



connect | engage | inspire

connect

Fall 2023 | 5784



We stand with Israel

October 7, 2023



To our Har Zion Family,

We are shocked and horrified by the terrorist invasion of Israel this morning from Gaza. We are thinking about our families, our friends, and all of our brothers and sisters in *Eretz Yisrael* at this challenging time. Simchat Torah should be a time of the greatest joy—today it has become a day of terror and fear. We stand with Israel as they stand up to the enemy. We pray for the families of those who have died, those who are injured, and those who have been taken hostage.

Our Director of Education has been in touch with as many of our past ShinShinim as were able to respond, and they are managing the best they can. Our new Shin, Shira, is with the rest of her *Komuna* (cohort), and they are supporting each other and staying in touch with families. We urge you to connect with your extended family and friends in Israel to let them know we're thinking of them. And we are here for our Har Zion family—if you need to talk, please get in touch with Rabbi Weiss or Cantor Littman.

There will be a Solidarity Rally at Mel Lastman Square on Monday night at 7pm. You'll find more details on [UJA Federation's Instagram](#).

[Stand With Us' Instagram](#) is a good source of information about what's happening:

We offer this prayer from MARAM, the Israeli Reform Rabbis Organization:

May the Everlasting who blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah bless all the soldiers of the Israeli Defense Forces and all those who are protecting our people.

May the Source of Blessing protect them and free them from all trouble and anxiety, and may all they do be blessed. May God send safety and redemption to all those in captivity.

May the Eternal have mercy on them and bring them from darkness to light and from enslavement to salvation, give them strength and save them. May the Eternal listen to all the prayers of our people.

Merciful God, may Your compassion be with us, and remember Your covenant with Abraham.

May you spread the covering of Your peace over the descendants of Ishmael, son of Hagar, and over the descendants of Isaac, son of Sarah, and may it be fulfilled that they shall hammer their swords into spades and their spears into ploughshares. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation and they shall learn war no more. And each shall sit under their vines and their fig trees and none shall disturb them.

When we have information about donations and other ways to show support, we will let you know.

Please see statements from the [URJ](#) and [WUPJ](#).

***Am Yisrael Chai*—The People of Israel will persist!**


Rabbi Cory Weiss


Cantor Rachael Littman


Seth Cole
President


Rachel Saslove
Executive Director

Messages from our ShinShinim

From Yuval:

Thank you 🙏 It's really nice to hear from everyone
♥ I was at the base since the war started and now I'm finally back home:) everything is okay here, my dad is volunteering in the Kibbutzim next to Gaza and we are all staying at home Is everything okay in Canada? I heard there are protests all over the world now I'm sending lots of love ♥

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video from Yuval

From Lior:

It's really difficult staying hopeful, but loved seeing the pictures from the support rally in Toronto, that meant a lot.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video from Lior

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video from Mika

#TorontoStrongforIsrael

#RallyForIsrael

#StrengthInUnity

#StandWithIsrael

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video of the Solidarity Rally at Mel Lastman Square

[CLICK HERE](#) for Hatikvah, performed by the UJA ShinShinim



EVER HEARD OF JEWISH GEOGRAPHY?

THE JEWISH WORLD IS SMALL,
THERE'S ONLY 15 MILLION OF US.

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. IF WE DON'T KNOW
SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN MURDERED, WE ARE
ONLY 1 DEGREE AWAY FROM KNOWING.

WE, COLLECTIVELY, ARE FEELING THIS.
WE, COLLECTIVELY, ARE NOT OKAY.
OUR SOULS ARE HURTING.

**Friends outside of Israel,
when people ask you if
have family in Israel, your
answer is simple.**

**Yes.
7 million
brothers and
sisters.**



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

Israel **ישראל**

@Israel #standswithIsrael



Liked by lior2112 and 90,232 others

standwithus "At least if we die, our families will have something to remember us by. That we loved until the very end." As Hamas terrorists massacred people all around them, this Israeli couple shared a kiss in case it would be their last. Thankfully, they both survived the massacre, but one of their loved ones is now missing. This is just one of countless stories.



MEET THE OLDEST RESERVIST IN THE IDF:

Ezra Yachin,
95-Years-Old



[Hatikvah in Israel- click here](#)



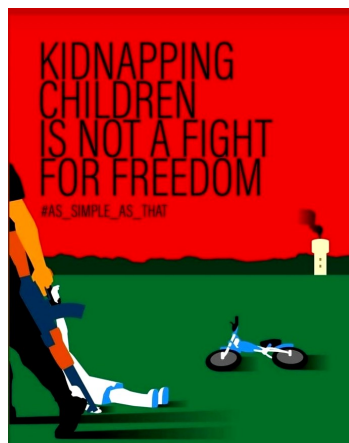
[Am Yisrael Chai - click here](#)



DON'T BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU READ.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE
SOURCE IS LITERALLY
A TERROR GROUP.

AJC



THIS WAR IS NOT ABOUT:

JEWS VS. ARABS
ISLAM VS. THE WEST
ISRAELIS VS. PALESTINIANS

IT IS ABOUT DEFEATING
THE SHEER EVIL OF HAMAS.

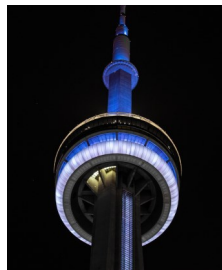


“

What strikes me most is the silence of those who have said nothing, those we considered friends... your choice not to speak is as much a choice and as much an action as speaking – speaks volumes.

Rabbi Seth Goren
CEO of Hillel Ontario

”

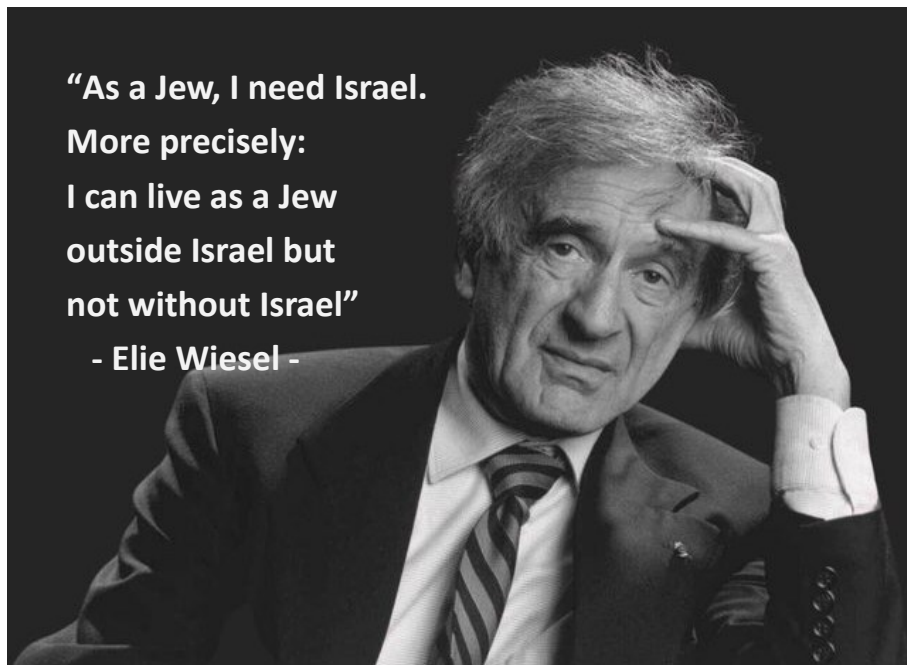


encounterworldreligions While it's always a privilege to take students to house of worship, it felt especially meaningful to being them to a synagogue and a mosque this week. Thanks to @thzsocal and @taricislamiccentre for welcoming them in.

A direct quote from my 5-year-old honorary niece in the UK:

“When we're outside, we don't talk about Israel or being Jewish, or wear anything to show we're Jewish, because some people might want to kill Jewish people.”

**“As a Jew, I need Israel.
More precisely:
I can live as a Jew
outside Israel but
not without Israel”
- Elie Wiesel -**





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
Seth Cole

Immediate Past President
Sheree Davis

Treasurer
James Phillipson

Vice Presidents
Len Bates
Wendy Berman
Peter Drutz
Steven Greenwood
Jodi Rachman Patel

Editor, Layout & Design
Jaye 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

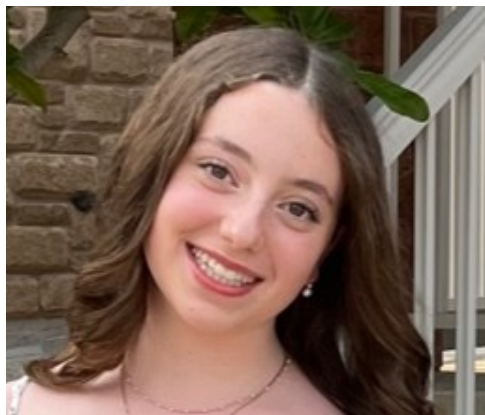
Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah!



Noa Brown
Bat Mitzvah | September 9
Mazel Tov to
Ariana Birnbaum and
Timothy Brown!



Nathan Gardash
Bar Mitzvah | September 30
Mazel Tov to
Laura Snider!



Emma Margel
Bat Mitzvah | October 14
Mazel Tov to
Kerri Margel!

SHABBAT

Friday Evening Service at 6:30pm
Breakfast and Torah Study at 9:00am
Morning Service at 10:30am

MORNING MINYAN via Zoom only

Sundays at 9:00am; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:15am

harzion.ca/zoom
for Zoom links and Siddurim



**"Wherever you turn, you can find
someone who needs you.
Even if it is a little thing,
do something for which there is
no pay but the privilege of doing it.
Remember, you don't live in the
world all of your own."**

– Albert Schweitzer–

**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 options are
available, including sponsorships and
plaquing any of our prayer books.**

For a full list, [click here](#)

What's Inside

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah	6
Service Times & Links	6
Caring for Israel when Israel Needs Us Most	8
What is resiliency?	10
THZ Heals Together: Community, Spirituality & Connection	11
Volunteerism & a vibrant community	12
Shul shopping	14
Gratitude, pride, promise	16
Charitable Bingo	16
Annamie Paul: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Putting Words Into Action	17
My favourite sanctuary	18
Finding solid ground	19
Community	20
A Meditative-Musical Shabbat Experience	21
What's new at school?	22
5784 Annual Appeal	24
Sustaining our congregation	25
A night in the life of a bingo volunteer	25
Tikkun Olam	26
A fight worth winning	27
Blessings for Pets	28
Reflections...	30
Golf and raffle updates!	32
A joyful celebration! Mazel Tov!	34
A community of wonderful women	35
Can't wait to go back next summer!	36
Shabbat Fun in the Sun!	37
Temple Family News	38
Sponsorships, Tributes & Acknowledgements	39



Caring for Israel when Israel Needs Us Most

by Rabbi Cory Weiss

Har El in Jerusalem, the very first Reform synagogue in Israel, was founded in 1958, just ten years after the founding of the Jewish state. I loved going to Har El with Karen when we were students there in 1988-89, because it reminded us of our synagogues at home. To this day, when a family is celebrating a child's B'nai Mitzvah in Israel, we usually connect them to Har El.

How our movement in Israel has grown since then! Today, the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism is vibrant and growing. The numbers are impressive:

- ◆ 50 Reform/Progressive congregations and community centres throughout Israel
- ◆ 50 kindergartens, 5 elementary schools and 2 high schools
- ◆ 100 Reform rabbis ordained in Israel
- ◆ 500 weddings a year performed by our movement-affiliated rabbis

- ◆ 1000 campers participate annually in summer camp programs
- ◆ 1500 Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies held each year in Reform congregations
- ◆ 12,000 families affiliated with Reform/Progressive communities throughout Israel
- ◆ 250,000 (4%) Israelis feel most connected to Reform Judaism
- ◆ 2.5 million NIS has been invested by the Israeli government in building Reform synagogues over the last four years

We are growing in Israel and Israelis are discovering a Judaism that is egalitarian, progressive, committed to social justice and equality in Israel, diverse, and welcoming. And Israelis are shaping Reform Judaism into their own. As we know, Diaspora Jews and Israeli Jews energize and influence each other—we are family, and we need each other.

Especially now, as Israel engages in a war to put an end to Hamas. Our movement mobilized immediately after the horrifying attack of October 7 on Simchat Torah. Through *Keren b'Kavod—the Center for Social and Communal Activity of the Israeli Reform Movement*, volunteers from Reform Congregations all over Israel started providing housing, food, child care, and other necessities to communities affected by the violence. Israeli Reform rabbis are traveling through affected areas officiating at funerals, offering pastoral care, and trying to bring normalcy to their congregations in a time of great stress, sadness and danger. You can offer support to *Keren b'Kavod* by clicking [here](#).

At Har Zion, we are committed to Israel, to providing emergency support in this time of war, and to helping our movement continue to flourish there. We will never give up on our brothers and sisters in *Eretz Yisrael*. If you feel the same as I do, here are some actions you can take to help:

Am Yisrael Chai

- **Follow the URJ online**, as you will find news and suggestions for ways to support Israel. Click [here](#).
- **Join ARZA Canada**, our Canadian Reform Zionist Organization, and if you're already a member, send them an extra gift this year. Click [here](#).
- **Sign the URJ pledge** to show your support for a democratic Israel. Click [here](#).

- **Come to Har Zion** to learn from our ShinShinit, Shira Eliyahu. Israel Culture Club is designed for congregants of all ages. Shira also works with our schoolchildren, and offers *divrei Yisrael* at services twice a month.
- **Volunteer to help** with Israel Engagement at THZ. Email me at rabbi@harzion.ca or Seth Cole at president@harzion.ca to let us know you're willing to give time and talent to help us all celebrate and support Israel.

We will all keep caring, even when it's hard! We will continue to pray for peace, for an end to terrorism, and for an Israel (and a Diaspora) that lives up to our highest Jewish values.

Pray for the peace of Israel—

שאלו שלום ירושלים

Coy.





What is resiliency?

by Cantor Rachael Littman

Last year, I began working with our 9th graders once a month as part of their weekly program, hoping to offer them continuity in their Jewish education between their B'nai Mitzvah preparation year and Confirmation Class.

After witnessing the ever-increasing challenges that students faced due to the pandemic, both at home and in school, I sought to utilize the wisdom found within our tradition and skills—developed within my work as a spiritual counselor—in preparing this new curriculum.

As I offered an introduction to my second year of 9th graders and their parents last week, I considered just how applicable and beneficial this information could be for all ages.

All of us hope and pray for our children, even teenagers, to have lives that are filled with love, health, success, and happiness. We wish we could protect them from disappointments, rejections, illness, and crushing losses.

Yet, perhaps what is most realistic and most precious is to give children the strength and resilience to find fulfillment and to sustain hope in a world in which there are many unforeseen obstacles, we are all likely to face challenging times that

strain our capacities to cope, and downright traumatic times, *as well* as countless pathways to fulfillment, to joy, and to an appreciation of the holy.

Some people seem to be better able to maintain their resilience, to live with hopefulness and optimism. This doesn't mean that they are never discouraged or hurt; no one can avoid being affected by loss, failure, ill health or personal, natural, or

**What is resiliency
and why do
we want our kids
to have it?**

**Why we ALL could
use more of it...**

national catastrophe. The concept of resiliency merely means that there are people who can more easily bounce back.

Confronted with difficulties and setbacks, these people can more quickly recover their sense of self-worth, believing that the world can be trusted and that they have a secure place and purpose in it.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could equip our children and ourselves to become people with

these capacities for emerging from difficulties with a positive orientation toward life and living?

This is exactly what resilience is—the ability to manage life's challenges in ways that promote health and wholeness, to bounce back from stresses and adversity, and do so using means that are life-affirming.

Individuals may be born with a greater capacity for resiliency, but fortunately, research also indicates that resiliency can be taught. In fact, one of the main functions of spiritual life and community is to help shape human experience in such a way that hope, and faith are supported.

A major factor contributing to resiliency is being part of a network of relationships that allows us to feel cherished and to have a sense that what happens to us matters to others.

Our traditional texts and Jewish history provide models for dealing with complex and challenging situations. Our liturgy and poetry provide opportunities for reflection, for reaching out for comfort and strength, and for giving voice to our deepest feelings.

This was the premise I began thinking about when wanting to discover ways in which our faith, our congregation and community could better support our teens... wanting our congregation to be a place where young people and adults can discover new avenues for self-expression and self-soothing, and for maintaining physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being, becoming a place where people reach for health, wholeness, and holiness....

The following five basic modules are being offered this year:

1. Positive Psychology, Gratitude, and Acceptance: *B'tzelem Elohim*, being created in God's image.
2. What's God Got to do with It?: developing one's own faith and understanding of God.

3. Conflict Resolution and Mediation

4. Jewish Teen Wellness Packet: utilizing the wisdom of Jewish Text

5. Prayers and Meditation

Our community is a sacred and holy one, and we are all dedicated to helping each of you know that you belong. Being an adolescent "ain't easy". Even if we weren't living in turbulent times, it would still be a time of transition... it's a time when you start to consider your place in this world, and the impact you hope to have. It is impossible to navigate this time alone.

You have a place here, you have a place to voice your child's *or* parent's fears of failure, and to express the pressures for financial, academic,

and personal achievement that exist alongside battles with illness, addiction, depression, and loneliness.

I want you to know that there is a place for all the complex emotions that are part of all our lives.

By coming to synagogue and being part of our community, your children and/or family have an opportunity to gain the wisdom, skills, and faith to be better able to manage life. Your Jewish faith and Jewish learning will help you become more resilient.

After all, isn't the Jewish story one of resilience?!

Rachael

THZ Heals Together: COMMUNITY, SPIRITUALITY & CONNECTION

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

Have you experienced a recent loss?

Cantor Littman will be offering this program again soon

Click [here](#) to email Sarah for more information



Volunteerism & a vibrant community

by Seth Cole
THZ President

Are you looking for a way to strengthen your connection to Temple Har Zion, deepen your sense of purpose, and make a positive impact? We invite you to join our vibrant team of volunteers and experience the numerous benefits it brings to both you and our beloved community.

Why Volunteer with Us?

1. Build Lasting Friendships:

Volunteering is an incredible way to form meaningful connections with fellow synagogue members. Joining our volunteer community is like gaining a second family. Temple Har Zion is where people come together to celebrate, mourn, learn and support one another. Through involvement, members develop deep and meaningful connections with fellow congregants who share similar interests and passions. They cultivate a strong sense of community and belonging. This camaraderie fosters a sense of unity and a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

2. Develop a Sense of Purpose:

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose as you work towards shared goals, supporting our mission to foster unity,

compassion, and growth. At THZ, volunteering for committees allows individuals to actively engage in the temple's mission and values. It provides an opportunity to align personal beliefs and principles with the temple's goals, creating a sense of purpose and fulfillment. By dedicating time, skills, and expertise to committees such as Tikkun Olam and Israel engagement, child, youth and young families, education, worship, membership, or development, volunteers directly contribute to advancing the temple's objectives and making a difference in the lives of others.

3. Assist with Personal Growth:

Volunteer opportunities here offer a chance to develop new skills, enhance leadership abilities, and expand your horizons in a supportive environment. Volunteering for committees enables personal growth and development and helps members deepen their understanding of Jewish values and traditions. Individuals have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain valuable experience, and expand their knowledge base by delving into topics of personal interest. Whether organizing events,

developing educational programs, participating in Interfaith programs or managing finances, committee involvement provides a platform for honing leadership abilities, enhancing problem-solving skills and fostering effective communication and teamwork.

4. Strengthen our Synagogue:

Your contribution of time and talent directly impacts THZ's well-being and vibrancy and serves our community effectively. Volunteering offers a chance to make a tangible impact on the temple's operations and initiatives. Volunteers are crucial for planning and executing various activities, such as holiday celebrations, community outreach, and fundraising events. Collective actions and contributions create a ripple effect that positively impacts the entire congregation.

5. Add to your Spiritual

Fulfillment: By actively participating in synagogue activities, you'll find spiritual satisfaction and a deeper connection to Judaism. You'll have the chance to learn more about Reform Judaism and its traditions while sharing your wisdom with others.

6. Boost your Résumé: Enhance your résumé with valuable volunteer experience showcasing your dedication, teamwork and commitment to making a difference.

7. Leave a Legacy: Your contributions will leave a lasting legacy, ensuring that future generations can benefit from the sense of community and spiritual nourishment we offer.

My volunteer journey began with vague memories of my father being active with B'nai Brith and my mother's

involvement in Na'amat fostering my true sense of volunteerism. She was the treasurer for many years, hosted meetings, and was truly dedicated in her sense of duty. I hope to continue those teachings to my children and hope to make my time as president meaningful.

How Can You Get Involved?

We have a varied range of volunteer opportunities available, including organizing events, assisting with education programs, helping with religious services, community outreach or occasionally helping in the office. Whether you have a little

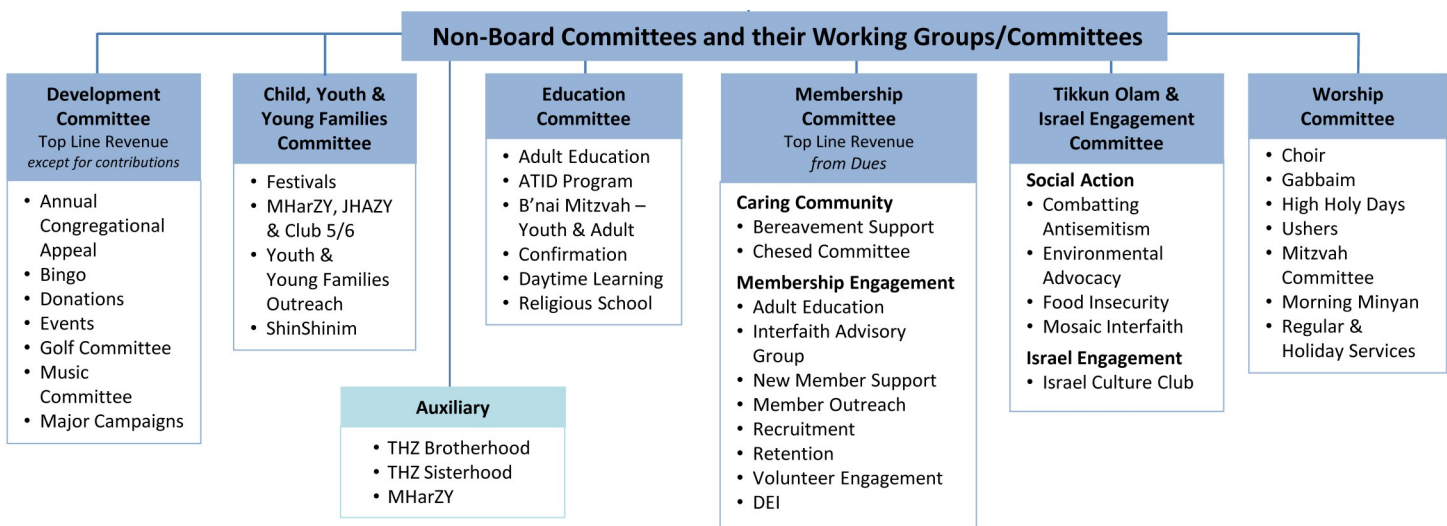
time to spare or more, there's a role that suits your schedule and interests.

Join us in building a stronger, more vibrant synagogue community.

Let's come together to create an environment where we can all thrive spiritually, personally, and as a community.

To sign up or learn more about volunteering, please get in touch with me at president@harzion.ca.

We look forward to welcoming you to our volunteer family!

Marketing & Communications Advisory Group: Providing advice to all groups above as well as THZ website, eBlast, *connect* newsletter and other media collateral

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.”

– Helen Dyer –



Shul shopping

by Eleanor Ackerman Rice
Music Director

When you went shopping for a shul, what were you looking for? A beautiful building? A social hall with a big chandelier for the 400 guests at the wedding? A fancy caterer? Parking? OY! Are we in trouble?!

No! Of course IT WAS OUR CLERGY!

Guests can enjoy Rabbi's Torah Study or listen to his sermons or meet him in person to find out how lucky we are. When people hear our Cantor's voice I think they can't believe they are sitting in a little shul in Thornhill.

Visitors can see the fabulous plaques that line our synagogue walls, evidence of the immense financial generosity of our membership. Our very existence depends on it.

However, the most important asset of our synagogue is something so elusive, so unseen, and so indescribable to a walk-in shul-shopper. IT'S OUR CONGREGATION.

What makes our congregation so amazing? It's that they constantly give their most precious gift — their time.

Time to chair or attend a meeting, time to visit people in trouble, time to collect food for the needy, time to lead a Shiva service, time to attend a

choir practice, time to lead Torah Study, time to maintain our sound system, time to lead a Shabbat service when Rabbi is ill!

Recently one of our members ran out of time.

Did you ever notice that beautiful wooden podium with the Temple Har Zion plaque on the front? It's wired for a microphone. It has a removable cabinet on top for storage with a slanted book stand. Every piece of wood was lovingly selected and carved. The whole thing is set on special sturdy wheels.



Harry Zimmer, of blessed memory, created that piece of furniture for us. He left his signature on a little square of wood hidden inside the podium cabinet and I only found it by accident!

Did you ever notice that crazy piece of furniture, my keyboard stand? Marilyn Zimmer, Harry's wife calls it one of Harry's **"Frankenstein Creations"**! (see the next page)

There's an extra wide music stand drilled in to the base. A fabulous desk lamp is clamped to the music stand. There's a microphone stand clamped on to the side. He built two storage boxes that hang underneath the base. Harry found the wood, sanded it and stained it to a beautiful finish.

He sourced and collected all of these components; all of this done in his own garage on his own time.

Well, this time his signature will not be hidden inside some secret compartment. No. If you want to

Important questions for all THZ Congregants

- ▶ Did you enjoy hearing the choir over the holidays?
- ▶ Do you like to sing?
- ▶ Can you carry a tune?
- ▶ Can you sing “Row Row Row Your Boat” in a round?
- ▶ Should we continue to have a synagogue choir?

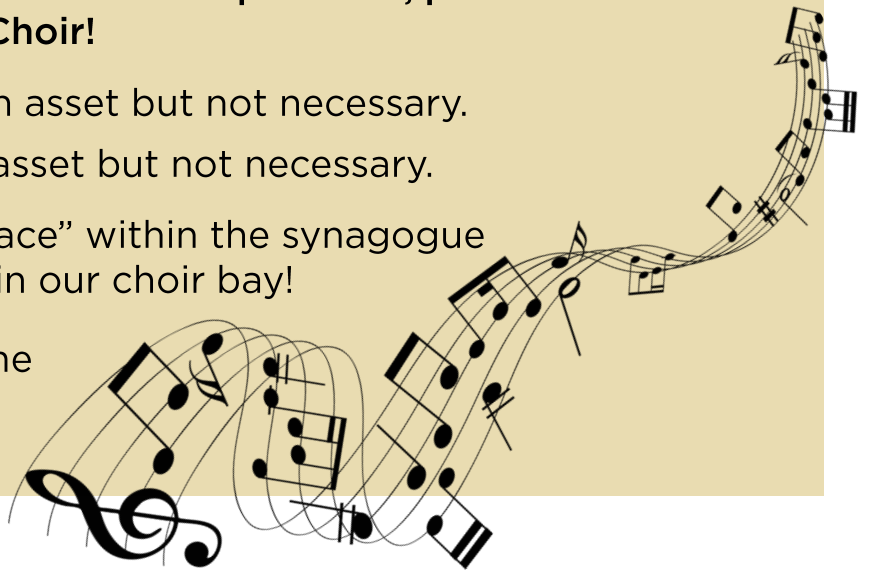
If you answered “yes” to all of the above questions, please consider joining the Temple Har Zion Choir!

Ability to read Hebrew is an asset but not necessary.

Ability to read music is an asset but not necessary.

If you are looking for “your place” within the synagogue community, you might find it in our choir bay!

Please **click here** to contact me for more information



show a shul shopper who we are, after you point out our lovely original THZ podium, invite them to check out our one-of-a-kind keyboard stand. There you will see, displayed in plain sight, a plaque with the signature of a THZ congregant who gave us his talent and his time:



“Designed by Harry Zimmer”

Eleanor



Harry’s “Frankenstein Creation”



Gratitude, pride, promise

by Rachel Saslove
Executive Director

As we conclude the sacred and transformative period of the High Holy Days, I am filled with gratitude for having had the opportunities to connect with our amazing congregation. The High Holy Days are not only a time of introspection and prayer, but also an opportunity for us to come together as a community, reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the possibilities that lie ahead. Our worship services, led by our dedicated Rabbi and Cantor, provided a space for prayer and reflection, allowing us to come

together in unity as we sought forgiveness, and found a renewed sense of purpose.

I am immensely proud of the dedication and unity that our Temple Har Zion community has demonstrated throughout the past year. Your support, engagement, and willingness to come together as a family have been truly inspiring. In 5784, let us continue to nurture these bonds and build our community where everyone feels valued and welcomed.

This year promises to be the best one yet. There is so much to look forward to happening in and around our Temple Har Zion community, and I urge you to check out all that is to come via our website. Events and programs for every demographic are plentiful this year, and opportunities to volunteer, immerse yourself in our community, and connect with one another are many. I excitedly await the next opportunity to meet, speak with, and continue to get to know everyone.

Warmly, *Rachel*



Charitable Bingo

THZ is once again participating in charitable bingo—just like we did in the 70s and 80s!

Since July, pairs of volunteers have each worked a 2-1/2 hour shift, **earning a total of over \$6000** for Temple. Next year, we're hopeful that we will be assigned enough shifts to generate at least \$40,000 in revenue for THZ!

If you can spare up to 10 hours next year (April 2024– March 2025), please register as a volunteer by clicking [here](#).

Annamie Paul

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Putting Words Into Action



[CLICK HERE TO
WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





My favourite sanctuary

by Len Bates
THZ Vice President

I've been fortunate to visit various Reform synagogues in Canada and the U.S.—older, newer, larger, smaller, one rooms and everything in between. All have beautiful sanctuaries that create a sense of sacredness.

I love our sanctuary and am thankful to those involved in its 2015 redesign. When I enter our beautiful sanctuary, I find joy and meaning and am at peace. Yet, it's only my second favourite. The one I would go to regularly if I could has no chairs. Instead, it has benches, not the pew-type benches found in older synagogues, but ones fashioned out of 2x8s sitting on wooden posts. Many of them are higher on one end than the other. The ground that they're on slopes downward and is uneven. If it were to rain during services, you'd get rather wet!

The outdoor *Beit T'filah* at URJ Camp George is my favourite sanctuary. What it lacks in architectural beauty is more than made up with its natural beauty. I am awe-inspired by the surrounding maple, birch and pine trees, the sun shining, the glistening lake as a backdrop, and the birds singing as the wind gently caresses the leaves. To this, add a space filled with youth, feeling very much part of a community, participating in, and contributing to, Shabbat services.

The prayers and songs that we sing during worship help connect us as a community to each other and to God. Add in nature, and I feel that much closer to both.

Camp George is a special place that creates memories and friendships that last a lifetime. It provides life skills and builds self-confidence and teamwork. Additionally, it is a space where our campers feel safe and supported and where their Jewish identity is nurtured and strengthened. When my kids went to camp, I lived vicariously through them.



People who have gone to George invariably have different spots within the camp that they deem their favourite. For me, it's the *Beit T'filah* with its crooked benches, wooden

planked bimah and aisles with roots. Despite its appearance, I feel the reverence. Whenever I'm at camp, I make a point of going to the *Beit T'filah* even if it's not Shabbat and no one is there. I sit, close my eyes and hear chants, songs and giggles of past services. I never feel alone.

In our siddur, *Mishkan T'filah*, there is a beautiful story about a rabbi's child who used to wander in the woods:

"At first, his father let him wander, but over time he became concerned. The woods were dangerous. The father did not know what lurked there. He decided to discuss the matter with his child.

One day he took him aside and said, 'You know, I have noticed that each day you walk into the woods. I wonder, why do you go there?'

The boy told his father, 'I go there to find God.' 'That is a very good thing,' the father replied gently. 'I am glad you are searching for God. But, my child, don't you know that God is the same everywhere?'

'Yes,' the boy answered, 'but I'm not.'



Finding solid ground

by Alexis Callen
Temple Member

When I began my journey to Judaism, I did so in Minnesota, under the supervision and guidance of the late Rabbi Sim Glaser, may he live in blessed memory. Most of my Jewish life has been spent in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is where I undertook my studies and officiated my conversion. However, the events that most crystallized my identity and my understanding of myself as a queer Jew didn't happen there.

I grew up in Portland, Oregon. I moved to Minnesota for university, but for a time I still returned to Portland over the summers. The last thing I wanted was to give up my attendance at Friday night Shabbat services. So I continued attending services while I was in town, at congregation Beth Israel. It was a lifeline. I had returned to a house that had never been a home, and I desperately needed a sense of community.

The 12th of June 2016 was a Sunday. When news of the shooting at the gay nightclub Pulse in Orlando, Florida, broke, I was in shock. The whole of the country was shocked. Most of all, the queer community worldwide was in sudden and devastated mourning. I wanted to hide in my room in the dark and never come out. I barely left until five days later—because the 17th of June was Pride Shabbat. So I dragged myself out of my room, got dressed, and took myself to shul.

That day, there was a speaker planned. She was a Jewish lesbian scholar who had something she'd been scheduled to speak about for Pride. That obviously was not what she ended up speaking on. The little paper programs were laid out on the seats in the sanctuary, and on the back of every single booklet was a list of forty-nine names. I didn't even make it past finding a seat and sitting down before I was crying. Two women came and sat beside me, the one closest introducing herself. She and her wife were visiting from New York, and they saw me there by myself. "No one sits alone today," this woman said to me, and offered me her hand.

After the service, I went up to the speaker. I meant to thank her for what she'd said, to tell her it was a meaningful talk and I was sorry she had to be there under those circumstances. I wanted to tell her that I'd have liked to hear her original speech, about her paper. I didn't say any of that. Instead, I froze up, and after a moment, I told her, "My family doesn't know." And then I burst into tears, and that woman whose name I can't remember put her arms around me and hugged me very tight for a long time.

You see, I was in the reverse of a lot of queer experiences. While I was in Portland, I was not out anywhere except for in my house of worship. This is not a situation that many in my queer community could relate to. Many of my

friends at my Lutheran university spoke of churches that condemned them to hell, of nights spent praying that God would fix them. I never had to do that, never would have even thought to. I spoke at Pride Convocation at my school's chapel, invited to do so alongside my Lutheran roommate. I listened as he stood at the front of the room and said, in words I will never forget, "God was in the closet with me."

We say that all the world is a very narrow bridge, and it's true. The world is a narrow place, and in many ways, it is getting narrower. Down in the United States, where many of the people I love still live, laws are being passed and legislators are being elected who seek to suppress and suffocate queer life. It's not impossible that it could happen here.

One thing I cling to, however, is that no matter how many narrow places there are, my synagogue has never been one of them. That is a choice we all have in our communities, our congregations—not to be a narrow place. Every day queer people, queer Jews, are brave and God is with us, in the closet and out, but it's easier to shoulder the weight of that bravery when you know that there is a place to step off of that narrow bridge and onto solid ground.

Alexis



Community

by Lital Jeger
Board Member

At the time of writing this article, I have been a member of THZ for a little over a year, and I can honestly say, I've enjoyed every minute of it. I didn't grow up in a family that went to synagogue—we celebrated the High Holy Days at home and tried to do shabbat dinners here and there—so this whole experience has really been a big step outside of my comfort zone.

At the beginning, I admit, it was a bit nerve-wracking and intimidating going into this environment, but I have not looked back once, and look forward to services each week.

From the Shabbat ushers to Cantor Littman and Rabbi Weiss, to the incredible members that make up this community, it has been nothing but a positive experience. Since I joined Temple Har Zion, I have been to just about every service, Torah Study, and event offered. I've met such incredible people and continue learning new things daily.

Within about six months of joining, I was asked if I'd like to join the Board of Directors, and it was an obvious 'yes' for me. As someone who was

quite shy at the beginning of my time here, THZ has really helped me step outside my comfort zone on more than one occasion and has helped shape who I am and the person that I want to be—and it always warms my heart knowing all the positive changes I've made and continue to make.

THZ has helped me gain confidence in myself to speak in front of a crowd—from saying one of the four prayers during Shabbat service, holding the Torah scroll, or saying the announcements for the upcoming week as a Board Member—and has spilled into other areas of my life, such as work, and in my journey to earning my undergraduate degree.

Since officially starting on the Board in July, I have had the opportunity to be an usher at Shabbat and take a deep dive into committees and events and the behind-the-scenes view. Being on the Board and participating in that way in services is something I don't think I would've dreamt for myself, but knowing that the members truly accept you for who you are, encourage, and cheer you on every step of the way has

given me the confidence to do all that, including the opportunity to chant Torah (which never in a million years would I have thought that was something I was going to do) in one of the upcoming services, is truly a great gift to have.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs said, *"It is no accident that the Jewish people call themselves 'Am Yisrael'—'the people of Israel'—rather than 'Dat Yisrael,' or 'the religion of Israel.' A sense of peoplehood has long been the defining characteristic of the Jews."*

For those of you who join our services via livestream, try to come to them in person. We would love to meet you, see you in person, go to services and events together and get to know you. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out and I'd be happy to connect with you.

As mentioned at the end of our services...

"Thank you for being a part of our community. It's where you belong!"

Lital



Kavanah Shabbat: A Meditative-Musical Shabbat Experience

6:30pm on the second Friday
of every month

Elie Wiesel taught:

“When we pray as a community,
we are rescued from our loneliness
— we are no longer alone. Our
voices are not lost to the chaos
of the world.”

Everyone is welcome to join Rabbi Cory Weiss, Cantor Rachael Littman, and Music Director Eleanor Ackerman Rice as we focus our hearts and souls on music that moves us as a worship community. We will go “deep” rather than “broad” by focusing on a handful of words and melodies, tapping into them in new ways that can affect us powerfully internally and externally, on an individual and group level.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught that prayer should take us out of our heads and into our hearts. Kavanah Shabbat is designed to do just that: use music, chant, breathing and meditation to bring us to new levels.

Come with an open mind and an open heart! Many members told us they’d never felt so relaxed at the end of a busy week!



What's new at school?

by Judy Silver
Director of Education

We were really busy this summer getting ready for the new school year!

CLASS SHABBATOT

Each of our Beit Midrash Classes have been assigned a Shabbat evening to attend and lead a short creative presentation about the *Parashat HaShavuah* (the Torah portion of that week).

Take note of these dates:

Grade 5-6: Sarah – December 1
(also happens to be Camp Shabbat)
Vayishlach

Grade 3-4: Zoey – February 2
Yitro

JK-Grade 2: Freida and Allison –
April 5 *Sh'mini*

BOOK BUDS and SCHOOL LIBRARY

About once or twice a month, we have a “book buds” program that will match up older students with younger students to read a book from our school library. This will take place immediately following *T'filah*. We will also offer other short activities as an alternative to reading. Our teen summer interns helped to catalogue all the school books! All the books have been labelled and organized into themes for easy access!

FOOD DONATIONS BY GRADES –THIS YEAR'S TZEDAKAH FOCUS

Each class, JK-10, has been assigned a month to bring in donations of food each month. Special reusable bags will be given out for the kids to bring in every week or at the end of the month! We are partnering with Har Zion's Tikkun Olam Committee to address Food Insecurity in the GTA and thank them for their generous contribution.

ISRAEL CURRICULUM

We are introducing new Israel curriculum with a focus on “Israel as a Shared Space”. This is a result of Sarah's and my intense week of study in Israel, curriculum writing, training and the support of UJA, RJCC and ARZA Canada!

GRADE 10 - CONFIRMATION!

Yes, our Confirmation Class is back in the building! Rabbi Weiss will be leading our Grade 10 students through an amazing year of learning, exploring and growth along their Confirmation journey.

WELCOME BACK to our amazing teaching staff!

You know them! You love them! Here they are... this year's teaching line up! Hold your applause until the end!

In JK-K, it's Freida Firkser! Freida spent some time tiptoeing through the sunflowers.



In Grade 1-2 it's Allison Board! Allison also teaches in Beit Ivrit and tutors online students.



In Grade 3-4- Zoey Schwartz! This will be Zoey's second year teaching at THZ!



In Grade 5-6 and Beit Ivrit we have Sarah Greene! You can catch a glimpse of Sarah in the THZ office when she is not teaching during the week! (She's like Siri—ask her anything and she'll have an answer for you!)



Please welcome back our very own **Jakey Berman** who just spent the past year in Israel, learning and volunteering!



She cooks! She bakes! She's a new mom! She has a longer name! Welcome back **Marnee Birnbaum-Pearl!** Back in the kitchen with our students for another great year of cooking!



The Dynamic Duo: **Julie Sermer and Paul Beard** return as our Youth Group Advisors and Madrichim Coordinators!



Our Beit Noar Grade 7-8 teacher is Ally Saks! You'll recognize her by the smile on her face and the glitter on her very creative hands.



Welcome back **Lena Oded** to our **Beit Ivrit** program! You may recognize her (or may even have been taught by her!) because Lena has taught at THZ for many years! She works with our Grade 5 students in Beit Ivrit!



Cantor Rachael Littman will be the anchor of our Grade 9 program as she meets with students to guide them through the "Resilience of the Soul" program each month! (see page 10)



Rabbi Cory Weiss will once again teach the Confirmation Class! He cannot wait to meet up with the newest Confirmation students, eat some spicy pizza and take in a Broadway show in NYC!



And here is the newest member of our team! Meet **Shira Eliahu, our ShinShinit for 2023-2024!** Meet her! Talk to her! Invite her to a meal and get to know this amazing person who will become part of our THZ community and bring her love of Israel to us! Click [here](#).



I am so excited to welcome all our students back to school, and learn, sing and pray with them! Wishing you all a wonderful new year ahead in 5784!

July



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ANNUAL APPEAL



CLICK HERE

THZ's Religious School and Religious Education



Sustaining our congregation

by Daniel Springer & Jessie Saunders-Drutz
Young Adult Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Based on Temple Har Zion's Strategic Plan, the newly formed Young Adult Membership (YAM) Committee is focused on recruiting, engaging and retaining individuals aged 19-39, specifically young adults and young families.

We strongly believe that the sustainability of our congregation is reliant on attracting new and younger members.

Our current committee members: Jessie Saunders-Drutz, Daniel Singer,

Rachel Saslove, Heather Bibas, Andrea Shattner, Lital Jeger, and Paul Pijawka.

We've begun brainstorming various events for the upcoming calendar year, including but not limited to peer-hosted Shabbat dinners, networking events with keynote speakers, and programming targeted to parents while their kids are engaged in their own activities.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in learning more about YAM, or how to get involved, please

don't hesitate to reach out! In addition to positions open on the committee, there will be many leadership opportunities in an event-specific capacity.

If you'd like to donate to the Young Adult Programming Fund, please click [here](#). You can also email our Executive Director, Rachel Saslove, at rachel@harzion.ca or call her at 905.889.2252 x103 for more info on how to give!

Jessie & Daniel

A night in the life of a bingo volunteer

My sister and I completed THZ's first shift as Bingo World volunteers on Sunday July 30. The training took about 20 minutes in total.

Here are my takeaways:

- ♦ **WE EARNED OVER \$3000 FOR THZ, for 2-1/2 hours of volunteer time!**
- ♦ Bingo players are serious about their games and there is very little chatter while games are occurring.
- ♦ Bussing tables consists of returning used trays to the back of the hall as needed throughout the evening, wiping down tables, throwing out

used bingo cards after a game and logging off monitors for players that have left for the evening—*not very onerous as most patrons did not use trays, brought snacks from home, and cleaned up after themselves.*

- ♦ Bussing is kept to a minimum while a game is in play, so as not to disrupt the players' concentration.
- ♦ Volunteers are expected to circulate constantly and be visible in the hall, so may walk between 7,000 - 8,000 steps during a shift.
- ♦ Patrons appreciate whatever you do and say thank you.

- ♦ You will have time to chat with your shift partner—I *debriefed my sister about a recent blind date.*

- ♦ **WE EARNED OVER \$3000 FOR THZ, for 2-1/2 hours of volunteer time!**

Was it the most interesting evening I have had? No.

Was it worth 2-1/2 hours of my time to earn over \$3000 for THZ? Absolutely!

Just wear comfortable shoes.

Sheree

Sheree Davis, THZ Past President



Tikkun Olam

by Jodi Rachman Patel
Chair, Tikkun Olam Committee

First introduced in the Mishnah, the concept of *tikkun olam* means ‘to heal and repair the world’ and has become synonymous with social justice and social action. It is a key part of an ethical framework on which a just, civil society depends.

Andrew Hazen was the first chair of the THZ Tikkun Olam Steering Committee, meeting with 10 members in January 2021. They created a plan for the next three years (2023 – 2025) whereby THZ would focus on three areas of Tikkun Olam in particular.

1 Food Insecurity

Accessing healthy food at reasonable prices has become challenging and stressful for an increasing range of people in the GTA. THZ has a strong history of community support through Food Bank contributions and the Out of the Cold program. THZ will seek out ways to involve members and others from the surrounding community in providing food directly to individuals and by supporting programs run by partner agencies.

Current Activities:

Food Bank Contributions — delivery to Food Bank of York Region
Community Dinners

Proposed Activities:

THZ Food Insecurity Monetary Fund
Use of our kitchen for food distribution

Partnering with YRFN to provide a space (kitchen, social hall) for them to run cooking classes for new immigrants, refugees, etc.

2 Social Justice, Discrimination and Antisemitism

The scourge of antisemitism has been getting worse in recent years and needs to be strongly resisted. Awareness of systemic impacts on other groups who have suffered historic oppression and attempts at genocide has also increased—particularly around the “Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation” and Black Lives Matter” movements. Temple will pursue opportunities to resist antisemitism through education, and through being strong allies with other social movements, particularly Indigenous Reconciliation.

3 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Climate change brought on by fossil fuel emissions is having significant impacts in Canada and around the

world. Climate change impacts on overall heat days, availability of clean water, and food supply for all are existential issues for Canada and Israel.

We will consider the need for actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Examples of actions that support this value are:

- ♦ Facilities and operations that achieve a “net zero emissions” status as rapidly as possible.
- ♦ Engagement with other Jewish and community organizations to advocate for systemic changes to reduce emissions and to help communities to adapt to present-state impacts on those who are vulnerable, as well as medium and long-range actions to further reduce harmful impacts.

If you are interested in helping us begin our work on these second two areas of Tikkun Olam, please contact me at jodirp@rogers.com.

Wishing you a Shanah Tovah,

Jodi



A fight worth winning

by Cindy and Mike Mortimer
Fight Food Insecurity Committee

Under the umbrella of Temple Har Zion's recently formed Fight Food Insecurity Committee, we're energized and looking forward to working collaboratively with Har Zion volunteers, congregants, Religious School, other committees, and the community.

Our personal involvement started over 20 years ago. We'd buy extra non-perishables at the grocery store to donate into the food bank bins on exit. It evolved further with our son Adam's Bar Mitzvah project. His theme was fighting hunger. He replaced party table center pieces with food baskets, which were later delivered to a North York food bank.

As a family, we often discussed homelessness, the working poor, and hunger. Charitable donations to the Daily Bread Food Bank had always been a priority.

Two years ago, our dear friend of more than 30 years, Stacey Starkman,

a former manager at Food Banks Canada, died suddenly and unexpectedly. Our grief led to exploring more ways that we could help to carry on Stacey's important work and honour her memory.

Shortly after Stacey's passing, Cindy approached Sheree Davis, THZ's then president, with a proposal to restart the High Holy Day food drive. It coincided with our first post-COVID in-person High Holy Day services.

Sheree made sure it happened. She introduced us to Malcolm Firkser, who coached us on the details of THZ's past food drive logistics. Malcolm personally delivered more than 640 pounds of donations by THZ members and High Holy Day attendees to the Food Bank.

We decided to work directly with the Food Bank of York Region (FBYR). They are a distribution hub for dozens of local food banks, including three local food banks

close to Temple Har Zion that have Jewish families amongst their clientele.

We continue to learn from other charitable organizations fighting hunger. We connected with Mazon Canada, a national grassroots charitable foundation, helping both Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians. They fund more than 300 high impact projects annually that address the root causes of hunger.

We also approached the THZ Board for approval to set up a "*Fight Food Insecurity Monetary Fund*" to enable congregants to make tax-deductible cash donations towards eligible organizations such as Mazon Canada and Food Bank of York Region. Board approval was received in May. To donate, please click [here](#).

Please join us in helping to resolve this crisis. Fighting food insecurity is a fight worth winning!

Cindy & Mike

"fight food insecurity"

Blessings for Pets







Reflections...

by Sarah Greene and Judy Silver
at the egalitarian section of the Kotel

Re-establishing our Connection and Commitment to Eretz Yisrael

Over the past year we had the opportunity to participate in a year-long seminar “Innovations in Israel Education”, sponsored by UJA. We learned alongside other Jewish educators across the GTA. The program’s purpose was to inform, provoke and inspire us to rethink how the topic of Israel is taught in our classroom, specifically within congregations.

Each month we engaged with a different speaker highlighting one of the six pillars of contemporary Israel education. This culminated in an intense week of study in Israel, giving us real-life experiences and hands-on education related to all six pillars. We were amazed how much we were able to pack into one week!

During our time in Israel, we visited various places and met many people—with each bringing their own views and personal experiences to the contemporary issues facing Israel today. This included meeting people who represent the many faces of Israel (Ethiopian Jews, Palestinians, Druze, Orthodox Jews, and Arabs).

We spent time in Jerusalem, Lod, and Tel Aviv, had dinner outside the West Bank, walked through the Shuk HaCarmel in Tel Aviv—and even managed to take a wrong turn during a walk and ended up in Jaffa! Throughout our travels we gained invaluable insight and an appreciation for our country that is both amazing and complicated.

As educators, we came back with language and content both relevant to other educators, our students, lay leaders, and the wider community. When we planned this school year, we looked at our Israel curriculum with different eyes and new ways to bring Israel into our classrooms and the larger community within Temple Har Zion.

We want to take this opportunity to thank both UJA and Temple Har Zion for their support and commitment to the enhancement of Contemporary Israeli Education.

Sarah Judy



Ethiopian Dinner
in Tel Aviv

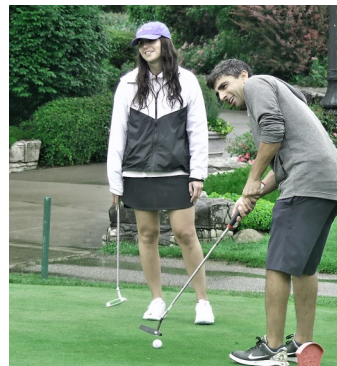


Palestinian Educational Bookshop
East Jerusalem



Eating Malabi with Mika and Shira
in Jaffa







Golf and raffle updates!

Eric Birnberg & Tony Katz
Golf Committee Co-Chairs

The 26th Annual THZ/Dick Grimm Memorial Golf Classic is in the books! Held on June 27, 135 golfers and our dedicated volunteers braved the rains (and the worms) and successfully completed their rounds of golf, then enjoyed a sit-down lunch and prize ceremony at the lovely but challenging Royal Ashburn Golf Course in Whitby.



Congratulations to the overall winning foursome (scoring 13 under par) of Dwayne Carr, Michael Carr, David Wright and Derek Wright, and runner up foursome (scoring 9 under par) of Jacob Kung, Andrus Kung, Steve Nasello and Mark Tracey. And congratulations to the winning "mixed" team foursome (scoring 7

under par) of Carol Cutler, David Cutler, Ora Harris and Ari Toderovitz. Congratulations as well to individual prize winners for the Longest Drive-Men (Tony Katz), Longest Drive-Ladies (Jennifer Lewis), Closest to the Pin-Men (Tim Snelgrove), Closest to the Pin-Ladies (Kim Colangelo), Closest to the Pin-"Golden Agers" (Stan Segal), Closest to the Target-Men (Derek Wright) and Closest to the Target-Ladies (Carol Cutler).

Special congratulations go to Kim Colangelo for the Putting Contest Michael Katz for the Guess the Tees contest.

Immediate feedback regarding the course conditions, the facility and its amenities, and the tournament organization was overwhelmingly positive. Many thanks to the staff at Royal Ashburn Golf Club.

The tournament-related raffle was held afterwards, with outstanding ticket sales, and almost 75 prizes were awarded. Congratulations to the following winners of the top five prizes:

- Weber BBQ (with set-up and installation) (Dwayne Carr)
- Secret Garden Cottage at Niagara-on-the-Lake (1 night stay) (Alan Dessau)

- Premium Toronto Raptors Tickets (Michael Tafts)
- Glenlivet Trio (18yr, 15yr, 12yr) (Martin Ginsberman)
- Premium Toronto Maple Leaf Tickets (Pat Sinott)

Click [here](#) for a full list of the raffle winners.

Many thanks again to our valued corporate and individual sponsors, as well as our prize and giveaway donors, for your generosity. We are grateful for your support of THZ's most important annual fundraiser. Many thanks again to the THZ Golf Committee members, as well, for your time and dedication.

Watch this space, since the 27th Annual is now in the planning stages. With a little cooperation from the weather, it is poised to be bigger and more successful than ever!

If you have comments or suggestions regarding this year's events, or are interested in joining the THZ Golf Committee, please contact Tony Katz or Eric Birnberg by clicking [here](#).

Tony & Eric



A joyful celebration!

Karen Fisher...
Mazel Tov on #85!



Want to book an event? [Click here](#)

Mazel Tov Frances Halperin!
GOLD MEDAL WINNER
Seniors D 200m | 500m | 2000m
2023 Canadian Dragon Boat Championships





A community of wonderful women

by Judith Ross
Sisterhood Vice President

A new year has arrived and it promises to be an exciting one for our Sisterhood. I have been a member of THZ since 1972, and a member of the choir since 1973. The busyness of life as wife, mother and teacher filled my hours for many years. Now in the “twilight” of my days, I am renewed with the excitement of being the Vice President of the Sisterhood.

We know that many of our members have been very loyal and paying your membership for Sisterhood, and yet, we may not have seen you at the programs. I am certain that when you read the list of exciting events we have planned, you will find just the perfect ones that you will want to attend.

There are many committees that would welcome your talents. If you have ideas and suggestions, we are eager to have you share them with us. Most of all, we would love your presence at Sisterhood events!

Here are some of the programs:

November 1 | Toronto Holocaust Museum

November 19 | THZ's Congregational Mitzvah Day. Part of that will include a WRJ program: *“Speaking of Unmentionables: the Rise and Fall of Ladies' Underwear”*. This will be an opportunity for collecting women's underwear and socks (new) to be donated to shelters or the homeless.

December 7 | Come to our “Rock ‘n Roll” Hanukkah Party featuring JUKEBOX JAMMERS, a troupe of amazingly talented seniors under my direction, along with Rhonda Silver, our music director, to celebrate the holiday.

January 18 | Munchies & a Movie: an inspiring discussion with Rabbi Cory Weiss about another thought-provoking film.

In February, we will have a most important topic, “Antisemitism in Canada”, with Gail Bocknek who will introduce the various speakers.

We have other wonderful programs for 2024, that are tentatively set, and as soon as the dates are known, Jaye will put the information and promos on the Temple calendar.

Do check out THZ's eBlast every Thursday, as well as any direct mailings for programming details.

So many exciting plans on the way to provide a year of varied programs. I am certain you will find the ones that pique your interest, and we would love to see you there!

So, nu? What else does our Sisterhood do?

We provide funds for camp scholarships, social action activities, packing Pesach boxes for the National Council of Jewish Women, Family programming, and we assist those going on the March of the Living.

And, of course, we are a community of wonderful women who enjoy a laugh, share a tear, and love to be together.

Most of all, Temple Har Zion is where you belong, and that means Sisterhood as well!

Judith

enjoy a laugh, share a tear



Can't wait to go back next summer!

by Dylan Tepper
Grade 7 student @THZ | 2024 Bar Mitzvah

This July, I had a great time at Camp George. First, I would like to thank the Brown Family for the Arthur and Dvora Brown Camp George Scholarship that they gave me.

At Camp George (CG) there are plenty of wonderful activities to do such as ropes, inflatables, bikes, water skiing and many more! My personal favourite activity this year at CG was ropes; from the humongous swing to the rock wall there was a lot to do at ropes. I even got over my fear of heights!

The food this year was better than ever with the new catering company. They were really nice and some of my friends learnt that if you help set up tables before meals, you can get an Oreo or two. Usually after meals each unit would shout out their respected cheer. My unit, Kochavim, got a new call and response cheer where one person would yell out, "HEY

KOCHAVIM, WHAT'S BETTER THAN A LEAF IN THE CHADAR?" Then everyone else would respond, "A ROCK IN THE CHADAR!" Then we would proceed to chant "rock in the chadar day and night". There sure was a lot of *ruach*!

After dinner each unit would have an evening program, or for short, an E.P. One of my favourite E.P.s was Colour Wars' opening activity, *Capture the Flag*. Colour Wars, also known as CG Games, is a one day themed camp-wide competition between four colours. I was on the blue team. In Capture the Flag, my team tied for second with yorange (a mix between yellow and orange). I really liked the team spirit during the game.

On the CG Games day, people could select an event to do. I did the tough mudder. This is a three person race. The first person has to portage a canoe

50m then make a corn toss. After that, they run to the second person and high five them and they start biking to the end of the Field of Dreams and back. Then the second person high fives the third person. When high fived, the third person has to jump over 20 benches then does 20 jumping jacks and 20 high knees and proceeds to run to the water ski docks and finish the event. I was the third person in my team's relay. In the end, we came in second to green in the tough mudder. Even though we finished second in the tough mudder, I was ecstatic when they announced at the end of the day that **the blue team won the CG Games!**

All of the things that I wrote about here were a small portion of all the fun experiences that I had at Camp George. I can't wait to go back next summer!

Dylan



Shabbat Fun in the Sun!



Temple Family News

A hearty Mazel Tov to the following families:

BIRTHS

Jodi Starkman Mendelsohn and Jondavid Mendelsohn on the birth of their granddaughter Kya Nova Mendelsohn

Ruth Starkman on the birth of her great granddaughter Kya Nova Mendelsohn

Elizabeth and Jack Zwicker on the birth of their granddaughter Sidney Dawn Zwicker

B'NAI MITZVAH

Naomi and Roy Berman in celebration of her granddaughter Emma's Bat Mitzvah

Ariana Birnbaum and Timothy Brown in celebration of their daughter Noa's Bat Mitzvah

Elka and Brian Birnbaum in celebration of their granddaughter Noa's Bat Mitzvah

Kerri Margel in celebration of her daughter Emma's Bat Mitzvah

Laura Snider in celebration of her son Nathan's Bar Mitzvah

WEDDINGS

Robin Grossman and Nikita Alkhazov in celebration of their marriage

Rachel Kuper and Christopher Brown in celebration of their marriage

We extend our sincere condolences to:

Melissa and Corey Adler for Melissa's aunt Ellen Pomer

Mary Aisen for her husband Irwin Aisen

Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney for their brother and brother-in-law David Baltman

Alexis Callen for her father Robert Kimsey

Barbara and Sid Finkelstein for their son and stepson Hartley Starkman

Shari and Larry Goldberg for their mother and mother-in-law Cynthia Greenberg

Jill Greenberg and Michael Levy for their mother and mother-in-law Cynthia Greenberg

Bonny Halberstadt for her mother Dorothy Antflick

Aia Lederer and Richard Ciavarella for their father and father-in-law Peter Lederer

Deborah and Neil Naftolin for their mother and mother-in-law Lillian Siegel

Ron and Joodi Pollock for their mother and mother-in-law Edith Pollock

Joan Sheff for her husband Michael Sheff

Miriam and Michael Snider for their sister and sister-in-law Ellen Pomer

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news you'd like to share with your Temple family, please click [here](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Oleg Alkhazov and Loraine Palado
Casey Arnold
Jakey Berman
Jonathan Bernstein
Daliah Bibas
Elan Bibas
Tal Bibas
Ariana Birnbaum and Timothy Brown and their daughter Noa
Jaime Block
Jessica Bloom
Jordan Bloom
Danielle Brick
Jacob Brick
Rachel Brick
Daniel Brickman
Jacob Brickman
Zachary Brown and Haille Milne
Daniel Cheskes
Jacob Cheskes
Sheldon Cheskes and Shelley McLeod
Jarred Cole
Sharon Cole
Corey Davidson
Daniel Davidson
Jaimie Davidson
Jordan Davidson

Ryann Davidson
Erin Dessau Rubin and Elliot Rubin
Sawsan Elshafey and Hani Shalaby
Jessica Ferguson
Rachel Ferguson
Ryan Firkser
Hava Freedman and Paul Greenglass and their children Addison, Cameron, Sophie and Daniel
Hannah Goodman
Elise Goodman Gauthey and Michael Gauthey, and their children Langley and Ryder
Ronit Gordan and Brandon Goodman and their son Liam
Amanda Gotlib
Cale Greenwood
Sam Greenwood
Hannah Grosman
Leah Grosman
Justin Havelock
Jayda Houston
Kai Houston
Guin Kamukuny
Phoenix Leather
Alexander Levy
Jamie Magerman

Dana Mayer and Michael Wortzman
Asher Mendelsohn
Ellen Morrison
Tamar Patel
Krystal Requena and her children Minett and Eliyah
Sarah and Oleg (Alex) Revich and their children Natalie and Jack
Michelle Rudner
Jennifer Saslove
Kelly Sennet-Razmov and Mark Razmov and their children Charlotte and Max
Disha Shapurkar
Lindsay and Shaun Shienfield and their children Jenna and Harris
Jeremiah Silver
Alyssa Silverberg
Jessica Silverberg
Melissa Stein
Sarah Sweigman
Jeremy Theimer
Maya Waldman
Jacob Weiss
Adam Zelnicker
Benjamin Zelnicker
Etelka Ziegler-Hazen
Noah Ziegler-Hazen

Sponsorships, Tributes & Acknowledgements

We thank the following for their generous sponsorship contributions:

SPONSORSHIP of TORAH STUDY BREAKFAST

David Cohen on the yahrzeit of his mother Esther Cohen

Irving and Paula Frisch on the yahrzeit of Irving's mother Celia Frisch

SPONSORSHIP of CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

Abbe Nelson on the yahrzeit of her husband Edward Nelson

Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman in memory of Andrea's father Philip Barnett

Josette Sassoon and Morrie Joseph on the yahrzeits of Josette's parents Dora and Selim Sassoon and Morrie's late wife Cari Joseph

Marjie Zacks and Joel Rosenberg on the yahrzeit of Marjie's father Louis Zacks

Pamela and Daniel Zimmerman in celebration of their daughter-in-law Ashley's first *aliyah*

SPONSORSHIP of MORNING MINYAN BREAKFAST

Ben and Susan Aronowitz in memory of Ben's father Mordechai Aronowitz in memory of Susan's parents Bertha and Reuben Stein and Ben's mother Sonia Aronowitz

Cal and Carol Avertick in memory of Cal's mother Bernice Avertick

Alan and Phylis Coles in memory of Alan's father Ben Coles

Marcia Craft in memory of her parents Lillian and Sam Sonin

Joan and Alan Dessau in memory of Joan's mother Lee Page, and Alan's parents Fay and Samuel Dessau

Carol and Sheldon Diamond in memory of Carol's father Ben Fromowitz

Norm and Edyse Fisher in memory of Norm's father Jack Fisher

Arlene and Allan Fishman in memory of Arlene's mother Anne Riff

Sidney Fox and Lisa Rose in memory of Sidney's father Jack Fox

Hope and Larry Gaum in memory of Hope's mother Miriam Kaufman

Karen and Michael Goodis in memory of Karen's father Robert Lipschutz

Karen Grimm in memory of her parents Dora and Sidney Meyerson

Shira Hart in memory of her father Herbert Dambrot and her husband Laurence Hart

Morrie Joseph and Josette Sassoon in memory of Morrie's wife Carolyn Joseph and Josette's father Selim Sassoon

Debby and Lawrie Kaplan in memory of Debby's parent's Becky and Irvin Shulman

Molly and Bernie Keyes in memory of Molly's mother Lonia (Leah) Waldner and Bernie's brother Ralph Keyes

Neil and Deborah Naftolin in memory of Neil's mother Betty Naftolin

Harriet Noik in memory of her mother Kate Tanzer

Helen Posluns Kerbel and Jeffrey Kerbel in memory of Helen's grandmother Helen Casselman

Karen and David Saltz in memory of Karen's mother Zelda Rosenberg and David's mother Mia Saltz

Warren and Janie Shendelman in memory of Warren's father Benjamin Shendelman

Martie and Evelyn Simon in memory of Martie's father Martin Simon

Rosalind and Ronald Smith in memory of Rosalind's mother Sybil Landau

SPONSORSHIP of SCHEINBERG FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY FUND RECEPTION

Brena Taylor

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Joan and Martin Cohen to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Rena Singer-Gordon and Stanley Gordon to Joan Sheff in memory of her husband Michael Sheff

ANN ZWORTH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Joan and Alan Dessau to Cheryl Schwartz and family in memory of Bernie Schwartz

Paula and Jeffrey Freedman to Richard Ulster for a speedy recovery

Perri-Anne and Charles Magerman on the yahrzeit of Perri-Anne's father Dr. Samuel William "Mickey" Grossman

Judy Zworth on the yahrzeit of her brother-in-law Yitzchak Elron

ARTHUR & DVORA BROWN CAMP GEORGE FUND

Melissa and Corey Adler to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family on the loss of their brother, brother-in-law and uncle David Baltman

Samantha and Shelly Bacher to Jill Greenberg and Michael Levy in memory of their mother and mother-in-law Cynthia Greenberg

Cynthia Flesher to Seth Cole in honour of him becoming the next President of Temple Har Zion

Paula and Jeff Freedman to Ray Bernatt in celebration of his birthday

Helene and Sim Greene to Dr. Robert Miller in celebration of his birthday

Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman to Eric Petersiel in memory of his mother Fran Petersiel

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Cheryl Ackerman and David Saslove to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family on the loss of their brother, brother-in-law and uncle David Baltman

Ariana Birnbaum and Timothy Brown to Cantor Rachael Littman for all her support and teaching in preparation for their daughter Noa's Bat Mitzvah

Jill Greenberg and Michael Levy and Shari and Larry Goldberg to Cantor Rachael Littman for her support and kindness during the recent loss of their mother and mother-in-law Cynthia Greenberg

THZ Choir to Jerry Greenglass for a speedy recovery; to Bill Tarant in appreciation making a plaque in dedication of Harry Zimmer; and to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family on the loss of their brother, brother-in-law and uncle David Baltman

Pamela and Danny Zimmerman and **Ashley and Adam Zimmerman** to Cantor Rachael Littman in appreciation of her assistance at the Beit Din

DAVIS YACHT GARDEN-GAN MOSHE FUND

Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman on the yahrzeit of Andrea's grandfather Leslie Barnett

Gwen Yacht on the yahrzeits of her husband Milton Yacht and father Irving Davis

DIRECTOR of EDUCATION & SCHOOL FUND

Jeffrey Dessau and Yale PGC to Joan Sheff in memory of her husband Michael Sheff

Brena Taylor to Ellen Morrow in celebration of her birthday

FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY FUND

Adam Mortimer in memory of his grandmothers Anne Silverman and Rita Mortimer

Cindy and Michael Mortimer in memory of their friend Stacey Starkman; Cindy's brother Howard Silverman; and Jean Davis

Robyn and Mitchell Rozen

Evelyn and Martin Simon on the yahrzeit of Evelyn's mother Paula Gurandianu

Marilyn Zimmer

LYNN RAE ISRAEL FUND

THZ Sisterhood to Len Bates in appreciation

MARVIN KOPSTICK LEADERSHIP FUND

Rosalind and Ronald Smith to Seth Cole in honour of him becoming the next President of Temple Har Zion

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS FUND

Jill Greenberg and Michael Levy and **Shari and Larry Goldberg** to Ellen Morrow and the Mitzvah Committee for their support and kindness by leading services recent loss of their mother and mother-in-law Cynthia Greenberg

Gwen Yacht to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman

MUSIC FUND

Sherrill Berrys; Adele and Claude Heimann; and **Marilyn Zimmer** to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family on the loss of their brother,

brother-in-law and uncle David Baltman

Sheree Davis to Evelyn Krakauer in appreciation of her Rosh HaShanah luncheon

Ira Eisen and family to Marley Greenglass in celebration of her birthday

Ilissa and Tony Katz on the yahrzeit of Ilissa's grandmother Ida Rosenthal

Stanley and Jill Segal on the yahrzeit of Stanley's father Abram Segal

Rose and Jack Steinberg to Jack Yaeger in celebration of his birthday

Gwen Yacht to Evelyn Krakauer in appreciation of her Rosh HaShanah luncheon

Michael Zitney and Deena Baltman on the yahrzeit of Michael's mother Nomi Tisch

PAULETTE VOLGYESI MEMORIAL CHESED FUND

Clare and Serge Adam to Sharon Prasow in celebration of her birthday; and to Donna and Julian Pencharz in appreciation

Joan and Alan Dessau to Joan Sheff in memory of her husband Michael Sheff; and to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Shae Eckler to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Barbara and Sid Finkelstein to the Mitzvah Committee for their support

Frances Halperin in memory of her aunt Rachel Collins; and on the yahrzeit of her grandfather Samuel Podolsky

Adele and Claude Heimann to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Brena and Tom Taylor to Marilyn Zimmer in appreciation; to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman; to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday; and to Clare Adam for a speedy recovery

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ted Berman to Wendy Peer and family in memory of their husband and father Guy Peer; and to Susan and Jeff Albaum in appreciation

Carolyn Appelbe; Claudia Dihel; Dorothy and John Richardson; Rosemary Ritchie; Laura and Mike Tabbara; and Magdalena Tamura-Reid to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Rodeen Antobus; Catherine Binhammer; Lyla Crackower; Terry Commisso; Mark Dagys; Barb Diemert; Allan Dorfman; Ina Dorfman; Peter Emsley; Judy Friedman; Norma Gibson-MacDonald; David Horrocks; Doris Kersta; Mary and Peter Lannan; Jane Pearson; Lee Pikasso; Antoinette Sacco; Rose Santucci; Jodi Shaw; Rebecca Toledano; Jim Travers; Rudyanto Tyono; and Emily Whyte in appreciation

Edward Berman to Mindy Baskin in memory of her sister Cindy Baskin; in memory of his father Alex Berman; and to Jason Cooper and Stephen and Sabrina Cooper and family in memory of their mother Barbara Cooper

Ariana Birnbaum and Timothy Brown to Rabbi Cory Weiss for all his support and teaching in preparation for their daughter Noa's Bat Mitzvah

Melissa and Jordan Cait and Heather and Steve Shnier to Rabbi Cory Weiss in appreciation

Marla David for the speedy recovery of Menachem David ben Mordechai

Joan and Alan Dessau to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman; and in memory of Bernie Goldberger

Shelley and Ken Glick to Cory and Kevin Glowinski and family in memory of their mother Merna Glowinski

Cindy and Michael Mortimer to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman

Joseph and Lauren Nadler on the yahrzeit of Joseph's father Leon Nadler

Deborah and Neil Naftolin to the Mitzvah Committee for their kindness and support

Stephen and Linda Newstead on the yahrzeit of Bonnie Newstead

Rodica Rudner in appreciation

Ron and Joodi Pollock in memory of their mother and mother-in-law Edith Pollock

Karin and James Phillipson in memory of their father and father-in-law Robbie Jacobson

Sharon and Sholem Prasow to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday; and to Victor Stein in celebration of his birthday

Pearl and Ken Rose on the *yahrzeits* of Pearl's mother Kayla Mandshein and Ken's father Morris Rose

Pamela and Danny Zimmerman and **Ashley and Adam Zimmerman** to Rabbi Cory Weiss for his guidance throughout the conversion process, and to Karen Weiss in appreciation of her assistance at the Beit Din

RABBI MICHAEL & CELIA STROH ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Steve and Marie Borlak on the *yahrzeit* of Steve's father Harvey Borlak

Adele and Claude Heimann to Rabbi Michael and Celia Stroh in celebration of their granddaughter Chloe's Bat Mitzvah

SCHEINBERG FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Shawna Adler-Soever and Ivar Soever on the *yahrzeit* of Shawna's father Alfie Adler; and to Miriam and Michael Snider in memory of their sister and sister-in-law Ellen Pomer

Melissa and Jordan Cait; and Brigitte Waisberg to Ron and Joodi Pollock in memory of their mother and mother-in-law Edith Pollock

Marcia Craft; and Lisa Rose and Sidney Fox to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman

Vickey Friedman on the *yahrzeit* of husband Murray Gould

Shelley and Ken Glick to Brena Taylor in celebration in being named Volunteer of the Year

Claude and Adele Heimann in memory of Claude's uncle Gert Rosenberg

Lisa Rose and Sid Fox to Ellen Morrow in celebration of her birthday

SECURITY FUND

Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney in memory of their brother and brother-in-law David Baltman

Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman to Lori Silverstein in celebration of her son and daughter-in-law's recent marriage

SISTERHOOD FUND

Clare and Serge Adam to Elaine Stein in appreciation

Elaine and Victor Stein to Sharon Prasow in celebration of her birthday

TARA ABRAMS LEGACY FUND for MUSIC EDUCATION and PROGRAMMING

Carol Goodman to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family on the loss of their brother, brother-in-law, and uncle David Baltman

Ora Harris and Michael Hutchins on the *yahrzeit* of Ora's mother Maxima Nassau

TEMPLE HAR ZION FUND

Clare and Serge Adam to Sheree Davis in honour of her temple presidency; to Paul Caplin for a speedy recovery; to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday; and to Sharon and Sholem Prasow in appreciation

Patty and Jonathan Bloom; and Brena and Tom Taylor to Jodi Rachman Patel and Jack Patel and family in memory of their father, father-in-law, and grandfather Harvey Rachman

Sam and Esther Cukierman on the *yahrzeit* of Sam's father Sol Cukierman

Joan and Alan Dessau to Joyce Eisen in memory of Dr. John Zeldin; to Amy Wong and family in memory of David Wan; and to the family of Barry Chapnick in memory of Barry Chapnick

Denis and Laura Farbstein on the *yahrzeit* of Denis's father Harry Farbstein

Paula and Irving Frisch to Deena Baltman and Michael Zitney and family in memory of their brother, brother-in-law and uncle David Baltman

Adam and Lindsay Gilbert on the *yahrzeit* of Adam's father Bernard Gilbert

Brian and Sandra Green on the *yahrzeit* of Brian's father Michael Green

Naomi and Saul Joel to Brena Taylor in honour of receiving the Volunteer of the Year for THZ; on the *yahrzeit* of Naomi's brother Abe Benjamin; and in memory of their son Elliot Joel

Derrick and Liz Kalmanson on the *yahrzeit* of Derrick's parents Miriam and Nathan Kalmanson

Tanya Khmurov on the *yahrzeit* of her husband Oleg Khmurov

Barry Krowitz in celebration of Paul Beard and Julie Sermer Beard's wedding

Myrna and Stephen Marcus on the *yahrzeit* of Myrna's father Irving Wineberg

Minna Mosher to Susan Rowan in appreciation for leading yoga classes

Andrea Rifkin and Jack Furman to Barbara and Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son and stepson Hartley Starkman

Natalie and Michael Rozenbojm in honour of their daughter Noa Dina's baby naming

Laurie Saunders and Peter Drutz in appreciation

Felicia Segal to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Martin and Evelyn Simon on the *yahrzeit* of Martin's mother Marian Simon

Lillian and Norman Sirota on the *yahrzeits* of Lillian's parents Fanny and Zelman Berholz and Norman's father Izzy Sirota

Marjie Zacks and Joel Rosenberg in appreciation for being given an *aliyah* on Shabbat

Brena and Tom Taylor to Ora Harris and Michael Hutchins in memory of their brother-in-law Eric Bernstein; and in memory of Tom's brother Richard Taylor

Temple Har Zion Staff and Clergy to Karen Fisher in celebration of her birthday

Pamela and Danny Zimmerman on the *yahrzeits* of Pamela's father Seymour Pepper and Danny's father Louis Zimmerman

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT and TRAVEL FUND

Bruce Cole to Seth Cole in honour of him becoming the next President of Temple Har Zion

VIDEO STREAMING FUND

Marjie Zacks and Joel Rosenberg in appreciation for being given an *aliyah* on Shabbat



DON'T MISS OUT!

Calendar, [click here](#)

Events, [click here](#)

Want to join THZ? [Click here](#)