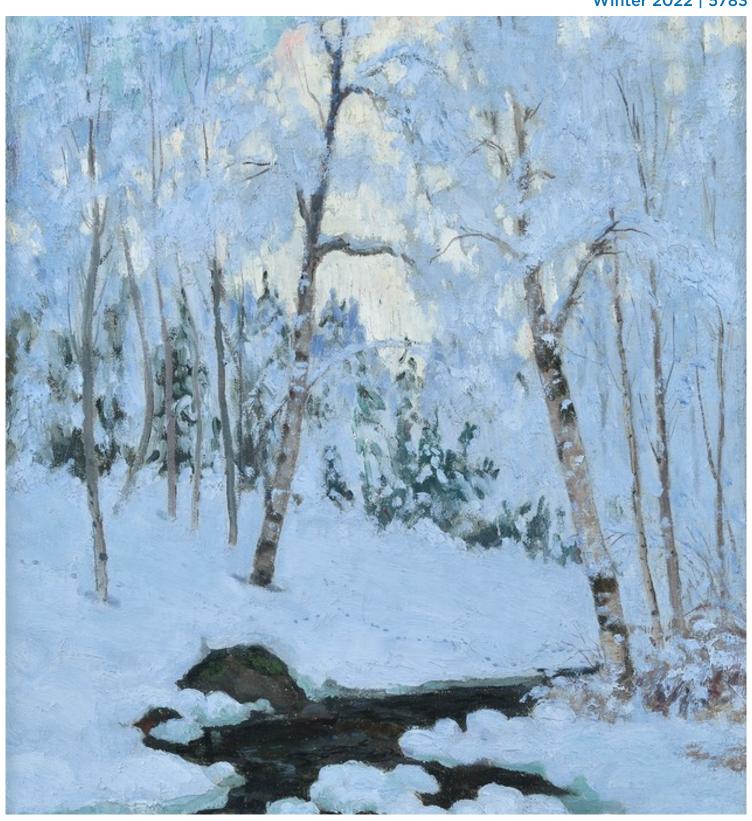


har connect winter 2022 | 5783





connect

engage



Those who can, do.

Those who can do more, VOLUNTEER.

THZ needs you.

Tzedakah: Whatever your Why, Thank you!

At Temple Har Zion, we have many opportunities to show appreciation for a kindness, to honour the memory of someone dear, or to acknowledge a family simcha.

Many donation opportunities are available, including plaquing any of our prayer books.

For a full list, click HERE

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ON THE COVER: "Wildcat Creek near Mt. Tremblant" by artist Maurice Cullen, who distinguished himself as a consummate impressionist painter of the Canadian winter.



7360 Bayview Avenue Thornhill, ON L3T 2R7 905.889.2252 info@harzion.ca

> **Rabbi** Cory Weiss

Cantor Rachael Littman

Rabbi Emeritus Michael S. Stroh

Executive Director Rachel Saslove

Director of Education Judy Silver

Music Director Eleanor Ackerman Rice

Officers
President
Sheree Davis

Executive Vice President Seth Cole

Immediate Past President Brena Taylor

> **Treasurer** Julian Pencharz

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Len Bates
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Editor, Layout & DesignJaye Goldberg

This newsletter is published four times per year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

Temple Har Zion is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah!



Juliana Castiglione
Bat Mitzvah | November 6
Mazel Tov to
Andrea Shattner and
Sam Castiglione





Eric and Zach Herscu
B'nai Mitzvah | January 14
Mazel Tov to Kim Poster and Larry Herscu

SHABBAT

Friday Evening Service at 6:30pm in person and via livestream Breakfast and Torah Study at 9:00am in person and via Zoom Morning Service at 10:30am in person and via livestream

MORNING MINYAN SERVICES via Zoom Sundays at 9:00am; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:15am

> harzion.ca/zoom for Zoom links and Siddurim

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Nourish your Jewish soul!

I'm usually reminding you that Judaism does not take summer off. This month, a reminder that we don't take winter off either! There's plenty to do at THZ and at home Jewishly during the cold and snowy time of the year.

We start with Hanukkah. At THZ, we had our **Hanukkah Kol Bo** service on Friday night, December 16. We featured Hanukkah songs and there were *sufganiyot* for all!

On the 18th, our Beit Midrash learned about Hanukkah all morning long through crafts and music. On Shabbat Hanukkah, the 23rd and 24th, we will sing Hallel, remembering that this is how the first Hanukkah was celebrated, with the same Psalms of Praise we sing at Sukkot.

Why Sukkot? According to the Second Book of Maccabees (written before the First Book of Maccabees — go figure!), the first Hanukkah was a delayed celebration of Sukkot, complete with lulay and etrog, since

during Sukkot, the Maccabees were busy fighting against the Syrian-Greeks for their freedom. At home, don't forget to light your hanukkiyot—the candles go in right to left (the Hebrew way), and are lit left to right, so that the newest candle is always lit first.

Shabbat Shirah is February 4. Beit Midrash families will be at our Shabbat morning services, and we'll use a special family liturgy. The Adult Choir will be there, as well. Everyone will sing my setting of Song of the Sea, which tells the story of the Exodus using the special trope melody for the Torah portion. All are welcome to come celebrate the storv of our redemption!

February 6 is not just Karen Weiss' birthday — it is **Tu BiSh'vat** — the New Year for Trees. It may not feel like tree-planting weather in Canada, but it is the beginning of spring in Eretz Yisrael. To celebrate, make a donation to plant a tree in Israel, plant some parsley seeds at home that will be ready to use for

your Pesach Seder, and eat some of the seven species that come from Israel — wheat, barley, figs, dates, pomegranates, grapes, and olives. We can celebrate the bounty of nature even in the depths of winter, anticipating the beauty of spring in Canada.

Finally, Purim! On March 6, we will hold our first Purim Carnival in three years, along with our amazing Purim Shpiel, *Little Shpiel of Horrors*! Don't worry about the title parents; it's kid-friendly as always! This year, our Executive Director Rachel Saslove will join the cast!

And of course, you can always join us for Shabbat services, morning and evening, or for Torah Study, Lunch & Learn, or the many other wonderful programs THZ offers.

So bundle up, put on your boots, and get over to Har Zion to warm up spiritually and nourish your Jewish soul.

L'Shalom,





Impressed, inspired and welcomed

by Rachel Saslove Executive Director

am thrilled and humbled to join our beloved Temple as your new Executive Director. Joining the team immediately following a tremendous (and busy!) High Holy Day season was truly eye-opening and enlightening.

Over the past two months, I had the opportunity to dive right into the goings-on of Temple Har Zion behind the scenes.

I have been thoroughly impressed by our exceptional staff and clergy who work tirelessly day in and day out to provide support and care for our Temple community. I am also continuously inspired by you, our wonderful congregation, lay leaders, and volunteers who are the lifeblood of the organization. It has been heartwarming to receive so many messages of welcome from both members I know personally and some who I look forward to meeting and getting to know better in the coming weeks and months. Thank you, so very much, for the warm welcome!

During this special festival season, I hope we can take pause from our daily lives to reflect on our successes, challenges, sorrow, and joy over the past year, which was undoubtedly a

challenging one. May we find ways to be a light unto others this Hanukkah, and for others unto us.

All the possibilities of what is to come at Temple Har Zion for the future, fill me with excitement. I am delighted to now be part of this amazing community as a professional. I look forward to seeing you all in person, online, or both during Hanukkah and beyond.

Wishing you warmth and light — Hanukkah Sameach!

Rachel

The shamash is the candle that lights the others.

This year, be a shamash.

Your donation to the Scheinberg Family Sustainability Fund will have 3X the impact. Click here.

On behalf of Temple leadership, Hanukkah Sameach!

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Back where they belong!

by Eleanor Ackerman Rice Music Director



It was the best of times. It was the worst of times."

Charles Dickens

The COVID Years have changed my perspective of time. Neither worst nor best, neither long nor short, they were the "Choir-Less Times". Playing my keyboard beside that empty, silent choir bay was a surreal experience that was "out of time".

What were those singers doing while I sat there alone? Were they watching the service at home? Were they singing along from their sofas? Would they remember all of this music? Did they miss this? Would they ever come back?

Well. They came back... with musical new friends!

However, it was a difficult journey back to the bay.



In 2020, the choir members each recorded themselves in isolation, individually, so that we could present "Choir in a Box". It was so exciting and

hopeful that first year when only a few of us were in the sanctuary and the choir magically appeared up on the screen, singing into the camera in those little frames.

Thank you, Jessie Saunders-Drutz!

We thought, "Well. Isn't this great! But we won't do that again!" In 2021 when we did it again, it was not so exciting. It was rather disheartening. The choir was still in the box and we were still frozen in "timeless time".

Finally, this New Year 5783 in 2022, the choir was back where they belong, seated in the choir bay. The sound of



their strength, their determination, and their courage, even through the barriers of the facemasks presented a powerful message.

"Here is hope. There is always a time for hope."





Transformation and Sustainability

by Sheree Davis THZ President

emple Har Zion has a new Strategic Plan to guide us over the next 3-5 years. The plan is about the transformation needed to ensure that our THZ community is sustainable.

Part 1 identifies the strategic priorities for Temple, the findings that support those priorities and some suggested action to be taken.

Part 2 of this work is about delivering on initiatives that address these strategic priorities.

That's where you come in, because we can't do it alone.

In order to both develop and execute on a 3-5 year action plan, we'll need lots of help from volunteers across our community. That help can come in many different forms — research, review and analysis; a conversation; participation in a planning session; coordinating an event, a project or initiative. Some forms of help will take a day, some several days, some over a few months.

Everyone has distinct expertise, experience and creativity. We need that to get this work done.

The Plan lays out six strategic priorities to move our community towards sustainability. The priorities are based on the findings drawn from the research and analysis undertaken by our Strategic Planning Committee.

1: Embrace Diversity (racial/ethnic, sexual orientation, and interfaith)

Why?

- THZ prides itself in welcoming interfaith families, but it is not clear that there are adequate programs and focused resources to support this.
- There are other diverse groups (e.g., racial, sexual orientation) who do not feel that THZ meets their needs, as expressed by prospective and existing members. Other congregations appear to be ahead of us in their focus on these areas.

2: Develop a New Funding Model *Why?*

■ The current contribution schedule is not viable as older members (paying higher dues) are retiring/losing a spouse and dropping lower on the grid. Many newer members enter on the lower levels of the grid. Some in the middle-aged cohort are paying less than in the past due to lack of engagement and poor perception of "value for money".

3: Attract and Engage Younger Members

Why?

■ While we need to remain relevant to our existing members, our current membership skews heavily towards older seniors, which does not reflect

- the demographics of the broader Jewish community, and which is not sustainable in the long run.
- We're not attracting the younger members and young families that are needed for long-term sustainability.

4: Increase our Focus on Tikkun Olam and Israel

Why?

■ Members are "neutral" on THZ's ability to inspire commitment and engagement with social action issues and Israel. An increased focus on social justice and climate change would make the Temple more attractive to younger cohorts. This group also seeks a more balanced approach to matters affecting Israel.

5: Improve Responsiveness to Members and their Needs

Why?

- Existing membership is happy with services and programs, but younger cohorts are looking for a community experience beyond worship.
- While virtual and hybrid have worked for many members through the pandemic, most are looking for a return to in-person experience for worship while maintaining virtual/hybrid options for programs.
- Worship services are valued and are an assumed element of membership, but they are not the key to building

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community and social experiences which middle and younger cohorts are seeking.

6: Ensure our Governance Model Supports the Strategic Focus

Everyone has something to offer associated with delivering on one or more of these priorities.

If you can help, please let Rachel Saslove know: rachel@harzion.ca

and she'll connect you with the appropriate Working Group.

Sheree

Valued friends are the important part of everyone's life and I truly value and treasure each and every one of my wonderful THZ friendships.

Special thanks to Naomi & Saul Joel, Gwen Yacht and Tara Abrams. I cannot begin to explain how much it has meant to have your consistent, love, loyal support and kindness. Thank you for being in regular touch, reaching out with willing offers of help, since my husband Emile's passing. This has been a meaningful source of comfort and I am truly blessed to have you in my life.

Rabbi, you were and are an immense source of strength to me. I have always said to you that I love and have the utmost respect for you because of your sincerity and humanity ("human nature, kindness").

Without question you respected my wishes and that of my family after Emile's passing. With your open and understanding heart, you helped ensure that my husband Emmanuel's (Emile) funeral was conducted the way we wanted.

I was punished in school for squeaking, as I could not sing the high notes like my classmates. Without your encouragement, I would never have overcome my fear of singing, 'til I was 80 years of age. This is what led me to chant the *El Norah* at the *N'ilah* service. In addition, I am able to share my honest opinions without fear of reprisals after which we discuss things in a calm and rational manner. I am truly thankful you are my Rabbi.

Tara, Emile and I always said, like your symbolic name in Sanskrit — "star, the light of the soul" — you truly are a shining star. Your presence on the phone instead of at the hospital (because I insisted, for fear of COVID) during Emile's last moments was so important to us. While listening to your beautiful voice chanting the Bereshit and others, Emile went peacefully into God's arms. Once again, while on holiday, you conducted the *Havdalah* and Celebration of Life services we held for Emile. God bless you for your loving heart. Thanks. Like Emile, I truly love you lots.

Sometimes we tend to forget thanking people like Jaye Goldberg and Sarah Greene who are the backbone and first line support services at THZ. Jaye's smooth and willing help to writing and coordinating what needed to be addressed after Emile passed was a source of relief and comfort. This includes the monumental amount and efforts of Sarah, tribute cards, etc. My thanks specifically is not for the few tasks I mentioned, but for their warmth, comforting presence, respect and understanding during a difficult time, and also whenever I have interacted with them.





More than 100 days have passed...

by Yuval Malach Our ShinShin

Since I had the most exciting flight of my life! In those 100+days, I've experienced a lot — High Holy Days, voting for the Israeli parliament, and so many other things that happened for the first time in the new place that I had the opportunity to live in.

One of the other things that I did for the first time is the ICC — my **Israel Culture Club** that takes place once a month on Tuesday nights.

The ICC is all about experiencing Israel differently and meaningfully. I believe that having a great time is an integral part of learning something new so that's why I make the ICCs as fun as possible.

Let me tell you about my last two Israel Culture Clubs:

Human Monopoly

Is there a better way to learn about Israeli inventions than through the famous game of Monopoly?



We opened the program with a human-sized monopoly board. The participants were the tokens of the game and every part of the board was related to the theme — Israeli inventions. When we went around the board, landed on an invention and bought it, it had all the details of the invention on the card!

My Favourite Dessert

The next ICC was about my favourite place in Israel — *Hamalabia*. Hamalabia is a nice chain of restaurants located in several places in Israel, especially in Tel Aviv.



My friends and I used to go to the Malabia every Friday night after kiddush and eat Malabi, a milk pudding with sweet toppings and syrups — the most amazing dessert in my opinion:)



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At the Israel Culture Club in November, we learned how to make Malabi! We made the syrup for the toppings, and just had fun like I do with my friends in the Malabia in Israel — we played some Israeli music, ate the malabies (of course) while we played Israeli games, especially *Shesh Besh* (backgammon), the game that, without it, it's not really a fun night in the malabia!

My goal is to bring my point of view on Israel to every ICC we have. I invite you all to come to the my next Israel Culture Club event and get to know more about Israel!

Hope to see you next time! Save the date: January 24, 2023. It's all about Israeli music!









Get to know our Shin Yuval

You'll be better for meeting him!

It's hard for a young person to be so far from home for a year. This year, we at THZ are all Yuval's family.

5 Reasons to include Yuval in a family meal or outing (a movie, skiing, hiking, a waterfront walk):



You can expand the perspective of a future Israeli leader by sharing your family's Jewish experience in Canada.



He's a great baker and might bring along some treats.



You can establish a rewarding and life-long relationship with a someone in Israel and have a reason to visit.



Your family may be inspired to do something distinctly Canadian — he'd be good at building a snowman or throwing snowballs.



You can explore your connection to modern Israel and the concept of Jewish peoplehood.



If that isn't possible...

Come out and participate in an Israel Culture Club — it's fun and you'll learn something.



Sit with him at Shabbat services when he delivers a D'var Yisrael.



Ask if he needs a ride somewhere!



To connect with Yuval, please contact Judy Silver judy@harzion.ca

SAVE THE DATE! Yuval's next Israel Culture Club is on Tuesday January 24 and it's all about Israeli Music!

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Still have golf on your mind?

by Tony Katz & Eric Birnberg Golf Committee Co-Chairs

ave no fear, the 26th edition of the THZ/Dick Grimm Memorial Golf Classic can be added to your schedule now!

This year, the tournament will be moving to the beautiful Royal Ashburn Golf Club in Whitby. **Click here** to check it out. More information will follow in the coming months.

Are you interested in...

- Joining the THZ Golf Committee?
- Sponsoring the tournament?
- Volunteering to assist with the tournament or the raffle?

Click here for early bird registration!

Questions? Feel free to reach out to us. Email **golf@harzion.ca**.

We hope to see you there!







THZ Heals Together

by Cantor Rachael Littman

n Sunday May 1, 2022, Susan Albaum, a long-time THZ member and educator, and I led our first **THZ Heals Together** Grief Group.

Susan, who is currently enrolled in a graduate program leading to licensure as a psychotherapist, and I had spent months discussing how many people who had lost a loved one during the pandemic seemed to be struggling in more complex ways.

Grieving is a complicated process, and mourning is as unique as the person who is grieving. Adding to the isolation of grieving was that during the height of the pandemic, there was no way to comfort those dying alone in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice facilities, who otherwise would have been surrounded by loved ones. Most obvious had been how the pandemic forced us to change how we comfort the sick and their families, bury our loved ones and grieve for them. It forced us to find other ways to "attend" funerals and mourning rituals. For the first time in our lives, the intuitive and helpful rituals we practice as Jews were not possible in the same way.

These challenges made it vital for us to begin what we imagined to be the first of many programs connected to THZ Heals Together. We hoped this support group would address the many challenges experienced during this exceptionally challenging time and lend support while lessening isolation within our community.

From May through December, our group met once a month, except during the High Holy Days in September. After our second meeting, the group decided that we would no longer have the group open to new participants.

Each session began with an opening meditation, a niggun, an explanation of group purpose and boundaries, a check-in, a presented topic, and After individual sharing. an introductory session, we began by defining the concepts of spirituality and religion, such as how the language we use for these concepts can be broadened or impacted by grief and loss, and the importance of respecting each other's understanding and use of this language. We went on to explore how spiritual practices may have been positively or negatively impacted by loss, may improve or hinder our emotional and spiritual health and our ability to cope, and the need to identify and develop additional spiritual tools and practices that can positively impact our lives.

In late August, we discussed ways to better prepare for and cope with grief during the High Holy Days. This included having members consider different ways they may wish to bring their loved one's memory or favourite ritual to this year's holiday. They ultimately discovered that although their loved one would not be present, they would not be forgotten. Every meeting hoped to allow members to gain a source of strength from each other and leave a bit stronger and less burdened by their loss. At our final meeting held this month, our group led with sharing personal mementos of their loved ones and ended with a closing ceremony together.

One of the more valuable goals of grief work is assisting the bereaved in internalizing the best elements of the lost person or situation. I believe that each group member has begun this challenging work and will continue navigating through their loss, ultimately being strengthened by it.

Beginning in February, our THZ Heals Together group will reopen to new members. Should you or a loved one wish to get more information about the group, or if you would like to register, it isn't too soon to sign up. Please get in touch with my assistant, Sarah Greene, at sarah@harzion.ca.

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As always, should you or your loved one wish to speak to me directly, I welcome you to reach out. You can grab me at a kiddush, or call/email me any time.

Due to feedback from the group, starting in February, we will meet twice monthly instead of once. The hope in meeting more regularly is to allow for a more cohesive group, and for the group itself to be a larger support as they navigate loss that may have occurred anytime from at

least six months before to as far away as a lifetime.

We know grief is a process, not a destination; there is no clear start or end point.

My theological understanding has consistently held that we are stronger together than we are when we stand alone. Judaism teaches us that we must be with each other.

In its first chapters, the Torah teaches us Eve was created in

response to Adam's loneliness. "It is not good for the human to be alone," God realized. "I will make for him an ezer kenegdo, a worthy helper" to stand beside him. She will fill the void. When we respond to the burdens of another and stand before others to guard them against loneliness, we become not only more human but also more divine. We are stronger together.

Rachael

THZ Heals Together: (OMMUNITY, SPIRITUALITY & (ONNECTION

Have you experienced a recent loss?

Would you benefit from connecting with others and building resources and resiliency?

If you're interested, or would like more information, please contact Sarah Greene at 905–889–2252 x109 or email sarah@harzion.ca

Sessions begin in February



There's so much to be excited about!

by Judy Silver Director of Education

t has been a great start to the school year in Beit Midrash, Beit Noar and Beit Ivrit!

We welcomed many new faces this year and were so happy to see familiar smiles back in our classrooms! We started the year with a BBQ lunch and a family Sukkot program enjoyed by all.



Every Sunday our Beit Midrash students welcome the day with *T'filah* and music with our clergy and music leaders. The students have





enjoyed cooking with Marnee, creative and experiential projects and discussions, Hebrew and song.













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Our Monday night Beit Noar program for our oldest students is bursting with energy and learning. Grades 7 and 8 are learning more about their Jewish selves and what it means to be a Jewish adult in today's world. Conversational Hebrew, field trips, Hebrew prayer, creative projects, and pizza all come together at THZ on Monday evenings.



Grade 9 students spent a wonderful weekend away in Cincinnati with other teens from Temple Solel, and Rabbi Weiss and Cantor Littman



to learn more about the roots of Reform Judaism. They had a memorable time on our first trip in theee years!



Hebrew's cool at Beit Ivrit! Our students spend two packed hours learning Hebrew through 'Hebrew through Movement', reading time,



small-group Hebrew activities, *T'filah*, and even during snack time!

Thank you to our group of reading HeLPers (Hebrew learning partners) who join us each week to work one on one with our students.



And... we welcomed all our newest students on Simchat Torah!



Thank you to all our parents for your continued support throughout the school year.

Please watch for emails from me for upcoming events and school announcements!

July

Kids in Grades JK-6 are invited to

EXPLORE

We've opened our school doors from 9:30am-12:30pm on Sunday mornings!

Your kids/grandkids will enjoy a typical morning with us, including:

- Musical gathering with Rabbi Weiss, Cantor Littman, our song leaders and our Beit Midrash community
- Cooking with Marnee of Taste Budds Cooking School
- Time with Yuval, our ShinShin from Israel
- Songs and movement
- Class time with their grade to meet their peers and teacher

WINTER SESSION
January 8, 15, 22, 29

Click here to register | \$18 per session

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'Welcome New Members' Kol Bo Shabbat dinner

You've probably noticed a number of new faces around our Temple lately. Families, individuals and couples of all ages have joined over the last six months.

On November 18, we decided to welcome these new members by inviting them to dinner, or in our case, we invited them to be our guests at a Musical Kol Bo service and a scrumptious Italian dinner that followed.

Almost 75 people came out that night. We had such a good time, that most people stayed late and actually had to be asked to leave so that our custodians could clean up.

We guess the lesson is that THZ makes you feel like home.









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New Programs for Young Families!

Come Celebrate Havdalah!

The afternoon of Sunday October 29, 12 families (23 adults and 23 kids) came out to celebrate Havdalah with the Har Zion family.

Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time making beeswax Havdalah candles and fragrant spice bags, and participating in the service.

Rabbi Weiss spoke to the families about Havdalah and its significance. Cantor Littman and Max Bacher helped to lead Havdalah with the Rabbi.

It was wonderful to see families engage with the clergy and with each other during the craft activities as well as during the pizza dinner/snack.

Families didn't seem to want to leave! We even witnessed 3 families playing in the garden together as the committee was leaving after cleaning up.









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Pre-Hanukkah Celebration!

December 11, there was another great young family program in the afternoon and the families that attended seemed to really enjoy themselves. There were some new faces, too, which was terrific!

We're looking ahead to planning something for February around Tu BiSh'vat.

Stay tuned! Check our website for updates:

harzion.ca/events







We're having a great time!

by Julie Sermer & Paul Beard Youth Group Advisors

e're Julie Sermer and Paul Beard, and we are the THZ Youth Group Advisors! We work with Har Zion youth to plan and produce programs for both our high school aged Senior Youth Group (MHarZY) and our grade 7- and 8-aged Junior Youth Group (JHAZY). We hope to see all of you out at our events meeting other teens, experiencing youth programming together, and having fun!

Our first MHarZY event of the year was a picnic at beautiful Fairy Lake in Newmarket. We ate, played games, and participated in a scavenger hunt



at the wonderful Farmers' Market. And, we were able to donate two full baskets of fresh produce to a local food pantry!

On October 14, MHarZY and Temple Har Zion helped host the Friday evening service and programs for our regional NFTY-NEL L'dor VaDor Kallah. Dozens of teens from the GTA and Cleveland joined us for a

creative Kol Bo service and Leadership program. Members of MHarZY joined in the rest of the Leadership-themed weekend at Temple Sinai and Holy Blossom Temple.

At the end of October, we organized a joint Beit Noar and JHAZY cupcake decorating program. Judy Silver led



all of the teens in semi-professional cupcake decorating. There was also time to play some games, make nachos, and to just shmooze. The next day, the delicious cupcakes were sold at Beit Midrash, raising over \$100 for youth programming!

On November 27, over a dozen MHarZYites spent an exciting and entertaining evening at The Bubble. The teens played in the intense



Inflatapark, ate pizza, and then engaged in an exhilarating game of laser tag. Everyone had a lot of fun!

December 9-11, MHarZYites travelled to Cleveland, Ohio for NFTY-NEL Winter Kallah. They joined teens from all over our region for an engaging weekend of programming, learning,





the theme of 'perception'.

Questions? Want to get involved? Email us: youthadvisor@harzion.ca

We're looking forward to continuing to work with all of our THZ teens and their families!





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THZ SISTERHOOD | February 5 at 7pm via Zoom JUKEBOX MUSICAL BINGO!



Sisterhood is having a 'fun'draiser in February!

Sing along to familiar tunes as we play musical bingo on Zoom! This will be a fun way to spend an evening and support our Sisterhood projects, including scholarships to Camp George!



Only \$18 per household; includes a 2-game card plus a loot bag!



\$5 for each additional 2-game card (great for someone else in your household to play along!)



Prizes for Bingo winners and **Raffle** draws at intermission



Going away? No problem! We can email your bingo cards to you, and you can pick up your loot bag in the spring.



REGISTER TODAY!

Thanks to our sponsor



TIKKUN OLAM

Tikkun Olam, healing and repairing the world, is a core part of Judaism. The global pandemic changed the lives of many and impacted the York Region community hard, driving those who experience food insecurity up tremendously — seniors with dwindling incomes, single parents, those who are unemployed, those with physical disabilities, those with mental illness, and those who can't make ends meet.



THZ is helping to feed those in need. Since the High Holy Days, our Temple community has provided almost 1000 pounds of nutritious foods and dry goods to the Food Bank of York Region and its clients.

Can we reach a 'ton' of healthy food donations in the new year?

No donation is too small and every donation is appreciated! Become a regular food donor.

Can't get to synagogue to drop your donation off? Thanks to our dedicated THZ members Cindy and Michael Mortimer, our volunteers could come to you!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Rice Flour

Canned meats/fish

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Peanut butter
Dried and canned beans

Sugar

Milk powder

Baby formula

Diapers and wipes

Juice boxes

Soups Stews Cooking oil

Apple sauce

Jam or jelly

Gluten-free products

Sugar-free items

Meal replacements

Hot/cold cereals

PLEASE Check "best before" dates on all products and put items in bags

NEED A PICKUP? PLEASE CLICK HERE!

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School Tours

by Judy Silver, Director of Education

A few times a month, Rabbi Weiss and I welcome in groups of Grade 11 students from Catholic High Schools to learn about Judaism as part of their World Religions studies. Each time, these students bring new questions and interesting insights. More often than not, it is their first time entering a synagogue and meeting someone Jewish.

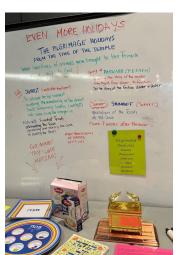
When I lead the tour, I like to start the presentation with a few questions of my own — "What is the most important Jewish holiday?" (No, not Hanukkah). "If 100 people represent the world's population, how many do you think are Jewish?" (The answers have ranged from 50 to 1.) My answer is "an arm". 2/10 of 1 %.



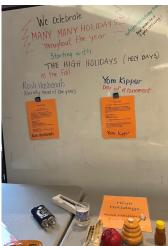
In our hour together, I share with them the story of our people, from biblical to modern times, our ties to Israel, our holidays and Jewish lifecycle rituals.

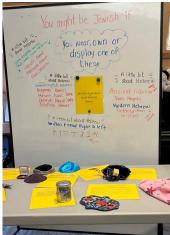
They get to see a Torah up close and engage with some of the everyday ritual items that are common to us, but new to them. We talk about the Shoah and our burden of having to deal with antisemitism in the past and now. I also impart the joy of being Jewish.

The time with these groups is personally very rewarding and I look forward to bringing them in to Temple Har Zion. Our hope is that each visit to our home brings some insight and understanding of who we are and helps to build bridges between our communities.









MAZEL TOV!

Ruth Brickman, acknowledged as a Social Work Pioneer at Baycrest for her role in the Memory Link program and her experience working with older adults.

Ruth was recently featured in an interview in Baycrest's **BrainMatters** magazine.



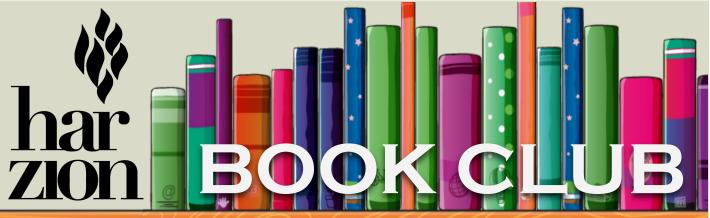
From the article:
"At Baycrest, social workers are essential to help fulfill our mission.

Our vision of a social worker is to be a leader and collaborator in gerontology, and to

support and sustain a society that values our older adults."

Click here to read the full article







DECEMBER 27 7:30pm via Zoom

Who By Fire by Matti Friedman

In October 1973, Leonard Cohen traveled to the Sinai desert and inserted himself into the chaos and bloodshed of the Yom Kippur War. With access to amazing and never-before-seen material written by Cohen himself, along with dozens of interviews and rare photographs, Canadian-Israeli journalist Matti Friedman provides an intimate and unforgettable portrait of the artist, and the young people who heard him sing in the midst of combat.

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3 QUESTIONS 3 ANSWERS

with Yuval Malach, our ShinShin

What do you think of the recent election results in Israel?

This year I voted for the first time and it was a great experience even if the parties elected are not the parties I voted for. I don't think there will be a drastic change in the country, Israel will continue to be an accepting and democratic country. I believe that many in Israel voted for the current government because of the security situation in Israel recently, many in Israel who voted for those parties justified it because they wanted the situation to get better.

What's been your favourite new experience in Canada so far?

My favorite experience in Canada so far is definitely the Rabin memorial event that we made recently. That was our first big project as a *Kommunah* and it was about a very important topic — the former prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. We started to plan it two months ago and it was such a great feeling to see this event become real and successful.

What do you miss most about home?

I miss the Kiddush at home. Every Friday, we used to go to my grandparents' house and make Kiddush together with the best food that my mom and grandma make!

We have a special tradition in that my grandpa starts to sing Shabbat songs, I make the blessing over the wine, and my little brother makes the blessing over the bread.













Dear Har Zion family,

I want to personally thank you for all the beautiful tributes you wrote on my behalf in honour of my retirement from Temple.

It is so gratefully appreciated and will serve as a lasting keepsake.

Wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a joyous and healthy 2023.

Sincerely, Morris















































Special thanks to our photographer, Len Bates, who captured all these great moments at this wonderful event!

Temple Family News

A hearty Mazel Tov to the following families:

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Kim Poster and Larry Herscu in celebration of their sons Eric and Zach's upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Andrea Shattner and Sam Castiglione in celebration of their daughter Juliana's Bat Mitzvah

BIRTHS

Diana and Toby Abramson in celebration of the birth of their son Benjamin Fishel

Sandra and Arthur Benjamin in celebration of the birth of their great grandson Benjamin Fishel Abramson

Ilissa and Tony Katz in celebration of the birth of their granddaughter Freddie Daye Niddam

Judy and Ian Silver in celebration of the birth of their grandson Benjamin Fishel Abramson

WEDDINGS

Berta Haikin and Robert Baker in celebration of their wedding

Cindy and Michael Garbe in celebration of their son Josh and Jen Gershman's wedding

Ilissa and Tony Katz in celebration of their daughter Jennifer and Darren Lewis' wedding

Keith Holdsworth and Susie Shillow in celebration of their son Jeremy and Susana Canizales' wedding

> WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news you'd like to share with your Temple family, click here We extend our sincere condolences to:

CONDOLENCES

Heather Bordo for her mother Susan Bordo **Steve Borlak** for his mother Marilyn Borlak

Yale Brick for his father Jerry Brick

Esther Cukierman for her mother Eva Goldberg

Fred Faber for his sister Susan Bordo

Ranon Goldfield for his father Herman Goldfield

Bonny Halberstadt for her brother-in-law Ken Eldred

Claude Heimann for his sister Madeleine Fane

Shirley Kehimkar for her brother Samuel Haeem Ezekiel

Susan Rowan for her uncle Bernard Cohn, and her aunt Sandra Horowitz

Ianne Spencer for her sister Lorelai Reyes **Brian Theimer** for his mother Nancy Theimer

Neal Wagman for his mother Arlene (Enie) Wagman

Karen Weiss for her father Martin Winkler

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Eniola Alola and Jordan Dessau Judy Blum, and her children Emily, Benjamin and Jacob

Anna Boulman

Mary Ellen Edwards

Ellen and David Grossman, and their children Hannah and Leah Lital Jeger
Layan Kennedy
Tanya Khmurov
Rachel Kuper and Christopher Brown
Maryna and Oleg Lakrits, and
their children Tanya and Nathan

Aia Lederer and Richard Ciavarella, and their children Noah and Joshua

Jessie Saunders-Drutz and Daniel Singer

Frances and David Soloway

Lauren and Brian Wodlinger, and their children Eliana and Simon

Tributes and Acknowledgements

TEMPLE HAR ZION FUND

Shary Fine to Paskale Petes in appreciation

Karen and David Saltz in memory of Karen's father Walter Rosenmeyer and David's father Nathan Saltz

Karen and Michael Rotstein to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

Lori Silverstein to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler We thank the following for a donation to the Temple Har Zion Fund for the sponsorship of a Congregational Kiddush, Seudah, Oneg, Torah Study or Morning Minyan Breakfast:

Cheryl Akerman and Eleanor Ackerman Rice in memory of their parents Eileen and David Ackerman

Meir and Vera Aschkenazy in memory of Meir's father Eliezer Aschenazy

Calvin and Carol Avertick in memory of Calvin's father Reuben Avertick

Seth and Roberta Cole in memory of Seth's mother Sharon Lynn Cole

Marcia Craft in memory of her husband Julian Craft

Alan and Joan Dessau in memory of Alan's sister Gloria Pearl Sossin and Joan's stepfather Ben Pape

Carol and Sheldon Diamond in memory of Carol's mother Eva Fromowitz and Sheldon's parents Jack and Fannie Diamond

Shae Eckler; Shelley and Ken Glick; and Brena and Tom Taylor in memory of their husband, father and father-in-law Morey Eckler

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- **Norman and Edyse Fisher** in memory of Norman's mother Layla Fisher
- **Debra and Martin Ginsherman** in memory of Debra's father Stan Lean
- **Florence Glickman** in memory of her father Isaac Bornstein, and father-in-law David Glickman
- **Jerry and Marley Greenglass** in memory of Jerry's father Philip Greenglass and Marley's mother Edith Harnick
- **Shira Hart** in memory of her mother Ethel Dambrot
- **Ilissa and Tony Katz** in celebration of their granddaughter Freddie Daye Niddam's baby naming
- **Bernard and Molly Keyes** in memory of Bernard's mother Selma Schlussel
- Margie Posluns; Helen Posluns Kerbel and Jeffrey Kerbel in memory of Margie's daughter and Helen's sister Lisa-Ann Lauren Posluns
- **Alan and Terry Lustig** in memory of Alan's father Sam Lustig
- **Neil and Deborah Naftolin** in memory of Neil's father Benjamin Naftolin
- Judith Ross in memory of her parents Aaron and Laura Shachter, brother Yaacov Shachter, and mother-in-law Ida Ross
- **Karen and Michael Rotstein** in memory of Karen's father Murray Etlin
- Marian and Maurice Sprumont in memory of Marian's mother Edith Kamaras

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

- Martin and Lyla Gelfand to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler
- Marley and Jerry Greenglass in celebration of Sandra and Arthur Benjamin's 65th anniversary
- **Ray and Zena Havelock** on the yahrzeit of their daughter Bonnie Havelock

ANN ZWORTH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Judy Zworth on the yahrzeit of her husband Mickey Zworth

ARTHUR & DVORA BROWN CAMP GEORGE FUND

- **Samantha and Shelly Bacher** to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak
- Martin and Lyla Gelfand to Sim and Helene Greene and family in celebration on their granddaughter Hillary becoming Bat Mitzvah

Debby and Lawrie Kaplan to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler; and to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

- Marcel Proust -

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jennifer Angel and Eric Birnberg to

Cantor Rachael Littman in appreciation for officiating their son Ryan's marriage to Tara Stier

THZ Choir to Judy and Ian Silver in celebration of the birth of their grandson Benjamin Fischel Abramson; to Ilissa and Tony Katz in celebration of the birth of their granddaughter Freddie Daye Niddam; to Adele and Claude Heimann in celebration of the birth of their grandson Brayden Wesley Heimann; and to Sarah and Kevin Greene in celebration of their daughter Hillary becoming Bat Mitzvah

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & SCHOOL FUND

- Sandra and Arthur Benjamin; Judith Ross; and Susan and Paul Sermer to Judy and Ian Silver in celebration of the birth of their grandson Benjamin Fischel Abramson
- Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman to Sarah and Kevin Greene and family in celebration of their daughter Hillary becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Judith Ross to Sandra and Arthur Benjamin in celebration of the birth of their great grandson Benjamin Fischel Abramson
- **Ian and Judy Silver** on the yahrzeit of Ian's mother Mary Silver
- Rena Singer-Gordon and Stanley Gordon to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

HYBRID MEETING FUND

Evelyn Krakauer to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

LEGACY FUND

Lyla and Martin Gelfand, and Shelley and Ken Glick to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

MARVIN KOPSTICK LEADERSHIP FUND

Helen Kopstick to Judy and Ian Silver and Sandra and Arthur Benjamin in celebration of the birth of their grandson and great grandson Benjamin Fischel Abramson

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS FUND

- Len and Sara Bates; and Sherrill Berrys to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak
- Lynn and Arthur Freeman; Bunny and Ken Saul; and Joyce Zweig to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

MHarZY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Brena and Tom Taylor to Brian Theimer and Mireille Mouscardy and family in memory of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Nancy Theimer

MUSIC FUND

- **Lynne and Harold Cipin** to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler
- **Jean Karnovsky** on the yahrzeit of her daughter Rhonda Marla Hall
- Ilissa and Tony Katz to Cantor Rachael Littman and Rabbi Cory Weiss in appreciation and support on the occasion of their daughter Jennifer Katz and Darren Lewis' wedding
- **Evelyn Krakauer** on the yahrzeit of her sister Hermelita K. Asuncion
- Judith Ross to Esther and Sam Cukierman and family in memory of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Eva Goldberg
- Dahlia Rusinek to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

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Never get tired of doing little things for others.

Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.

PAULETTE VOLGYESI MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Clare and Serge Adam; and Sharon and Sholem Prasow to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

Lisa and Jeffrey Dessau to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

Paula and Jeffrey Freedman to Lyla Gelfand in honour of her birthday; and on the yahrzeit of Paula's father Abraham Niren

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Cheryl Ackerman and David Saslove; Susan and Ben Aronowitz; Samantha and Shelly Bacher and family; Len and Sara Bates; Sherrill Berrys; Natalie and Helmut Cremer; Alison Ferry and David Tepper and family: Paula and Jeffrey Freedman: Lisa Goodman and family: Marley and Jerry Greenglass; Mary Anne and Willie Handler; Zena and Ray Havelock; Smadar Junkin; Marilyn Kartash; Ilissa and Tony Katz; Sharon Liebesman; Lisa Margolese and Gary Finkelstein and family; Karen and James Phillipson; Judith Ross; Nathalie and Stuart Rudner and family; Stacey and Jordan Silverberg and family; Susie Shillow and Keith Holdsworth: and Elaine and Victor Stein: to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

Ted Berman in memory of his mother Esther Barbara Berman

Barbara and Jeff Goldenberg; Tolsa and Jack Greenberg; and Gita and David Mintz to Selig Greenberg in honour of his birthday

Marianne and Selig Greenberg to Zelda Brown in memory of Harry Brown **Marilyn Kartash** on the yahrzeit of her father Benjamin Greenspoon

Louise and Selwyn Lewis in honour of the marriage of Darren Lewis to Jennifer Katz

Judi and Robert Ross to Michael Rotstein for a speedy recovery

Pamela and Daniel Zimmerman in memory of Pamela's mother Florence Katz

SCHEINBERG FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Nathan Bernstein; Michelle and David Epstein; Shelley and Ken Glick; Andrea and Warren Merling and family; Robyn and Mitchell Rosen; Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman; Jessie Saunders-Drutz and Daniel Singer; Lynn and Ken Tepper; and Pam and Marc Terrance to help us all to build our future together, today

Shai Abraham to Shirley Kehimkar in honour of her birthday

Tara and David Abrams; Jennifer Angel and Eric Birnberg; Sheree and Jesse Davis; Joan and Alan Dessau; Shae Eckler; Diane and Ra'anan Feldman; Karen Fisher; Robyn Gitelman and Mark Mingail: Karen and Michael Goodis; Ora Harris and Michael Hutchins: Adele and Claude Heimann: Naomi and Saul Joel; Molly and Bernard Keves; Melissa and Aaron Kline, Terry and Alan Lustig; Perri-Anne and Charles Magerman; Myrna and Stephen Marcus: Donna and Iulian Pencharz: Lynne and Gerald Pressman: Lisa Rose and Sydney Fox; Laurie Saunders and Peter Drutz; Jessie Saunders-Drutz and Daniel Singer; Deepanjali and Shalom Shapurkar; Andrea Shattner and Sam Castiglione and family; Jodi Starkman-Mendelsohn and JD Mendelsohn; Karen and David Saltz; Brena and Tom Taylor; Brigitte Waisberg; Betsy and Philip Wolfenden; and Gwen Yacht to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

- Mark Twain -

Tara and David Abrams; Jennifer
Angel and Eric Birnberg; Joan and
Alan Dessau; Shae Eckler; Marley
and Jerry Greenglass; Ora Harris
and Michael Hutchins; Adele and
Claude Heimann; Charles and PerriAnne Magerman; Brenda and
Stanley Pasternak; Lisa Rose and
Sidney Fox; Laurie Saunders and
Peter Drutz; Brena and Tom Taylor;
Betsy and Philip Wolfenden; and
Gwen Yacht to Steve and Marie
Borlak in memory of their mother,
mother-in-law, grandmother and
great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

Clare and Serge Adam to Tara and David Abrams in appreciation for organizing the trip to Italy

Jennifer Angel and Eric Birnberg to Rabbi Cory Weiss in appreciation for officiating at their son Ryan's marriage to Tara Steir

Seth and Roberta Cole in honour of Seth reading Torah on the 40th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Joan and Alan Dessau in celebration of Sandra and Arthur Benjamin's 65th anniversary

Peter Drutz and Laurie Saunders in memory of Peter's father Myer George Drutz

Dr. Ruth Erulkar in appreciation

Vickey Friedman on the yahrzeit of her mother Molly Wajcman

Shelley and Ken Glick to Cheryl Sherman and family in memory of Marilyn Godel

Marianne and Selig Greenberg to Dr. B. Brcic in memory of his parents; and to the Smith family in memory of Bernie Smith

Frances Halperin in memory of her sister Myra Pett

Naomi and Saul Joel in memory of their son Elliot Joel

Ilissa and Tony Katz in memory of Ilissa's stepmother Rosalyn Rosenthal

Molly and Bernard Keyes to Alan and Doreen Levine in memory of their brother Gerald Levine

Pauline Maker and David Segal on the yahrzeit of their father Morris Segal

Perri-Anne and Charles Magerman on the yahrzeit of Perri-Anne's grandmother Beth Sky

Miriam Meiri on the yahrzeit of her husband Avner Meiri

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- Stephen and Linda Newstead in memory of Steven's mother Pauline Newstead
- Stanley and Brenda Pasternak on the yahrzeit of Stanley's father Alter Pasternak
- **Donna and Julian Pencharz** in memory of Donna's mother Minnie Finkelman and Julian's mother Dolly Pencharz
- **Ken and Pearl Rose** on the yahrzeit of Ken's mother Mary Rose
- **Susan and Paul Sermer** to Rabbi Cory Weiss in appreciation
- **Shalom and Deepanjali Shapurkar** on the yahrzeit of Shalom's father Samson Shapurkar
- **Laurie Saunders and Peter Drutz** in memory of Laurie's mother Bernice Saunders
- Andrea Shattner and Sam Castiglione on the yahrzeit of Andrea's father Jerry Shattner
- **Ian and Judy Silver** on the yahrzeit of Ian's mother Mary Silver
- **David and Shirley Sklar** in memory of David's father Solly Sklar
- **David and Ianne Spencer** on the yahrzeit of David's father Eric Imre Spencer
- Marian and Maurice Sprumont in memory of Marian's uncle Jozsef Klein
- Brena and Tom Taylor to Tony and Ilissa Katz in celebration of their daughter Jennifer and Darren Lewis' aufruf and in celebration of their granddaughter Freddie Daye Niddam's baby naming; and to Shirley Kehimkar in memory of her brother Samuel Haeem Ezekiel
- Brena and Tom Taylor in memory of Brena's cousins Larry Berman and Debra Neskel; in memory of Brena's grandparents Nettie Mary and Charles Eckler; and in memory of Tom's mother Gertrude Taylor and sister Linda Stanley

- **Howard and Marlene Waiser** on the yahrzeit of Howard's mother Geetie Freeman
- **Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss** to Judy and Ian Silver in celebration on the birth of their grandson Benjamin Fischel Abramson
- **Gwen Yacht** to Shirley Kehimkar in memory of her brother Samuel Haeem Ezekiel and friend Stephen
- **Naomi Yudelson** on the yahrzeit of her father Harry Shulman

SECURITY FUND

- **Brenda and Jerry Conway** to Keith Holdsworth in celebration of being volunteer of the year at THZ
- Evelyn Krakauer to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

SISTERHOOD FUND

Sharon Hochberg to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

TARA ABRAMS LEGACY FUND FOR MUSIC EDUCATION and PROGRAMMING

- **Frances Halperin** to Tara Abrams in appreciation
- Naomi and Saul Joel in memory of their son Elliot Joel
- Kori Leblanc and Shaun Goodman to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak; and to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler
- **Judith Ross** to Sandra and Arthur Benjamin in celebration of their 65th anniversary

TORAH FUND

- **Avia, David and Ethan Joel** to Naomi Joel in celebration of her birthday and reading Torah
- Heather Rosenthal and Tine Haugen to Tony and Ilissa Katz in honour of their granddaughter Freddie Daye Niddam's baby naming

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT and TRAVEL FUND

- Nancy Baker to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler; and to Morris Maron in appreciation
- Susan and Paul Sermer; and Robin and David Teeger to Steve and Marie Borlak in memory of their mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother Marilyn Borlak

Grateful for small things, big things and everything in between.

YOUNG FAMILIES ENGAGEMENT FUND

Robyn and Mitchell Rozen and family to Karen and Rabbi Cory Weiss and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Martin Winkler

VIDEO STREAMING FUND

Sarah and Kevin Greene and family to Juliana Castiglione in celebration on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Tzedakah

Honour a friend or family member on a special occasion such as a Jewish lifecycle event, birthday, anniversary or simply out of appreciation, and show them you care.

Donations can easily and conveniently be made online by clicking **here**. To triple the impact of your donation, consider a contribution to the matching Scheinberg Family Sustainability Fund by clicking **here**.

