffmann. A 10 volume set with commentaries on various components of Jewish liturgy from various perspectives – historical, linguistic, Chasidic, feminist, theological, halakhic, and others. There are separate volumes on the Amidah, the Shema and its Blessings, Kabbalat Shabbat, Birkhot HaShahar, Shabbat at Home, and others.

**Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World**, by Rabbi Sidney Schwarz. Schwarz traces how the idea of justice, as developed in the sacred texts of Judaism, conditions Jewish attitudes and behaviour. In discussing some of the major issues facing the Jewish community in the last fifty years, Schwarz explores a community torn between its instincts for self-preservation and its desire to serve as an ethical “light to the nations”.

The shul library has also begun a new section of Israeli literature in translation. We now have Amos Oz’s *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, David Grossman’s *To the End of the Land*, and Meir Shalev’s *Blue Mountain*.

Other than reference books, our entire collection is available to be checked out by shul members. Come read, learn, and enjoy!

Keren Camenietzki, Librarian
c.shalom@sympatico.ca

Reuven Scholzberg, Adult Education
reuven.scholzberg@gmail.com

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NARAYEVER NEWS

Shul Matters

Daniel Camenietzki
Library News

The shul library has also begun a new section of Israeli literature in translation. We now have Amos Oz’s *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, David Grossman’s *To the End of the Land*, and Meir Shalev’s *Blue Mountain*.

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Keren Camenietzki, Librarian
c.shalom@sympatico.ca

Reuven Scholzberg, Adult Education
reuven.scholzberg@gmail.com
The Narayever Youth Committee endeavours to find new and diverse opportunities for ALL of our youth and young adults to participate in the life of our shul and welcomes your suggestions at youth@narayever.ca.

One such new initiative is our Assistant Usher Program. We invite teens and young adults to be assistant ushers in the main service. Assistant ushers will be paired with the Board member who is usher that day. Please contact Roz Train at youth@narayever.ca to schedule a date for your child to help out as assistant usher.

Leadership Training for the Narayever High Holy Days programs for children at the MNjcc is underway. For more information, email Samara Carroll at youthcoordinator@narayever.ca.

April was a busy month for Narayever Youth group Chalutzim, under the leadership of Itay and Roni: rehearsals for Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma’ut, Chalutzim teen dance party, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom HaAtzma’ut.

**Chalutzim are invited to join Roni and Itay for these upcoming events:**

- **Sunday, May 13:** Lag B’Omer bonfire at Dufferin Grove Park from 5 - 9 pm. Drop by any time. Bring your guitar, if you have one.
- **Monday, May 21:** UJA Walk with Israel. We meet at 9 am at Coronation Park.
- **Sunday, June 3:** Roni and Itay say good-bye to the Chalutzim (before going to summer camp) at 6 pm at the shul.

Youths can keep up with youth programs and our Shinshinim by friending Narayever Youth and Roni & Itay Shinshinim on Facebook. If you don’t have access to Facebook, please send your current e-mail address and telephone number to Samara Carroll at youthcoordinator@narayever.ca

Roz Train and Tamara Brooks

youth@narayever.ca

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**Town Hall Meeting on Narayever Food Policy**

**Sunday, May 6 at 7pm at the Shul**

After nearly two years of study and preparation, the Narayever adopted a sustainable food policy in May 2011 with the intention of starting the implementation of the policy as soon after the autumn holy days were over, around November. We are now six months or so into the implementation, and the Board and the Food Committee have solicited and received thoughtful, productive, and honest responses from many members of the congregation. We have been working hard to respond and adjust implementation strategies to respond to this feedback. It seemed appropriate at this time for the Board to host a public conversation to discuss our progress so far, and to provide a dynamic opportunity for congregants to share their suggestions for the future. To this end, we will be holding a town hall-style meeting on May 6 at the shul. We will begin with a short presentation outlining the history of the initiative and possible plans for the future, but most of the time will be reserved for community conversation. I hope to see many of you there.

Joel Edelson, President
Board Member Ann Komaromi, Chair of Celebrations

Ann is an Assistant Professor in the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto, specializing in Russian literature, dissidence and social and textual theory. Part of Ann’s research is devoted to the history of Jewish activism in the Soviet Union.

She and her husband, Leo Livak, have two daughters, who are three- and six-years old.

She took the family to Israel for a summer a few years ago to conduct research, and they will be returning to Israel this coming summer. Suggestions about where to get the best hummus in Jerusalem are welcome!

Ann and her husband Leo have been delighted to be part of the Narayever community since 2004.
Shalom Narayever family,

We have often heard the expression “Time flies when you are having fun” but only now do we understand what it really means. It is already May and before we enter the last stage of our year here – summer camp – we want to reflect on our year of shlichut and on the experiences we’ve had.

The first thing that comes to mind is our host families. We both have had an outstanding experience with them and although it is not over yet, we want to thank each of them for opening their arms and heart to us. Being away from home can be very difficult; these families have made it easier for us by being our home away from home.

Who would think that a family in North America would understand the Israeli sense of humour? Who would think we would find so much in common with people from a whole different (Canadian) culture? We appreciate every single minute spent with our new families.

We strongly encourage people who are considering hosting next year to talk with us, the 6 host families from this year, or those from last year. All of us truly believe that the idea of the program is more than knowledge about modern Israel – it’s about building relationships. What can create a better relationship than living together and getting to know each other in so many different aspects?

The next experience we want to refer to is the different way of living Jewish life. We didn't think we would be so affected by the Jewish way of life here. As young adults who live in Israel, at the beginning we found some customs very strange. We'd never seen a woman having an aliyah or wearing a tallit or a synagogue with mixed seating. We are used to synagogues being only a place of worship; in the Diaspora, the synagogue functions as so much more. We have learned how to live a Jewish life as part of a community. I (Roni) even had an aliyah and celebrated my Bat Mitzvah at the age of 18 – right here at the Narayever. We are fascinated by some of these things and we will try to bring them back with us to Israel. We are happy that the Jewish Agency is planning a new program to help emissaries fit back into Israeli society and bring with them the amazing experience they have been exposed to.

Our last topic is our lovely Downtown Jewish youth (ages 12-14) group – the Chalutzim. At the beginning of the year we had many goals, one of which was to create a strong Downtown Jewish youth group that would develop a connection of love and care with Israel and Judaism. We had programs like: a scavenger hunt, initiation, Israeli movie night, Israeli Iron Chef, The Amazing Race all over Toronto, Black and White dance party and of course working together on Yom Hazikaron and Yom HaAtzma’ut. The attendance at these programs was around 18 teens each time, coming from the three institutions where we work: Downtown Jewish Day School, the Downtown Jewish Community and The First Narayever. We would love it if this strong group would continue next year with the new shinshinim and become even more thoughtful about Israel and their community.
Let’s remember that the Makom program is a process that started with Reut and Yuval as the pioneers and will continue next year with Re’em and Adi. Our dream is that four years from now we will lead a delegation of the Chalutzim on a trip in Israel, creating more relationships with our friends from home.

In conclusion, we want to say that in this amazing experience, everything we have given of ourselves has come back to us twofold in the form of love, knowledge and a new, warm, and very large family.

Always here for you, even after September
Roni and Itay, Shinshinim

The congregation will say goodbye to
Roni and Itay
Shabbat June 16, 2012

Bring Israel into your Home:
Host a Young Emissary

We have been so lucky to have Roni Ben Zikry and Itay Buchnik with us this year. They have left lasting impressions in our community. Families who have hosted our Shinshinim have been forever changed. Here’s some of what they have to say:

Marcia Beck states, “Before he arrived, we had very little sense of what it would truly mean to host Itay, our shinshin. Planning was one thing, but it was when Itay moved in that we began to understand the impact of our decision. We were surprised how quickly we developed a close, loving relationship. We were surprised at his appetite, his need for a human alarm clock, his incredible energy.

We learned quickly that hosting requires time, energy, flexibility, and openness. We also learned that the rewards are significant: a deep connection with an exceptional young person and his family, an enhanced feeling of connectedness with Israel. If you are open to this exciting new experience, please consider hosting!”

From Dov Beck-Levine – “Hi, I’m Dov. I’m in Grade Six. Itay made our house feel more fun in the three months he lived with us. We would play games, or have snowball fights (which he usually won), or joke around, or tease each other. He was sort of like a big brother.”

Jonathan Wyman said: “In the first weeks that Roni stayed with us, it was already starting to feel like she was a part of our family. Noa and Ezri felt (and continued to feel even after Roni left) like they have a special relationship with Roni at school because they were her host sisters. Roni is their absolute authority on everything Israeli and they enthusiastically share every fact they’ve learned from her. Meredith, Roni and I had many “after the littler kids went to bed”
If you would like to host a Young Emissary in your home and meet the following requirements, we would be glad to hear from you. The requirements include:

- having a vacant bedroom for approximately three months;
- having a desire and ability to make the young emissary feel at home and a part of your family;
- being a member of the Narayever and/or you have a child(ren) at Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School or the Downtown Jewish Community School.

Please contact Karen at k.weyman@utoronto.ca, so that we may ensure the Young Emissaries are warmly welcomed while they are far from their homes.

Mission to Israel

Rabbi Elkin is leading a Narayever mission to Israel in December 2012, and there are still spots open. For more information, please contact the rabbi.

Micky Fraterman
Israel@narayever.ca

This coming year, we are delighted to welcome two wonderful Young Emissaries: Adi Novak and Re’em Korine. Adi lives with her family in Tzur Igal. She has traveled extensively with CISV, an international organization that educates and inspires action for a more peaceful world. She is majoring in psychology, sociology and biology at her high school. She spends her free time reading and dancing. Re’em will bring us the Negev perspective. He lives in Midreshet Ben Gurion, south of Be’ersheva. He is involved with the B’nei Hamoshavim Youth Movement and Kav Hazinuk leadership program. He is majoring in environmental studies and theatre, and enjoys juggling, acting and playing guitar.

Our new shinshinim for 2012-13 Re’em and Adi

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, June 17 at 7 pm

Come one, come all to the First Narayever’s Annual General Meeting! Help us select our next Board of Governors, participate in the approval of our annual budget and hear about important developments in the shul. The Board of Governors of YOUR SHUL appreciates the input of all our members on matters of budget and policy.

Please plan to attend and be part of the process that keeps the shul operating.
Your vote DOES count!
Donations

The shul gratefully acknowledges the following donations made to our various funds from mid-February to mid-April. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. Please inform the shul office so that a correction can be made. If you would like to make a donation to one of our funds, please call the shul office at 416.927.0546.

We also accept donations via CanadaHelps, www.canadahelps.org (click on Narayever)

Adult Education
- Brenda and Jerry Enchin, wishing Harvey Roff a Refuah Shlemah
- Janet Horowitz, wishing Roger Simon a Refuah Shlemah
- Elaine and Peter Gold, in memory of Gertrude Weiner

Building Fund
- Anonymous
- Sharon Weintraub, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Erna Weintraub

Celebrations Fund
- Mitchel Davis and Nathan Goldstein, in honour of Carrie Davis and Yochanan Morris' wedding
- Anita Shir-Jacob and Cyril Press, in honour of the birth of their granddaughter Beth Ilona, sister to Adam and Leah. Proud parents are Elissa Press and Ben Klein

Daniel Camenietzki Library Fund
- Helene Jacobs and Bruce Rosebrugh, in memory of Sharon Branton Herzog
- Sandy Roff, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Mary Gold

General Fund
- Sharone Bar-David, in memory of Michael Fish
- Joshua and Marina Schuster, in honour of the birth of their son Raphael Asher Francois Schuster
- Janice Dembo, in honour of the yahrzeit of Laurie Reichenberg

Hesed Fund
- Anonymous
- Yael Schachter, with thanks to Julia Gluck
- Miriam Schlanger, from the sale of her homemade challah

Kiddush Fund
- Paul Winestock, in honour of the First Narayever Congregation
- Bea Myers, in honour of the yahrzeit of her father Hyman Kleiman
- Karen Weyman and Sid Feldman, in memory of Alice Nusbaum
- Harry Schachter, in memory of Gertrude Weiner

Makom Fund
- Karen Weyman, Sid Feldman, Joshua, Benjamin and Hannah, in honour of the Bar Mitzvah of Benn Mass
- Karen Weyman & Sid Feldman, in memory of Alice Nusbaum

New Humash Fund
- Esther and Benjamin Geva, in honour of the yahrzeit of Ben’s father Abraham Greenberg.

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
- Jennifer Paton Smith and Sander Smith, in memory of Alice Nusbaum
- Jennifer and Alan Hoffmann, in memory of Sophie Cooper
- Dennis Swartz, in memory of Arthur Simon Turest Swartz who passed away in Capetown
- Leslie and Harvey Starkman, in honour of the birth of their grandchildren Abigail Mae and Benjamin Levy
Donations (continued)

- Joan and Stuart Schoenfeld, in memory of Frances Rothman
- Leslie and Harvey Starkman, in honour of the yahrzeit of Leslie’s mother Mabel Laine
- Shirley and Sam Rubenzahl
- Sol Hermolin, with thanks to Rabbi Elkin
- Margot and Irv Feferman, in honour of the yahrzeiten of Sol Feferman, Sarah Feferman and Ralph Snow
- Esther and Benjamin Geva, in honour of the yahrzeit of Ben’s father Abraham Greenberg
- Laraine and Neil Naft, in memory of Gertrude Weiner
- Yael Schachter, with thanks to Rabbi Elkin
- Tish Carnat, with thanks to Rabbi Elkin

Rosh Chodesh Breakfast Fund
- Harvey Enchin, in honour of Jerry Enchin’s birthday
- Anonymous, in honour of a trip to Israel

Torah Fund
- Hedda Rothman, in memory of Rose Chikofsky
- Hedda Rothman, in memory of Earl Grill
- Nora Gold and David Weiss, in memory of Gertrude Weiner
- Bruce Rosebrugh and Helene Jacobs, in honour of the yahrzeit of Bruce’s mother Gladys Rosebrugh
- Alex Speigel, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Morey Speigel
- Miriam Schlanger, from the sale of her homemade challah

Tzedakah/Social Action Fund
- Ben Mark, Max, Sam Holzberg and Moira Holmes, in honour of Benn Mass’ Bar Mitzvah
- Joan and Stuart Schoenfeld, in memory of Gertrude Weiner
Kiddush Sponsors and Donations

February 11, 2012
Kiddush: Ilene Golvin and Philip Mass, in honour of Ben’s Bar Mitzvah. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Linda Lipsky, in honour of the yahrzeit of her father Harry Lipsky; Leslie and Harvey Starkman, in honour of the birth of their grandchildren Abigail Mae and Benjamin Levy; Joel Edelson, in honour of Leslie and Harvey Starkman on the birth of their grandchildren; Joel Edelson, in honour of Anita Shir-Jacob and Cyril Press on the birth of their eleventh grandchild.
Youth Kiddush: Lisa Rosen and Kivi Shapiro, in honour of Adar Kramer Levy and Levi Rosen Shapiro’s first birthdays; and Leslie and Harvey Starkman, in honour of the birth of their grandchildren Abigail Mae and Benjamin Levy.

February 18, 2012
Kiddush: The shul. A donation to the Kiddush fund was made by Phyllis Berck and Dorothy Garfinkel, in honour of the yahrzeit of their father Ben Berck.

February 25, 2012
Kiddush: The shul. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Isabel Malkin, in honour of the yahrzeit of her father Henry Michel; Diane Philipp, in honour of the yahrzeit of her father Rudy Philipp; Paul Milgram, Galia Shaked, Aviv and Lyrit, in honour of the yahrzeit of Paul’s father Sam Milgram; Mel Davine, in honour of the yahrzeiten of his parents Henry and Irene Davine; and Carrie Davis and Yochanan Morris, in honour of their aufruf and wedding.
Youth Kiddush: Joan Judge and Josh Fogel, in honour of Avital’s 11th birthday; Anita Shir-Jacob and Cyril Press, in honour of their new granddaughter Beth Ilona; and Jared Peck and Sarah Colman, in honour of Morris’ 4th birthday.

March 10, 2012
Kiddush: Anton Piatigorsky and Ava Roth, in honour of Sivan’s Bat Mitzvah. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Tamara Blitz-Miller and Alex Manevich, in honour of the baby naming of their daughter Zipora; Jacob Ziegel, in honour of his brother Leo in New York; Miriam Diamond, Sarah and Aaron MacRitchie, in memory of Alice Nusbaum; Mendl Malkin, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Sol Malkin; and Lorne Propas, in honour of the yahrzeit of his son Jordan Propas.
Youth Kiddush: Anton Piatigorsky and Ava Roth, in honour of Sivan’s Bat Mitzvah.

March 17, 2012
Kiddush: The shul. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Issie Lyon, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Herbert Lyon; Max Dublin, in honour of the yahrzeit of his sister Chaya; Richard Glazier, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Edward Glazier; Rabbi Elkin, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Harry Elkin; Maire Kushner, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Betty Stocker; and Micky Fraterman, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Annie Baruch-Nink.
Youth Kiddush: Julia Gluck and Ted Overton, in gratitude for having spent Jess’ 25th birthday with him in New Zealand.

March 24, 2012
Kiddush: Karen Weisman and Arthur Ripstein, in honour of Aviva’s Bat Mitzvah. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Marcia Beck and Mischa Levine in honour of Dov Beck Levine’s 12th birthday; Eleanor Levine and Paul Sandor, in honour of Dov Beck Levine’s birthday; Lorne Propas, in honour of the yahrzeit of his wife Lolly Propas; and Robin Penslar, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Louise Levin.

March 31, 2012
Kiddush: Naomi and Shmuel Sharir, in honour of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Danielle Sharir-Smith. Donations to the Kiddush fund were made by Lorne Propas, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Max Propas; Esther and Benjamin Geva, in honour of the 26th yahrzeit of Ben’s father Abraham Greenberg; Arnold Schonberg, in honour of the yahrzeit of his father Max Schonberg; Héléne Silverman, in honour of the yahrzeit of her mother Adele Zilberman; Phyllis Berck and Dorothy Garfinkel, in honour of the yahrzeit of their mother Jessie Berck; and Isabel and Mendl Malkin, to give thanks for the birth of a healthy first grandchild.
We acknowledge the following yahrzeit anniversaries which occur during the coming months.

May their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life

"יִצְרוּ הַצַּעְרֵר הַחֲיִים אֲתֵנָמֹותִים"

Iyyar 9 Norman Latowsky father of Shari Cherney
Iyyar 11 Olga Honig mother of Rosanna Honig
Iyyar 11 Morris Vanek father of Arthur Vanek
Iyyar 12 Ruth Helen Slomin mother of Gayle Benjamin
Iyyar 12 Sam Zuchowski father of Marvin Zuchowski
Iyyar 14 Sril Grossman father of Gilda Grossman
Iyyar 14 Katriel Johles father of Frieda Forman
Iyyar 14 Charles Samuels father of Lesley Sevitt
Iyyar 15 Celia Hornung mother of Alisa Weiman
Iyyar 15 Thomas A. Kelly Jr. father of Linda Cherney
Iyyar 16 Lee Gold father of Elaina Gold
Iyyar 16 Doris Singer mother of Jeroham Singer
Iyyar 17 Pesach Kovnat father of Asya Kovnat
Iyyar 18 Leah Benedikt mother of Amir Benedikt
Iyyar 18 Lily Myers mother of Louis Myers
Iyyar 18 Milly Press mother of Cyril Press
Iyyar 20 Abraham Bogomolny father of Brenda Enchin and Howard Bogomolny
Iyyar 21 Margot Caen mother of Francine Watkins
Iyyar 21 Louis Eisenstat father of Lorraine Weinrib
Iyyar 22 Frank Rubinstein father of Fern Rubinstein
Iyyar 23 Ruth Gold mother of Phil Gold
Iyyar 23 Leontina Guttmann mother of Herb Guttmann
Iyyar 23 Jacob Melvin Macklin father of Audrey Macklin
Iyyar 23 Helen Frances Schacter mother of Barbara Schacter and Robert Schacter
Iyyar 24 Ida Starkman mother of Susan Starkman
Iyyar 26 Rose Shukyn mother of Claire Simon
Iyyar 27 George Kende husband of Elisabeth Kende and father of Sherry Glazier
Iyyar 27 Norman Morris father of Lynne Morris
Iyyar 28 Alfred Lewy father of Jules Lewy
Iyyar 28 Irene Lewy mother of Jules Lewy
Iyyar 29 Leonard Wasser father of Larry Wasser
Sivan 1 Helen Baltman mother of Sharon Baltman
Sivan 2 Max Cooper father of Moe Cooper
Sivan 5 Cyril Jacoby father of Alan Jacoby
Sivan 5 Ronni Rimmer father of Jane Rimmer
Sivan 6 Cyril Loomer father of Martin Loomer
Sivan 6 Loretta Pace mother of Anna Pace
Sivan 6 Shimon Zilberman father of Hélène Silverman
Sivan 7 Ludovit Bercovic father of Emory Burke
Sivan 7 Tova Diamond mother of Frumie Diamond and Miriam Diamond
Sivan 7 Malka Grossman mother of Gilda Grossman
Sivan 7 Ilya Mankovsky father of Brenda, Tziporah and Lydia Mankovsky
Sivan 7 Ruth Norris mother of Allen Kaeja
Sivan 9 Israel Horowitz husband of Janet Horowitz
Sivan 10 Alec Biderman father of Marilyn Biderman
Sivan 11 Florrie Narun mother of Mickey Narun
Sivan 12 Joseph Shimmerman father of Alan Shimmerman
Sivan 13 Martin Schurman father of Roberta Bucovetsky
Sivan 13 Michael Strumpf father of Dan Strumpf
Sivan 16 Dr. Robert Drabkin father of Mickey Narun
Sivan 16 Jacob Narun brother of Suzanne Shuchat
Sivan 17 Nicolas Pizarro Macias father of Lucia Pizarro Wehlen
Sivan 17 Louise Herzfeld sister of Marcia Zamile
Sivan 18 Jack Rubinovich father of Wilfred Teper
Sivan 19 Edel Teper mother of Mitchel Smith
Sivan 20 Lorraine Loomer mother of Marc Grushcow and Hilary Goldenberg
Sivan 20 Hilda Grushcow mother of Riva Grinspan
Sivan 22 Golda Chana Aaron father of Peggy Solomon
Sivan 23 David Solomon father of Riva Grinspan
Sivan 25 Pinchus Wajcman mother of Elisabeth Kende
Sivan 26 Harvey Mallow father of Cathy Mallow
Sivan 26 Jennie Schlosser mother of Holli-Ellen Claman
Sivan 27 Shirley Cohen mother of Irene Golvin
Sivan 27 Sharon Golin mother of Cheryl Wetsch
Sivan 27 Label Wetsch father of Howard Barr
Sivan 28 Jacob Leopold Barr mother of Suzanne Shuchat
Sivan 28 Dora Cohen father of Harvey Savage
Sivan 28 Fay Savage mother of Susan Carole Zimmerman
Sivan 28 Louis Zimmerman father of Neil Colt
Tamuz 2 Samuel Medoff father of Ronald Medoff
Tamuz 5 Joseph Swartz husband of Molly Swartz
Tamuz 5 Carole Yellin wife of Israel Lyon
Tamuz 6 Keith Rosebrugh father of Bruce Rosebrugh
Tamuz 10 Yhetta Leah Swartz mother of Beverley Harris

Please inform us of any illness, bereavement or unveiling. As a community we would like be of support during these times. Please contact Rabbi Elkin at 416.487.4200. In an emergency use the pager number, 416.563.2283. Please note that although the pager is turned off on Shabbat and during Chagim, calls are returned shortly afterward.
**May 2012**

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<td>Planting at Brickworks 2pm Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Shacharit 9am Shul Library Open 10:30am - 1pm</td>
<td>Services 6pm</td>
<td>Services 9am Kensington Gardens Service 11am</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Elan Yaphe</td>
<td>Lag B’Omer Bar Mitzvah of Sam Holzberg</td>
<td>Shacharit 9am Town Hall on Shul Food Policy Services 7pm</td>
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<td>6 iyar 14</td>
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<td>Shacharit 9am Shul Library Open 10:30am - 1pm Movie at 4pm</td>
<td>Lag B’Omer Bonfire at Dufferin Grove Park 5pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Services 6pm</td>
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<td>Behar-Bechukotai Services 6pm</td>
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<td>Shacharit 9am Yom Yerushalaim</td>
<td>Walk with Israel Victoria Day</td>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Services 7am</td>
<td>Services 6pm</td>
<td>Shacharit 9am Kensington Gardens Service 11am</td>
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<td>Bamidbar Be’har-Bechukotai Services 9am</td>
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**June 2012**

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<td>Chalutzim Farewell Programme 6pm</td>
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<td>Shacharit 9am Shul Library Open 10:30am - 1pm</td>
<td>Israeli Movie Night for Adults “Footnote” 7pm</td>
<td>Services 6pm</td>
<td>Services 9am Kensington Gardens Service 11am</td>
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<td>Beha’alotcha Services 9am Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Bernstein</td>
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**NARAYEVER NEWS**

MAY, JUNE 2012 • IYYAR, SIVAN and TAMUZ 5772