

connect

Summer 2023 | 5783



SUNDAY JUNE 25 at 3pm

**Please join us
as we honour
Isai & Dora Scheinberg
and everyone who
participated in the SFSF**



**Please
click here
to RSVP**

All are welcome to attend
this event to celebrate the
completion of this
milestone fundraising
endeavour... the
**Scheinberg Family
Sustainability Fund**



**“Community is
about doing something
together that makes
belonging matter”**

– Brian Solis –

**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](#)

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four times per year: Spring,
Summer, Fall and Winter

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FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS 5783 | 5784

2023

Selichot	September 9
Erev Rosh HaShanah	September 15
Rosh HaShanah Day 1	September 16
Rosh HaShanah Day 2	September 17
Kol Nidre	September 24
Yom Kippur Yizkor	September 25
Erev Sukkot	September 29
Sukkot	September 30
Erev Simchat Torah	October 6
Simchat Torah & Sh'mini Atzeret Yizkor	October 7
Hanukkah 1st Candle	December 7

2024

Tu BiSh'vat	January 25
Purim	March 24
Erev Pesach 1st Seder	April 22
Pesach 1st Day 2nd Seder	April 23
Pesach 7th Day Yizkor	April 29
Yom HaShoah	May 6
Yom HaZikaron	May 13
Yom HaAtzmaut	May 14
Erev Shavuot	June 11
Shavuot Yizkor	June 12

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

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

harzion.ca/zoom
for Zoom links and Siddurim



A Rabbi's Year in Review...

by Rabbi Cory Weiss

Every now and then one of our Beit Midrash students will ask me, “Rabbi, what do you do the rest of the week after Shabbat services are done?”

Good question! What do rabbis do all week? What do we get accomplished for THZ and the greater community each year? Since this issue of *connect* is the Year-in-Review issue, I’ll tell you.

Since last summer, I’ve officiated at nine weddings (including four aufrufs), six baby namings, eleven B’nai Mitzvah, fifteen unveilings, and twelve funerals. I have completed or am in the process of working closely with ten conversion candidates (in addition to teaching two classes for the *Introduction to Jewish Living* course).

I spent ten days at Camp George on faculty, chaperoned the Grade 9 trip to Cincinnati (with Cantor Littman), and did a three-week film festival with the Grade 9s. Cantor and I co-lead T’filah at Beit Midrash on Sunday mornings (with our music specialists Jacob Rozen and Tal Rozenblit), and lead the students in “Ask the Clergy” (they have great questions!). Over the summer, I participated in our “Shabbat Fun in the Sun” activities on Friday mornings, as well as Family Programming for the holidays — a terrific way to connect with young families at THZ.

Every Tuesday, Cantor Littman, Eleanor and I sit down and plan Shabbat services. We choose melodies and readings, and rehearse anything new. The same happens with Festival services, and three to four full days are set aside for High Holy Day worship planning.

This year, we’ve created new worship experiences for THZ: Friday evening *Kavanah Shabbat*, Multi-Gen Shabbat Morning Service; and brought Festival of Fives back after a three-year-long COVID absence. One of my favourite activities each year is helping to write our Purim Shpiel with Cantor, Eleanor, and Jessie Saunders-Drutz.

In the synagogue office, we have weekly Senior Staff Meetings, monthly All-Staff Meetings, and lots of informal one-on-ones. The president of THZ and I meet weekly, and I attend Board, Executive, and committee meetings on a monthly basis.

I’m truly blessed to have an assistant as able as Jaye Goldberg, who does all of my scheduling, correspondence, and so many other things for me and the synagogue community (including THZ communications such as *connect*, promos, and everything on the Temple calendar). She schedules hospital and home visits, shiva visits, B’nai Mitzvah meetings, and counseling sessions.

In the larger community, I serve on the Executive Committee of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, and meet monthly with the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto. I’m also a member of the Reform Rabbis of Canada, which had a get-together in March in Ottawa for advocacy.

I do as much as I’m able to as a Chaplain for the York Regional Police, including ceremonial duties, training, and giving talks to new recruits at the synagogue.

Judy Silver and I give *Introduction to Judaism* talks to dozens of High School World Religion classes from all over the province. And on top of that, I still find time to participate in the Greater Toronto Interfaith Clergy Curling Club (along with the Cantor).

I’m sure that I’ve left things out, but that’s just a taste of what your rabbi does between Shabbat services!

I feel blessed every day that I get to do what I do, that every day is different, and that I have such a wonderful community to serve. I’m looking forward to a wonderful 5784 with everyone in the Har Zion family!

L’Shalom,



A Year of Firsts

by Cantor Rachael Littman

The summer issue of *connect* is a “Year in Review” and I’ve chosen to share with you my list of “firsts” at Temple Har Zion. I have tried to construct a chronological list of meaningful events that I’ve been part of as your cantor over this last fiscal year. Please forgive, and feel free to remind me, if I have left out an event you wish was noted.

I am most grateful that finally, after three years at THZ, I have begun to feel as though I have met more and more of you in person (and seen most of your faces without masks). I cannot express what an honour and privilege it is to have been welcomed into so many of your lives through the various lifecycle events that the Rabbi and I often officiate together.

Thank you for allowing me to enter your lives and the lives of your loved ones during what may be, at the best of times, for a most joyous occasion but sadly, also the terribly difficult times when you may feel most vulnerable.

It is throughout all of these lifecycles that I am most grateful to be your cantor and offer pastoral support.

In short, it’s been a busy year, and a great year!

FYI, I have also included events that have not yet taken place at the time of writing this article but will have, prior to publication.

“Let’s start at the very beginning. A very good place to start.”

Kabbalat Shabbat Services in the Davis-Yacht Garden: A wonderfully warm and inclusive service, since it included the hot sun on my face and the noise of the planes and trains.

Shabbat Fun in the Sun: This program for very young children was a great way to connect with some young families at Temple and meet potential new members.

Camp George: Serving as faculty and attending sleepaway camp for my first time ever was the amazing experience I was told it would be. I’m looking forward to returning in July.

Singing with the Choir at High Holy Days which included double services on the first day of Rosh HaShanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur morning.

Founded THZ Heals Together with Susan Albaum, leading grief groups that met from the spring of 2022 through December. Groups will begin again in 2023.

Teaching B’nai Mitzvah students in person: Having a 3-D relationship with these students only added to the joy of teaching.

Teaching Trope at Beit Ivrit: Preparing and getting to know the upcoming B’nai Mitzvah class encourages and strengthens our connection with each other.

COVID. Enough said.

Overseeing a new curriculum for Grade 9 students at Beit Noar: In addition to finding new and engaging ways to connect with this age group (14-15 years of age), a major goal was to help students discover meaning and build emotional resiliency by utilizing healthier coping tools innate to Judaism.

Being the headliner at Sisterhood’s “Haymishe Holiday Happening”.

Co-leading services with Hazzanit Tara Abrams, Ian Silver, Julie Sermer, Robyn Rozen and finally, being afforded the opportunity to work with other talented members of THZ including both lay and professional musicians.

Participating in **Women of Reform Judaism** “Building Bridges with Jews Around the World” event.

Shabbat Shira: Singing Rabbi Weiss' composition "*Song of the Sea*" with the adult choir and Beit Midrash students.

"Little Shpiel of Horrors": A Purim Shpiel with a full house... and a very large, carnivorous plant!

Our annual memorial program for Yom HaShoah: Having the honour of our member Shary Fine joining us in person and being featured in a short documentary. Shary is one of THZ's last (poo, poo, poo) Holocaust survivors. She was joined by second generation speaker Willie Handler, and third generation speaker Corey Birnbaum, whom together honoured their dear friend and mother, Elaine Birnbaum z"l, continuing the legacy of her participation and dedication to Holocaust education.

Singing in the first ever **"Concert of Reform Cantors and Cantorial**

Soloists of Canada" where so many THZ congregants attended in person and via livestream.

Celebrating the Festival of Fives, (milestone wedding anniversaries) with the Friday Night Live Band.

Awarded a trophy for the "most improved curler" within the interfaith clergy curling team at a banquet held at THZ.

Meeting of two Boards: Having a sit down with our neighbours at the Imam Mahdi Islamic Centre.

Teaching "How to read from the Torah; learn trope and much more..." @8pm on Monday evenings via Zoom and "How to lead a shiva minyan" via private lessons. For more information, please click [here](#) to contact Sarah.

Disney Masquerade Ball: What fun to dress as Belle and interact with all the kids!

Opera Meets Broadway: Performed in concert with Cantor David Young and his choir at the Lodzer Centre Congregation with Hazzan Tibor Kovari from Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

I hope you were able to attend some of these firsts and that you enjoyed yourself as much as I did (except for COVID, of course).

Hoping that you'll have a musically enriched summer, and that I'll see you in the Davis-Yacht Garden and the Debby Kaplan Sanctuary, where we'll be creating more beautiful and meaningful services together.

L'Shalom,



THZ'S MITZVAH COMMITTEE

is looking to add more volunteer service leaders to our roster

When someone dies, the family sits shiva, and volunteer leaders from our Mitzvah Committee lead the *maariv* (evening) service each evening, for up to six nights.

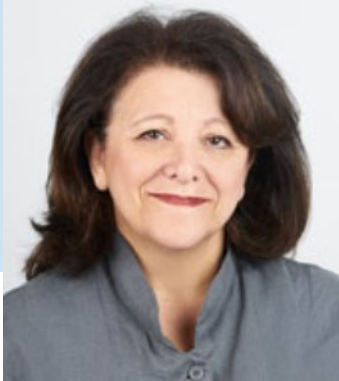
Because our tradition is to bury the deceased as quickly as possible, service leaders are called on to lead on short notice. Many rearrange their schedules in order to serve.

LEADING IS A TRUE MITZVAH

If you are comfortable reading in front of a sometimes-large group of people, and familiar with our service, please consider joining the committee. **Cantor Littman will train you!**

Each of our leaders leads in their own individual way — some sing, some read. Some use more Hebrew, some less. Each Mitzvah Committee member has their own style — and that's great!

Whether you'd like to join, or you want more information, please click [here](#) to get in touch with our committee. Email .



It has been a privilege

by **Sheree Davis**
Outgoing THZ President

Serving as president of Temple Har Zion has been a privilege I was neither expecting nor seeking, but for which I am very grateful. No two days have been alike. The truth is that you never know what you're in for until the phone rings, and it's always an adventure.

At the beginning of my term, I committed to:

- ▶ Safely bring our membership back into our Temple home
- ▶ Put Temple on a path of fiscal balance
- ▶ Ensure the development of a 5-year strategic plan and priorities for Temple to direct us as we move forward

I also committed to recruit the right executive director to support our long-term path forward.

In-person worship, learning, lifecycle events, community celebrations, and socialization have all resumed and are continuing to expand. This happened while keeping the health and safety of our members, employees and guests uppermost in our decision-making.

We launched and completed the Scheinberg Family Sustainability Fund campaign raising \$750K.

We updated our budgeting processes, sponsorship opportunities, event fees, and fees for the use of our facilities. We now lease the use of our Library on Shabbat mornings to another congregation — Kehillat Chaverim.

We've secured a permit to participate in charitable bingo at a local bingo hall beginning in July of this year.

Our school registration is on the rise.

The focus of my term has been about revitalization, and planning for our future sustainability as a congregation.

Our new strategic plan was presented at the November Annual Meeting. It outlined opportunities and challenges and reflected the interests of our membership. It laid out six priorities as we moved forward: (i) Embrace Diversity, (ii) Develop a New Funding Model, (iii) Attract & Engage Younger Members, (iv) Improve Responsiveness to Members & their Needs, (v) Increase our Focus on Tikkun Olam & Israel, and (vi) Ensure our Governance Model Supports the Strategic Focus.

Work is underway and you can read more about it in the strategic plan update on page 34.

The successes we've witnessed in my two years as president are a credit to

the outstanding people who worked here alongside me.

It begins with my partners and advisors — our Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Rabbi Weiss, Cantor Littman, and our two executive directors — Morris Maron, and Rachel Saslove, who is an exceptional addition to our senior management. It includes Judy Silver and her amazing team of teachers, Julie Sermer and Paul Beard, our Youth advisors and Madrichim Coordinator Dream Team, and Eleanor Ackerman Rice and our choir.

It also includes our auxiliaries — Sisterhood, Brotherhood, MHarZY and JHAZY; our committees, working groups, task forces and all of the dedicated volunteers involved; as well as our past presidents.

I thank each and every one of you.

The people with whom I have interacted with most frequently and who are one of our best kept secrets at THZ are the members of our office team — Marie Corvese, Jaye Goldberg and Sarah Greene. These women support us every day in more ways than you might imagine. Nothing works without them.

Last, but far from least, I thank you, our Temple membership. Members

have consistently taken the time to speak with me directly, through a Board member or one of my sisters. Whether you sent a note, email, a text, or made a call when you had an observation, suggestion, constructive criticism, praise or simply a memory to share, I thank you for your initiative and candor.

Each Temple Har Zion president brings something different to this sacred responsibility — in part because of who we are, and because of where Temple is on its journey.

A large part of our success is due to the partnership built between a president and rabbi. I am grateful to Rabbi Weiss for ensuring that we worked as partners in an atmosphere of mutual respect, compassion and frankness with a shared vision for our Temple's future.

I'm sure all of you are as pleased as I am to welcome Seth Cole as Temple's new president. I have no doubt that he is the right leader to propel us forward. Along with Rachel Saslove and her team, I will do all that I can

to ensure a smooth transition. I know that you will do the same.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity, the experience and for your trust and kindness.

My very best,



P.S. Don't forget to join us at the **AGM on Tuesday June 20**, followed by our Volunteer Recognition Reception.

ONCA: What is it? What does it mean for Temple?

In October of 2024, the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) will come into force. It is the new governing framework for not-for-profit corporations. THZ is a not-for-profit corporation and a charitable organization. We have until October 2024 to review, update and submit member approved changes to Articles of Incorporation and Temple Bylaws for approval by both the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), and Ontario's Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT).

Our current bylaw already addresses many of the ONCA requirements; some however, require modification whether for new provisions or greater specificity.

Some of the new changes include:

- ◆ Proxies must attend in person
- ◆ Specific requirements for member resignation
- ◆ New membership requirements
- ◆ No dissenting member rights
- ◆ Greater member access to financial records
- ◆ Directors providing written consent to serve
- ◆ A duty of care for directors
- ◆ Directors are elected

- ◆ Requirement for directors to manage or supervise the management of the activities and affairs of the corporation.
- ◆ Limits on the ability of directors to delegate their powers to a managing director or a committee of directors (e.g., an executive committee)
- ◆ Officers are appointed by the new Board of Directors
- ◆ Broader conflict of interest provisions for directors and officers
- ◆ Full audit required when annual revenue is \$500,000+
- ◆ Can engage in activities of a commercial nature if the activities support the not-for-profit purpose
- ◆ Rules for dissolution of the organization

We've drafted amendments to the bylaw and are reviewing changes to our articles of incorporation. We're enlisting the assistance of a legal firm to ensure that the amendments will be compliant and to assist in the submission process. These amendments will come to a Special Meeting of Members in November 2023 or, if necessary, no later than February 2024.



Batter Up!

by Seth Cole
Incoming THZ President

As I will be assuming the role of Temple Har Zion president shortly, this is a good opportunity for me to introduce myself to those members who don't know me, and maybe provide more insight to those that I've known for a short or long period of time.

I grew up in a Reform Jewish household in Toronto and attended Religious/Hebrew School at Temple Sinai from Grade 2, through to Confirmation (which I know Rabbi Weiss holds dear 😊).

After I married Roberta, we attended High Holy Day services yearly in Guelph, where she grew up and her family were members. Once our daughter Sharon was about to begin JK, we joined Temple Har Zion for its thriving and active religious school and religious culture that met our needs. Two years later, our son Jarred started religious school and, with our

children making friends with their classmates, we developed friendships with the other parents, too.

With Sharon and Jarred happily ensconced in religious school, it was time for Roberta and me to start our involvement in Temple life. Roberta was active in the Festival Committee and the Education Committee, along with related Education Task Forces. I joined the Membership Committee (that is being brought back as part of the Strategic Plan), chaired the House Committee and the Back to Shul Task Force, and sat on both the Board and Executive.

All of these opportunities allowed me to learn about different aspects of THZ and hone my leadership skills. When asked to step forward and help to shape the synagogue's direction by becoming the next president, I consulted with Roberta and a few former presidents, and

decided to take the step (or giant leap) and agreed to become our next president.

Along with managing the affairs of Temple, I'll continue to work in my other roles as an elementary school teacher with TDSB, and as associate director at a residential summer camp. These two vocations have provided me with strong leadership, communication, and detail-oriented planning skills to help lead THZ into the post-COVID revitalization years.

To help me relax and unwind, I love to read a good book, try to swim three times a week, and spend summers cheering for the Toronto Blue Jays.

In the next edition of *connect*, I will relay my goals as president.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION

TUESDAY JUNE 20, 2023 at 7:30pm

Please join us

Brena Taylor

2023 Volunteer of the Year



The Taylor family joined Temple Har Zion in the fall of 1995. As Brena often tells new members, she immediately got involved with Temple activities — becoming a regular at Torah Study and joining the Religious Education, Mitzvah and Worship committees. Brena became a member of the choir in 2002. And, her children Charles and Brooke, completed the THZ “Hat Trick” i.e., religious school, b’nai mitzvah and confirmation.

Brena has served, or is currently serving, as a member of the Youth and Education Committee, AV System Streaming Support Team, Security Implementation Committee, COVID-19 Response Team, Music Committee, Worship Committee, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group, Golf Committee and the Mitzvah Committee; as a regular b’nai mitzvah rehearsal coach, a volunteer on the High Holy Days, a regular Torah/Haftarah reader and Shabbat lay leader, not to mention our most frequent Shabbat Gabbai. And, in case you haven’t seen her, she is also the first one to dance through the sanctuary!

Brena has led the successful Scheinberg Family Sustainability Fund campaign, which raised \$750K (in record time) for the long-term sustainability of our Temple, and participated in other successful congregational fundraising campaigns. She has also chaired the Fundraising and Religious Education Committees; served on the Sisterhood Board, Temple Board, Executive Committee; as Temple president during the COVID lockdown, and most recently as immediate past president.

For Brena, volunteering means stepping in well beyond leadership roles. She is also a person who consistently offers to pick up groceries, deliver packages, visit a member who is unwell, stuff gift bags, give a member or Shin a lift home, drop by with baking, or call to check in. While Brena may be stepping off the Board this year, it is her wisdom, positive outlook and vast Temple knowledge that has helped to lead us and she will be sorely missed. But we can count on the fact that she will not slow down volunteering at Temple. Her husband Tom aptly calls her a “Career Volunteer”.

The **Howard Malach z”l Volunteer of the Year Recognition Award** was established to honour Howard, who was a long-time Temple volunteer. His family created this award to honour his legacy of service to our Temple, by recognizing one or two Temple volunteers whose impact has been exceptional.

We honour Brena with the Howard Malach z”l Volunteer of the Year award for her almost three decades of exceptional, impactful, and loving volunteerism at Temple Har Zion.

We are grateful for her abiding commitment, leadership and love for our Temple family.

She epitomizes the best of who we are.

mazel tov!



Looking Back, Looking Forward

by Rachel Saslove
Executive Director

As I approach the 3/4 mark of my first year as executive director of Temple Har Zion, there is a lot to reflect on, a lot to be proud of, and a bright future with a lot of hard work ahead.

My professional journey at Temple began just about one week after High Holy Days 2022 — our second ever multi-access High Holy Days where we had congregants joining both in person and online. It has been my pleasure to meet and reconnect with many of you over the past 8ish months and I look forward to seeing you all again and again. As I learn more and more about the membership as a whole and about each of you individually, I am continually impressed by the incredible composition of our congregation.

The generosity of this community is extremely moving. This year, there were many meaningful and generous donations and sponsorships made, which culminated in an outstanding achievement of reaching our matching goal for the Scheinberg Family Sustainability Fund — ensuring the sustainable future of our beloved synagogue. A hearty *Kol HaKavod* to all those who made this happen! Since I've been here, my eyes have been opened to the generosity of our amazing volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance everything that happens at

Temple. Thank you for your support in the many ways in which you give!

There have been many behind-the-scene changes this year at Temple Har Zion. In addition to adjusting our regular programming to accommodate for in-person and virtual access, we have introduced new administrative systems and forms, school and member recruitment programs, changes to our custodian and security schedule and staff, among many others. While it will take some time to get fully adjusted and running smoothly, these are all positive steps in the right direction.

The Temple Har Zion staff have embraced and led these changes with an open mind, ready to contribute to the future of Temple. I have challenged our staff team often over the past number of months, and each time they have risen to the occasion. I am proud of the work they do every day, and especially when on top of our very busy business as usual, the team happily rallies to participate in all sorts of ways around Temple (like an unforgettable Purim Shpiel). Whether centre stage or behind the scenes, the THZ team is made up of superstars!

I also want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous dedication and commitment of Sheree Davis, as she transitions from being president to immediate past president. Sheree's

guidance, vast institutional knowledge and patience have contributed greatly to the success of Temple over the past two years. Mazel Tov and *Todah Rabah*, Sheree!

I look forward to continuing to work with my trusted partners — our committed soon-to-be President Seth Cole and our always inspirational clergy, Rabbi Cory Weiss and Cantor Rachael Littman. I am blessed to work with such a dedicated and creative team of professionals, lay leaders — including our board of directors, and volunteers, who all work together to accomplish something that is larger than the sum of its parts.

To make the most of your membership, I encourage you to get involved at Temple in any way that speaks to you. With opportunities throughout the year for worship, learning, programming for all ages and genres, and many meaningful ways to volunteer, the possibilities to give and receive are here for you.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who are part of the fabric that makes Temple Har Zion the truly special place that it is. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve our community in such a meaningful way.

Rachel

THZ by the numbers from 2022-2023

36 children in-person for Shabbat Fun in the Sun

62 students in THZ School

27 THZ campers & staff at Camp George (summer 2022)

over **200** people at our 5783 Purim Carnival & Shpiel

BABY NAMINGS **6**

85+ members attended the *first* congregational Shabbat dinner in over 2 years!

CONSECRATIONS **7**

28 couples were celebrated at our 5783 Festival of Fives

B'NAI MITZVAH **11**

445 MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS, including:

CONVERSIONS **10**

22 with members for 50+ years

AUFRUFS **4**

144 with members for 25-50 years

WEDDINGS **9**

71 with members for 15-25 years

FUNERALS **12**

137 with members for 5-15 years

UNVEILINGS **15**

71 with members for less than 5 years



The power of music

by Eleanor Ackerman Rice
Music Director

From Professor Google:
"Why music is so powerful?"

Listening to — or making — music increases blood flow to brain regions that generate and control emotions. The limbic system, involved with processing emotions and controlling memory, "lights" up when our ears perceive music."

That explains why I sometimes get teary listening to MYSELF PLAY!

At every special event or religious service at THZ, my goal is to create a musical landscape, to enhance and support its success — and there has been a lot of success.

At the start of the New Year, our choir gave their talent and energy to sing through double services, morning and night. Our music moved us into the year 5783 with hope for a true "return".

The monthly Kol Bo Service brought a *ruach*, spirit, to our Sanctuary possibly only outdone by...

This year's amazing **PURIM SHPIEL!** The fear factor of Haman would not have been quite so spectacular without Jason Silzer "managing" our man-eating plant!

I was so happy to debut my new composition "*Sim Shalom*" at our first Multi-Generational Service in April. Cantor Littman, our choir, and Cheryl Ackerman performed it with loving care. I will cherish that moment for a long time.

This year, we had to deal with an unusual musical emergency — we needed a new Kedushah for our Shabbat Service. Thank you all for welcoming my composition and for singing it! I know now how Billy Joel must feel at the Air Canada Centre when he hears everyone singing "*Piano Man*"!

I welcomed the Friday Night Live Band (FNL) to practice for the Festival of Fives Service and celebration. This was the very first time we had a band play at THZ in three years!

A big thank you to this year's FNL band members: Tal Rozenblit, Michael Snider, Avi Bachar, Ian Silver and Ben Zelnicker.

My dad used to say to my sister about her beautiful silver flute, "*You're only as good as your instrument.*" Well, I'm only as good as the people I perform with: our talented Rabbi Weiss, our gifted Cantor Littman, our dedicated Canaries in the bay, all of our THZ musicians and, of course, Serge Adam who makes us all sound our best!

The power of music may in fact be reduced to a biological chemical reaction, as Google said. What is important to me, however, is that here at Temple Har Zion, the ultimate power of music is always to **Connect, Engage and Inspire** and to light up your limbic system!

Eleanor





Kavanah Shabbat: A Meditative-Musical Shabbat Experience

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.”

Join Rabbi Cory Weiss, Cantor Rachael Littman, and Music Director Eleanor Ackerman Rice at our new kind of worship experience: KAVANAH SHABBAT. Taking place on the second Friday night of the month, we'll 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. Please join us for this new, experimental service. Come with an open mind and an open heart!

Many members came up to us after the inaugural service in May and told us they'd never felt so relaxed at the end of a busy week!



A gorgeous Festival of Fives!

by Karen Weiss & Lisa Dessau
Festival of Fives Co-Chairs

What was so fabulous about our Festival of Fives, celebrating significant wedding anniversaries?

Here are the top 5 ways that it was wonderful:

Number 5: We brought back this sweet and meaningful tradition after missing it for three years during the pandemic.

Number 4: Couples marked years of marriage that were multiples of five, plus some that would have been celebrated during the years we missed. We had 28 couples register!

Number 3: After a 3-year hiatus, the Friday Night Live Band reconvened and played throughout the Friday night service. Only one rehearsal, but they made some joyful noise!



Number 2: What a delicious and beautiful Oneg we had! The cake, fruit, and cookies were enjoyed by

their wedding vows shone with a joy that was felt by all. The Festival of Fives reminded everyone why



all. The couples AND the Halberstadt Social Hall were adorned with colourful flowers (made of silk so no allergies!) and Spring was in the air.

And finally, **Number 1:** The couples' faces as they stood and renewed

marriage in Judaism is called "Kiddushin" — a holy bond.

Mazel tov to the couples and their families. We'll see a new group of lovebirds next year!

Karen & Lisa

a joyful celebration!



Golf and Raffle Updates!

Tony Katz & Eric Birnberg
Golf Committee Co-Chairs

The countdown has begun to our 26th Annual THZ/Dick Grimm Memorial Classic on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, with our Annual THZ Raffle to be held shortly thereafter. Golfers and non-golfers are welcome to participate in the raffle!

We'll be golfing at the beautiful Royal Ashburn Golf Club in Whitby, whose golf course is ranked as one of the top 50 in Canada, but is designed for players of all abilities.

Between the golf tournament and the raffle, significant funds are raised, with all proceeds supporting Temple and community programs, such as:

- ◆ Youth and adult education
- ◆ Assisting soldiers with PTSD
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Interfaith dialogue

[Click here](#) to enter the RAFFLE!
Make your purchase while checking out some of the fabulous prizes you could win!

It's almost tee time!

[Click here](#) to register for GOLF!
We're still looking for a few singles and pairs to fill out our 36 foursome teams. Golfers of all levels are welcome, and need not be THZ members. This year marks the return to our traditional "shotgun" start, with all players receiving a "grab and go" breakfast. The tournament will conclude with a sit down lunch and prize ceremony.

[Click here](#) to be a tournament, hole or golfer SPONSOR!
We value your participation, and we'll be honoured to display your signage in recognition!

[Click here](#) to VOLUNTEER!
Enjoy the day (June 27) in the fresh outdoors, interacting with our golfers and our friendly team of volunteers, whether for the entire tournament or for a single shift. We can always use the help!

With a little cooperation from the weather, we're looking forward to our best tournament yet!

Our heartfelt thanks for your continued support! We hope to see you there!

Tony & Eric



Did you know that...?

WE HAD 16 NEW STUDENTS THIS YEAR?

8 of them came through our "Explore 4" program!!

We are so excited to welcome them and that they are here learning with us!

WE OFFER A PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEERS AT BEIT IVRIT on Tuesday afternoons?

It's called "Hebrew Learning Partners" (HeLPers). Qualifications? You must be able to read Hebrew and you must enjoy hanging out with our students and making a difference!

Write to judy@harzion.ca for more information!

2022-2023 MARKED OUR FIRST TIME BACK IN THE SCHOOL for the entire school year since 2018?

OUR BEIT NOAR STUDENTS WENT ON TWO GETAWAYS?

Grade 7-8 went to Lake St. George for a weekend retreat and Grade 9 travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio with Rabbi Weiss and Cantor Littman.

Next year's trips will be a return to Lake St. George, Montreal and New York City!

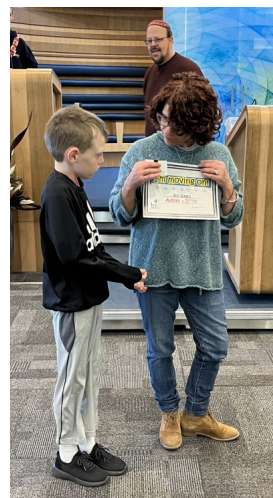
OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS START LEARNING HEBREW through "Hebrew Through Movement" every week?

By the time they get to Beit Ivrit in Grade 3, they will have had an introduction to basic Hebrew vocabulary and the Hebrew Alef-Bet!

OUR NEWEST SHINSHINIT IS SHIRA ELIAHU?

She'll be arriving in Toronto in August! Shira is so excited to be in Toronto (and Canada) for the first time!

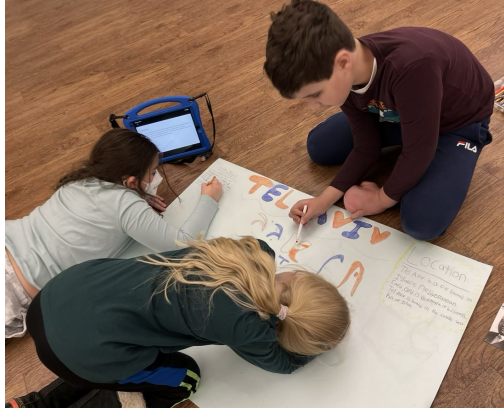
School is cool!



connect

engage

inspire





So many thanks!

by **Judy Silver**
Director of Education

There are so many thanks to spread around for such a great school year! I am in awe of the dedication and imagination of our teachers, madrichim, staff and volunteers. How many people does it take to run a school? This many!

Our teaching staff is an education director's dream. Thank you all for an amazing year of learning and fun.

Beit Midrash

Freida Firkser: Grade JK-K



Allison Board: Grade 1-2



Zoey Schwartz: Grade 3-4



Sarah Greene: Grade 5-6



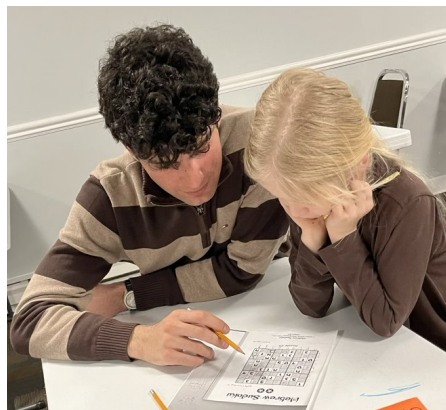
Jacob Rozen and Tal Rozenblit: Music



Marnee Birnbaum-Pearl: Cooking



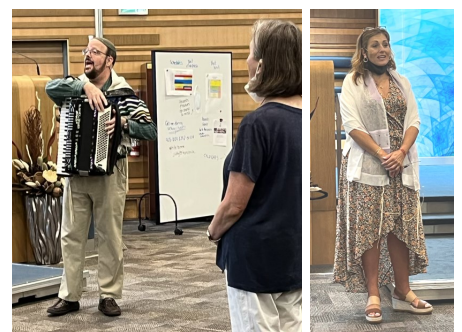
Yuval Malach: Shin Extraordinaire



Paul Beard and Julie Sermer:
Madrichim Coordinators and
Youth Group Advisors



**Rabbi Cory Weiss and
Cantor Rachael Littman: T'filah**



Beit Noar

Ally Saks: Grade 7-8



Cantor Rachael Littman: Grade 9

Our Grade 9 guest teachers and speakers:

Paul Beard and Julie Sermer

Marnee Birnbaum-Pearl

Freida Firkser

Rabbi Cory Weiss

Oded Oren

Yuval Malach

Shoreish

Beit Ivrit

Allison Board: Grade 3-4

Lena Oded: Grade 5



Sarah Greene: Grade 6

Cantor Rachael Littman:

Grade 6 Trope

Yuval Malach

Our ever talented, friendly, imaginative, joyful ShinShin — Yuval Malach!

(It bears repeating)

Madrichim

They actually choose to come to Har Zion every Sunday morning!

They are amazing.

Jordan Beard, Sarah Board, Noah Ciavarella, Shelby Greenwood, Hanna Lubelski, Hannah Rozen, Joely Rybak, Michaela Winterstein,



Noah Prizant, Nathan Lakrits, James Castiglione, Lindsay Westreich, Jarryd Shneer, Harrison Greene

Hebrew Learning Partners

(HeLPers): Our Hebrew helpers came — they helped and they left with a smile on their faces!

Suzi Winterstein



Frances Halperin



Karen Weiss



Jessie Saunders-Drutz & Daniel Singer



Substitute Teachers

They were ready to step in when we most needed them!

Ellen Morrow

Jared Gershon

Kevin Greene

Zev Gershon

The Youth Committee!

Meeting, stepping in to cook, share ideas and help guide me all year long:

Julie Sermer

Sarah Greene

Brena Taylor

Brian Rybak

Melissa Kline

Paul Beard

Rachel Saslove

The Temple Board and Executive Board

They meet regularly, make decisions and have been supportive of all our school programs.

Thank you so much!

Last, (but certainly not least), is everyone I have the privilege of working with every week:

Supportive, kind, fun. Could it be any better?

Sarah Greene, Jaye Goldberg, Marie Corvese, Eleanor Ackerman Rice, Rachel Saslove, Cantor Rachael Littman, Rabbi Cory Weiss.

We are one lucky synagogue!

July

Don't miss this great video of the past school year! [CLICK HERE!](#)

School registration for 2023-2024 is open. [CLICK HERE](#) to register!



And that's a wrap!

by Sarah Greene
Grade 5/6 Beit Midrash

On April 16, the Grade 5/6 Beit Midrash class had the first ever **art installation** that showcased some influential Jewish artists and various cities in Israel. In case you missed it, please take a look at some of the highlights of this great event!



May 13: Grade 6 Sleepover @THZ!



Fun in the Sun!
Last day of
Beit Midrash!



GRADE 6 SLEEPOVER PACKING LIST

- SLEEPING BAG
- PILLOW
- STUFFIES (OPTIONAL)
- PAJAMAS
- TOILETRIES
- SLIPPERS (OPTIONAL)
- CHANGE OF CLOTHING
- ANY MEDICATION NEEDED
- \$5 FOR PIZZA
- SHAREABLE SNACK





Youth engagement for everyone!

by Julie Sermer & Paul Beard
Youth Group Advisors

Youth Groups and the THZ Madrichim Program

We're the THZ Youth Group Advisors, Julie Sermer and Paul Beard. 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-/8-aged Junior Youth Group (JHAZY).

This year our teens participated in a variety of social programs as well as social action activities. Some of our teens traveled to regional NFTY-NEL weekends and many contributed their time and enthusiasm to special events at Temple.

For our final big social program of the year, we took more than a dozen teens to the Rogers Centre to see the Blue Jays play the Braves. We had a fantastic time!

Calling all teens... we hope that you get involved in youth group programs next year! There is something for everyone. Come as a participant, or get involved in planning a program, or take on an active role on our youth group executive.



We're also the Madrichim Coordinators at THZ. We organize, supervise, and instruct teens who volunteer or work at our school. This year we had an



incredible group of eleven Madrichim working with our teachers and students at Beit Midrash and Beit Ivrit.

Being a Madrich(a) is an incredibly valuable experience. Youth from Grades 7 to 12 work with our teachers and younger students, helping in the classroom and developing leadership,



teaching, and management skills. Madrichim are volunteers until the last half of Grade 10. In Grade 9 they can earn volunteer hours needed towards high school graduation. In Grade 10, they can count their Madrichim volunteer hours towards their Confirmation community service requirement. Beginning in the second half of Grade 10 until Grade 12, Madrichim get paid!

Many have gone on to become teachers in our school. Wherever they end up, our Madrichim gain valuable working and life experience that looks fantastic on a resume! We also give great job and university references. We'll be reaching out to all Grade 7 to Grade 12 students in the next few months about this wonderful opportunity.

Questions? Want to get involved?
[Click here](#) to send us an email.

Julie + Paul :)

An open letter to Yuval from your little supervisor

Dear Yuval!

Thank you so much for putting your **heart and soul** into your time in Toronto with Temple Har Zion.

I can tell you some things that are certain: **You will be greatly missed.** You have successfully brought Israel to Canada.

Your ICC's were outstanding — fun, insightful, creative and interesting. We loved hearing your opinions when you delivered your *D'verei Yisrael* on Shabbat.

You have made a huge impact on our students: **They will remember you.** They now know more about Israel than they did before! You now understand what “cold” is. You have a better understanding of Reform Judaism.

You will always have a home here at Temple Har Zion and when you come back to visit, it will involve many hugs.

We all wish you the **best of luck and health** during the next stage of your



journey. Please keep in touch and remember us when you are safely back home in Israel.

I so enjoyed working with you. Thank you for making this year a fantastic one!

(*L'hitraot*. See you again!
Judy)

להיתראות!
ג'ודי



The feeling of belonging...

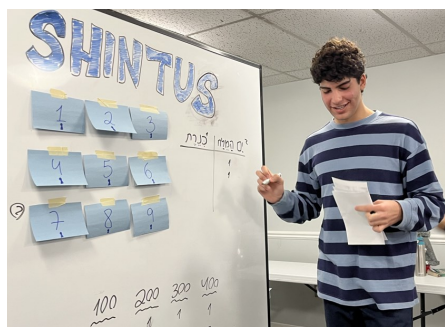
by Yuval Malach
THZ's ShinShin 2022/2023

The amazing year that I had the privilege of spending at Temple Har Zion has come to an end. Summarizing things and describing them in the past tense is a strange feeling. My year in the synagogue was divided into several parts, and each one of them had a different significant part within my year of service, before I join the army.

Somewhere at the end of August, I came to the synagogue for the first time, and three weeks later I started my first activities with the students — and since then we have done so much together!

Every Sunday I came to Temple Har Zion and delivered activities about Israel and the unique things in it, about nature, society, innovation, and more. The children and I learned about different and diverse topics,

starting with Israeli inventions, and kibbutzim through snacks and Israeli food to Israeli cartoons. We played games, explored, watched and even almost milked a cow!



From Sunday, I will move to Tuesday when I had the great privilege of participating in Beit Ivrit. On Tuesdays I helped teach the students Hebrew, to read and write, while before the start of the day, we played board games from Israel, and for forty minutes we played games that combined the Hebrew language and Israel.



On Fridays and Saturdays, I had the honour of giving a speech to the synagogue community about various current events in Israel from my personal point of view. Throughout the year I tried to deal with important issues that are at the forefront of public discourse in Israel, present coverage and facts and also give some points for thought.

The events in Israel provided me, again and again, with new topics to write about.

Throughout the year I dealt with different and diverse topics. Some of them had a personal connection to my life story, such as the condition of the sea turtles on the beach where I like to spend time in Israel, or the story of my grandparents' immigration, and there were topics that were of timely importance, such as the elections in Israel, the legal reform, the Eurovision Song Contest and the terrorist attacks that hit Israel.





Israeli society and the diverse beauty of Israel. In the first program, we played a human-sized game of monopoly about Israeli inventions, later we made my favorite dish from Israel, Malabi. Slowly we deepened the discussion more and more, and explored Israeli society through dilemmas, films, and Israeli music.

I had the honour of spending this past year together with the amazing THZ community who welcomed me with open arms, every time I tried to bring Israel from the purest, most recent, and most accurate place.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to do so. I want to thank you for the experiences and memories that I will take with me for years to come and for the feeling of belonging to such an amazing and unique place.

Also, every month I created different program for adults at Har Zion, an Israeli Culture Club, which was my favourite project of the year.

Each month I presented more and more topics that, in my eyes, make up



Love a lot,

Yuval





Thank you, Yuval & welcome to Shira!

by Shelly Bacher

THZ Lay Leader for UJA ShinShinim Program

Thank you, Yuval and welcome to Shira!

This year, Temple Har Zion was so lucky to have **Yuval Malach** join us as our Shin!

Yuval, you quickly became part of our Temple family. For our students, you were an exciting, new (tall) Israeli teacher to get to know and learn from. You worked closely with Judy to create amazing programs for our students — enhancing their understanding of, and appreciation for, Israel. You also shared your perspectives at Shabbat Friday night and Saturday morning services and took part in festival celebrations throughout the year.

Focusing on different themes, you engaged adults at your Israel Culture Club to learn a bit more about cultural aspects of Israel through food, music, games, movies, politics and more. In April, you and the rest of the Shins created incredibly meaningful events surrounding the “Yoms” —



Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut! Now, it's time to get ready for summer camp in Canada at Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa! We wish you an amazing summer to end your year of service — *Shenat Sherut*. Yuval, thank you for being such an incredible emissary from Israel!

We also are getting excited to welcome **Shira Eliahu** to our THZ family for the coming year. She is part of the 17th *Kommunah* (community of students) to come to Toronto. She's excited to join us to teach about 'her Israel' and gain an understanding about Reform Judaism that she can take back with her to her family and community. Shira will be arriving at the end of August to begin her orientation. She'll join us in September.

[Click here](#) to check out the VIDEO that Shira and her partner, Mor Tarshish, put together to introduce themselves to us.

Host our ShinShinit!

Host families are a key part of the UJA ShinShinim program. They provide a loving home away from home. My family has hosted three times and we continue to have strong connections with many of the Shins.

Are you a family that wants to share your home with a Shin next year?



Think about it — you get to welcome an Israeli teen to your family, learn about their lives, and share your perspectives and traditions with them!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program...

We are looking for host families from THZ and I'd love to speak to your family about this fantastic experience!

L'hitraot, Yuval, and we look forward to welcoming you, Shira.

Shelly

Israel@75 Kol Bo Shabbat



On April 21, we gathered in joy to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel at our Israel@75 Kol Bo Shabbat Service and Dinner. We danced, we sang, we ate!





Har Zion's second seder: Dayeinu!

by Karen Weiss
Co-Chair, Community Second Seder

The 2023 THZ Annual Community Second Seder was another success in the event's long history. Although we couldn't hold seders in 2020 and 2021, we bounced back in 2022, and were thrilled to have 39 people attending this past April 2023.

Har Zion members, along with their families and friends, gathered in the Social Hall to celebrate the second night of Pesach. The seder was led by Rabbi Weiss and Cantor Littman, using the very accessible *"Gates of Freedom"* haggadah.

We listened, we read, we chanted, and we sang. Then we ate! The festive meal was catered by (our own) *Chef On The Go*, with gifts of gefilte fish from THZ President Sheree Davis and charoset from Karen Weiss.

The Community Second Seder Committee — Karen Fisher, Karen Weiss, and Morris Maron — want to thank Rabbi Weiss, Cantor Littman, Rachel Saslove, Sarah Greene, and

Jaye Goldberg for the many ways in which they helped make the seder happen this time around.



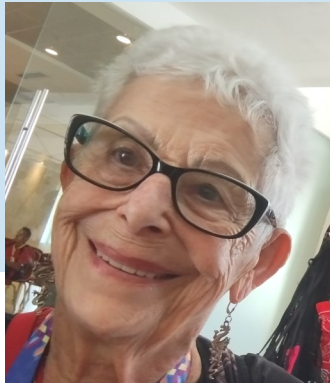
Save the date — April 30, 2024 — and if you'd like to be involved in the planning for next year, please get in touch with Executive Director Rachel Saslove (or one of the Karens, if you happen to see us). We welcome new ideas; it'd be great to think outside of the box (of matzah) for future seders!

Karen

THZ SMALL BIZ

NEW! Check out our new directory of THZ members who provide services or products! This is a great opportunity to support members of our Temple community when you are shopping for products, services, gifts or advice. Check back often as the list continues to evolve. Click [here](#) for the directory.

If you are a professional or an independent business owner, click [here](#) to add yourself to the THZ Small Biz directory.



Loving Kindness

by Clare Adam & Frances Halperin
Co-Chairs, Chesed Committee

What is *Chesed* anyway?

The Hebrew word is usually translated as “loving kindness” and that’s what your Chesed Committee tries to extend to our THZ family and their families. This work grew out of the efforts of Paulette Volgyesi z”l, who tirelessly performed countless acts of *chesed* and paved the way for her valuable work to continue.

Har Zion’s Chesed Committee has two divisions and operates like an iceberg... Clare Adam (Meals) and Frances Halperin (Mi Shebeirach) are co-chairs, and theirs are the names you will usually see. BUT, like an iceberg, there’s 7/8 that you **don’t see** and that’s who does the bulk of the work — generous shul members, just like you — giving freely of their time.

Freely of their time doing what?

Preparing and delivering meals when requested. Let’s say you’ve had a fall or you’re recovering from surgery at home or have limited mobility... you get the idea. When a request comes to Clare, she will ‘call in the cavalry’, organize and schedule the delivery of meals, while taking into consideration any dietary restrictions or limitations. Each volunteer usually prepares a meal — enough to serve two people for two meals — that only needs to be heated and enjoyed.

You said two divisions?

Yes. The other division is maintaining and coordinating THZ’s Mi Shebeirach list which contains names for whom healing prayers are offered at the request of a friend or family member. Volunteers make calls approximately

every two months, checking on the well-being of those on their call list. Sometimes a name is removed because the person has recovered. Oftentimes, they have not and ask to be kept on the list. There are also purely *chesed* calls for people who may be feeling isolated or need to talk with someone.

Regardless of what is done, the calls are very much appreciated. It makes people feel connected and reassures them that THZ is there for them.

Chesed is always looking for more volunteers to make calls or volunteer their time to cook meals. If you are interested in either, please [click here](#) to contact the office; they’ll pass your message on to us.

Clare & Frances

Knitting for the Needy

For the past 4-1/2 years, we have been working diligently to provide hand-knitted items to various organizations. During COVID, as soon as they were accepting donations again, we were knitting for them!

Our group has given knitted items to Ve’ahavta, Out of the Cold, Mackenzie Health, Etobicoke General and the Salvation Army.

Items donated have included: hats for preemies, babies, and children, scarves for adults, sweaters for babies and children, gloves of all sizes, and ‘lapghans’.

We enjoy getting together to socialize and knit and would love to have you join us **the first Monday of every month at noon**. And, if you don’t know how to knit, we’ll teach you how!

Happily, we’re finally back to meeting in person; however if you can’t be there, you can join us virtually on Zoom.

If you’re interested in joining us, please [click here](#) to contact Barbara Scheinert.

The Temple Knitters



Meeting our sacred moral obligation

by Len Bates
Temple Vice President

There are many initiatives from the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) to be excited about. One is an updated strategic direction and operating model, necessary to reflect changing times and ensure relevance. The URJ seeks to enable Jewish communities to be vibrant models of Jewish life, enrich people's lives by helping them experience joy and spirituality, and take action so all people can experience peace and wholeness, equity and justice, and joy and belonging. To get a better sense of what URJ offers, please visit urj.org.



One of the initiatives I'm proud to be involved with is the ethics work to encourage all congregations in the movement to have an ethics code. The safety of every person in our community is our sacred moral

obligation. Having an ethics code outlining how we must treat each other and what to do if there are concerns is one way to promote this.

While there is no magic pill to fully inoculate any organization from improper behaviour, doing nothing or relying on the expected goodwill of others is not the answer. One of the things I've learned in my HR career is that many incidents within organizations (of any type) go unreported because it is unclear who to report an incident to or whether the organization will even take the complaint seriously. Often, individuals are victimized twice, first by an incident and then by not being taken seriously after reporting an incident.

We all know that sexual assault is inappropriate, but what about unwanted touching or hugging? Are all jokes benign because they're meant to be funny? Of course not. One cannot be satisfied with harmless intent as it is the impact on

others that really matters. In 2021, Temple Har Zion recognized the need for a documented ethics code, resulting in our *Kavod: Respectful and Safe Synagogue Policy*, which you can view by [clicking here](#).

It applies to all in our community, members, staff, clergy, and visitors who come to learn, socialize, worship and work. I encourage you to review it if you haven't done so already. [Click here](#) to reach out to Rachel Saslove, should you have any questions.

Temple is a community to connect, engage and be inspired. May you find peace, joy and a sense of belonging.

Note: In addition to being on the Temple Executive, Len sits on URJ's Executive Board and is president of the Reform Jewish Community of Canada (RJCC).

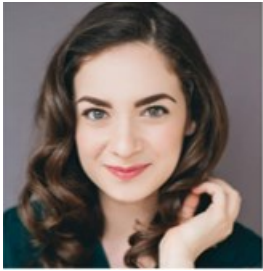
“respect for others may perhaps be the most fundamental principle in all of ethics”



Sisterhood: a year in review

by Sharon Prasow
Sisterhood

Sisterhood has continued to present a variety of programs during our calendar year; some serious and some light-hearted.



"So, You Wanna be a Star?" In September, we were treated to Temple's own Jada Rifkin, a vibrant entertainer whose voice and energy brought smiles and much laughter.

In November, a serious look at resettlement for two Ukrainian families. Thanks to the dogged determination of Marlene Waiser, furnished apartments and emotional support helped two young families find a new life here in Toronto.

December brought a *"Hamishe Holiday Happening"* with Cantor Rachael Littman's amazing voice lifting spirits, and sweet treats to further our upbeat mood.

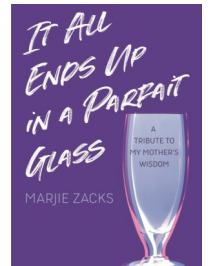


January was designed to work off our Hanukkah treats with Jazzercise!

In February, we had *"Munchies & a Movie"* with Rabbi Weiss facilitating our reaction to a film that challenged us to think about the many ways we can show love.

We also had a great 'fun'draiser in February to support our Sisterhood projects, including scholarships to Camp George. At *"Jukebox Musical Bingo"* we sang along to many familiar tunes as we played musical bingo on Zoom!

March saw Margie Zacks present a memoir she has written *"It All Ends Up in a Parfait Glass"*. The book is both a tribute to her mother and a reflection of growing up in a family where daily accomplishments were expected.



Our Sisterhood contribution in March was to support NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women) with their mitzvah of packing up kosher Passover food as a gift to those in our community who would otherwise be unable to celebrate Pesach as they would wish.

April: This program, provided by Toronto Victim Services, was a thorough, compassionate talk by women who deal with supporting the victims of human trafficking.

In June, we will have our Annual General Meeting, and throughout the year we have had board meetings to discuss present and future activities.

Sharon

there is power in
sisterhood...

Strategic Plan Update

Last November, we tabled our new 5-year strategic plan at our Annual Meeting of Members. The plan identified **six priorities**. Here's a look at some of the work underway.

1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- ▶ Temple DEI Statement on website home page and read at Temple services
- ▶ Reviewing all Temple policies to ensure consistency with our DEI statement
- ▶ Exploring DEI training and engagement best practices for staff, clergy and congregants

2. New Funding Model

- ▶ Updated fee structure for facility rentals and Temple events
- ▶ Leasing the library to Kehillat Chaverim for Shabbat morning services
- ▶ Permit approved to participate in charitable bingo starting July 1

3. Attract and Engage Young Members

- ▶ New Young Adult membership class approved (19-39 years)
- ▶ New, flexible fee structure for young families
- ▶ Reinstating the salary for a part-time Youth Advisor
- ▶ Summer students will be hired to do office work

4. Increase Tikkun Olam and Israel Connection

- ▶ Participating in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition
- ▶ Temple recycling program started
- ▶ Participating in the York Region Food Bank Drive
- ▶ Researching grants and self-funded initiatives
- ▶ Yom HaAzmaut Kol Bo

- ▶ Exploring hosting the Peace of Mind program in Spring 2024, a week-long intensive overseas seminar for Israeli veterans dealing with the psychological and emotional trauma experienced during their service
- ▶ Increasing the engagement of ShinShinim with the congregation

5. Members' Needs

- ▶ Recommendations to the new Membership Committee
- ▶ New member onboarding activities
- ▶ Speaker series
- ▶ Events geared to singles
- ▶ Keeping members aware of new committees
- ▶ Phone calls to shut-in members

6. Governance

- ▶ New Board and Non-Board Committee Structure approved by the Board to better align and integrate planning and delivery of programs and services
- ▶ Four standing Board Committees chaired by a Board officer:

1) Executive Committee (Chair/President)

The Executive Committee moves from being a stand-alone committee to a subgroup of the Board that convenes meetings when matters require immediate attention, or are of a sensitive nature.

2) Audit/Finance Committee (Treasurer)

Composed of 2-3 Directors (not Officers), this committee meets as required, but at a minimum quarterly, and would help prepare budgets, monthly reporting, financial key performance indicators, and cash management. The Audit Committee meets less frequently but in particular, around Year End.

3) Governance

Would lead all governance matters such as by-laws, ONCA, Board Assessments, board best practices. This group is also responsible for the nomination process to ensure a future stream of leaders.

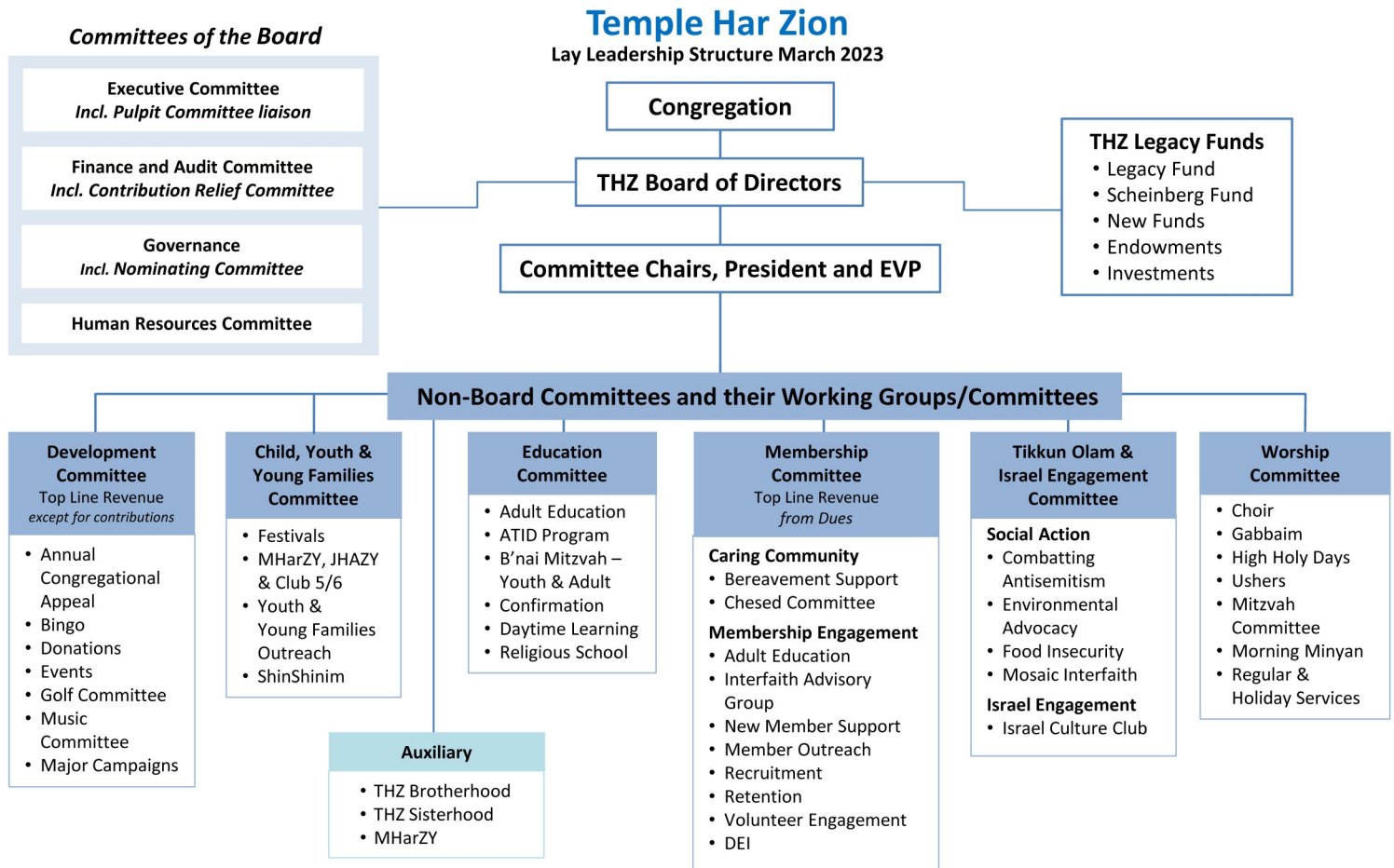
4) Human Resources (HR) Committee

The mandate of this committee is to ensure appropriate HR practices by the Temple for its employees; would make recommendations to the Board for compensation and benefits, and HR-related policies and practices which are executed by the executive director.

- Six new overarching Non-Board Committees, chaired by a Board director, which bring together and integrate the work of committees, advisory groups, and task forces that share a common purpose:

1. Development
2. Child, Youth & Young Families
3. Education
4. Membership
5. Tikkun Olam & Engagement with Israel
6. Worship

- A Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee working with all of the new committees



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

making progress!



One of the six pillars of the strategic plan

by **Brena Taylor**

Chair, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Working Group (DEI)

The DEI Working Group began meeting monthly in December of 2022 and has continued to work collaboratively in bringing awareness to the membership in a visible and concrete manner.

We're proud of our accomplishments over the last several months and it's important for us to share this update with our membership.

- ◆ There is a DEI statement on the homepage of our website.
- ◆ A DEI statement is being read at the beginning of the announcements on Shabbat, and they conclude with "Thank you for being part of our community. It's where you belong".
- ◆ Our office staff made incredible name tags for the Kol Bo Dinner celebrating Israel@75 on April 21. It was a definite plus to be able to greet and welcome members and non-members by name.
- ◆ We are working towards providing name tags to all our members and guests when they are in the building. This is a project in progress.
- ◆ We are planning a program that may take place in the fall. It will include a short film called "Periphery". It is a photographic and film exhibition created by No Silence on Race in partnership with the Ontario Jewish Archives.
- ◆ We have a suggestion for a "Tuesday Topic" from a blog written by a 14-year-old "non-speaking, autistic" young man named Andrew. It is both inspirational and insightful on how to treat the "other" and it may help to reassure all of our members that they belong.
- ◆ Members of our Working Group continue to attend the URJ series "New Ideas Around Engagement".
- ◆ We have suggested that THZ advertise the continuing availability of having ASL at our services and events.
- ◆ Rabbi Weiss will incorporate the DEI statement during the High Holy Day services when many members and guests are attending in person and on livestream.
- ◆ Annamie Paul will be speaking at THZ in the fall. She understands that we are looking for ways to put our DEI Statement into action.

If you are interested in learning more about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Temple Har Zion, please [click here](#) to contact Rachel Saslove, and she will direct your message to me.

Have a great summer,

Brena

"it's where you belong"

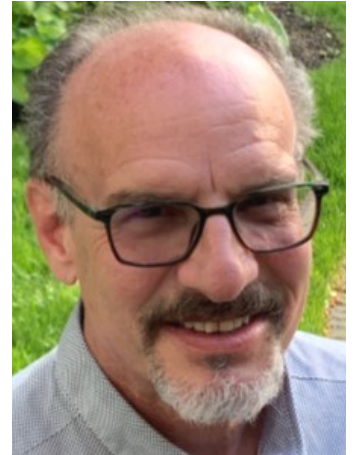
Diversity Equity Inclusion



Karen Fisher



Sharon Forbes



Jack Furman



Marty Ginsberman



Naomi Joel



Shirley Kehimkar



Kim Poster



Susan Rowan



Andrea Shattner



Jason Silzer

The DEI Working Group

The Congregation thanks...

Whether you agree to chair a committee, task force or working group or become a board director or officer, you make a sacred commitment to Temple Har Zion. That commitment calls upon your knowledge, expertise, whimsy and engagement, and your personal time. It's a commitment to our mission to connect tradition with modern Jewish values and support the expression of Jewish identity through ritual, lifecycle events, *tzedakah*, Tikkun Olam, music, and continuous learning.

This year we recognize five individuals who, after many years of valuable service to Temple Har Zion, are stepping down from their Board leadership roles.

Elaine Stein, a member since 1999, is stepping down from Sisterhood leadership and by extension, her participation as the Sisterhood representative to the Temple



Board of Directors. She has recently served as the Secretary, Programming Co-Chair, and a member of the Sisterhood Executive as well as the publisher of *Schmooze: News & Views*, the quarterly newsletter distributed to Sisterhood members.

Elaine has held several leadership roles within Sisterhood including, Programming Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and President. She also serves on the Temple Emergency Response Team.

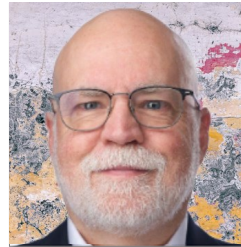
Shelly Bacher, a Temple member since 1978, joined the Board of Directors in 2014/15, and in 2019/20 joined the Executive Committee as a vice president and officer. Shelly



has chaired the Communications Committee, served as the Lay Leader for the ShinShinim program, and has been on the Brotherhood Executive Committee. He has served on the Religious Education Committee, the Golf Committee, Back to Shul Task

Force, AV System/Streaming Support Team and as one of our many photographers. Shelly is also a long-standing and proud member of our adult choir.

Serge Adam, a Temple member since 2008, joined the Board of Directors in 2021/22. He has led the AV System/



Streaming Support Team and the IT Committee, and served as webmaster on the first THZ website. Serge has been the sound system whisperer for as long as we can remember — our sound guy at the sound board for many years each Shabbat, holiday and festival service and program, as well as special events.

Julian Pencharz, a member since 2015, joined the Board of Directors in 2019/20 and the Executive Committee in



2021 as our Treasurer, a year into COVID. Not too shabby for someone who had only been on the Board for less than two years and a Temple member for five! Julian's background as both a comptroller and CPA has served him well at THZ. He is also an

active member of our adult choir and the New Funding Model Working Group.

Jodi Starkman-Mendelsohn, a Temple member for forty years, joined the Temple Board in 2015/16 and became



a vice president and officer on the Executive Committee in 2018/19. She chaired the Security Committee, which resulted in our receiving a large federal grant to improve our security infrastructure. Jodi has also served as the ShinShinim Lay Leader,

been a part of our Temple Sisterhood, worked on festivals and Out of the Cold, and sat on our Back to Shul Task Force and our HR Committee.

We thank them for their contributions and the personal commitment of time they made to be leaders at Temple Har Zion. Each of them has made, and will continue to make, a difference to our Temple family.

Kol HaKavod & Todah Rabah!

Greater Toronto Interfaith Curling Club Banquet



On May 3, Har Zion hosted its seventh banquet in a row for the Greater Toronto Interfaith Curling Club. Clergy curling is a long-standing tradition in Canada, and the GTICC is the only club in the country with Jewish participants. This year's event featured guitarist Darcy Wickham, who played a number of songs by Gordon Lightfoot, as well as a raffle, trophy presentations, and a delicious dinner provided by Chef on the Go.

The highlight was Cantor Littman winning the *Most Improved Curler* award, which was won by Rabbi Weiss in 2013. Her curling crew also won a trophy for winning the Winter Draw.

Har Zion can now boast a tradition of winning clergy curlers!



A wonderful time
was had by all at
our magical,
musical Disney
Masquerade Ball!







We're already working on next year's calendar!

On May 11, your Har Zion staff sat down to develop next year's calendar. Rachel created and posted calendar pages for each month, and FOUR HOURS later (plus lots of Sticky Notes), we had filled the calendar for the entire

year! Rabbi Weiss said, "That was one of the best organized, most productive meetings I've ever been to!"

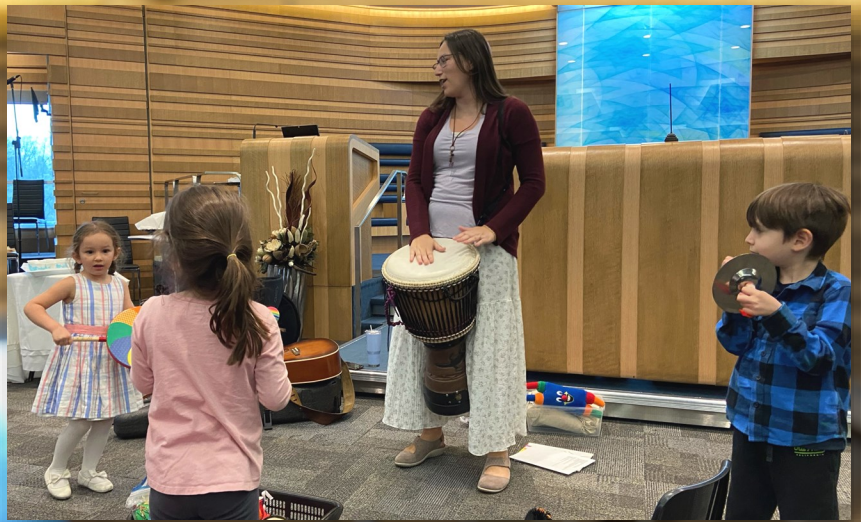
Kol HaKavod to everyone for such great teamwork!



details...



TOT SHABBAT



Temple Family News

A hearty Mazel Tov to the following families:

BIRTHS

Elka and Brian Birnbaum in celebration of the birth of their grandson Eli Nathan

Marnee Birnbaum and Adam Pearl in celebration of the birth of their son Eli Nathan

Marie and Steve Borlak in celebration of the birth of their grandson Samuel Charlie

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Erin Dessau Rubin and Elliott Rubin

REAFFIRMATION

Ilana Keyes and Paul Pijawka in celebration of their daughter Alyssa's reaffirmation

WEDDINGS

Robin Grossman and Nikita Alkhazov in celebration of their upcoming wedding

We extend our sincere condolences to:

Marcia Craft for her aunt Rose Abrams

Ora Harris and Michael Hutchins for their brother-in-law Eric Bernstein

Dara and Irv Kideckel for their uncle Henry Sherman

Gary Landsberg for his mother June Landsberg Weinberg

Joodi Pollock for her father Philip Shore

Jodi Rachman Patel for her father Harvey Rachman

Betsy and Philip Wolfenden for their brother-in-law Andrew Swire

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
If you have news you'd like to share with your Temple family, please click here

notable...

Sponsorships, Tributes & Acknowledgements

We thank the following for their generous sponsorship contributions:

SPONSORSHIP of TORAH STUDY

Irving and Tya Blumenthal

Joan and Alan Dessau

SPONSORSHIP of CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

Carol and Todd Herzog in honour of Jacob Gilman's first Aliyah

Ilana Keyes and Paul Pijawka in celebration of their daughter Alyssa's reaffirmation

Cindy and Michael Mortimer in memory of Cindy's parents Anne and David Silverman; in memory of Michael's father Sydney Mortimer; and in honour of THZ's first multi-generational service

SPONSORSHIP of DISNEY MASQUERADE BALL

The Ackerman Saslove Family

The Developmental Clinic

Evelyn Krakauer

Suzie Lyon and Jack Kosoff

Alan and Julie Spergel

Floyd and Rhona Weiner

David White and June Carroll

SPONSORSHIP of FESTIVAL of FIVES

Adrienne and Paul Coleman

Lenore and Harry Talbot in celebration of their 65th anniversary

SPONSORSHIP of MORNING MINYAN BREAKFAST

Ben and Susan Aronowitz in memory of Ben's father Mordechai Aronowitz

Sherrill Berrys in memory of her father Alfred Abraham Dectar

Norm and Edyse Fisher in memory of Norm's brother Jerry Fisher

Allan and Arlene Fishman in the memories of Allan's parents Gean and Louis Fishman and Arlene's father Sol Riff

Martin and Debra Ginsherman in memory of Martin's father Gerald Ginsherman

Ken and Shelley Glick in memory of Ken's mother Frances Glick

Marley and Jerry Greenglass in memory of Marley's father Harvey Harnick

Karen Grimm in the memories of her brother Shelly Meyerson and husband Richard Grimm

Debby and Lawrie Kaplan in the memories of Debby's grandfather Fred Gitelman and Lawrie's parents Edith and Jacob Kaplan

David Kendel and Ellen Bensky in memory of David's brother Neil Keith Kendal

Helen Kopstick in the memories of her parents Sarah and Samuel Louis Bennett and husband Marvin Kopstick

Frances Malach in the memories of her in-laws Anita and Morris Malach

Jonathan and Beverly Matthews for Jonathan's father Nathan Matthews

Harriet Noik in memory of her father Benjamin Tanzer

Helen Posluns Kerbel and Jeffrey Kerbel in memory of Helen's grandfather Samuel Casselman

Robert Rae in the memories of his friend Marvin Kopstick and his mother Janet Rae

Judith Ross in memory of her husband Harold Ross

Karen and Michael Rotstein in memory of Karen's mother Grace Etlin

Sharon and Mark Rubinstein in memory of Sharon's father Marvin Kopstick

Sponsorships

A strong Jewish community with a promising future is why Temple Har Zion exists. For the littlest baby and the oldest grandparent, you can help people find meaning and community.

With your sponsorship donation, you are why our community will stay together to celebrate, pray, sing, support, and sustain one another to help make this world a better place.

Please [click here](#)

SPONSORSHIP of MORNING MINYAN BREAKFAST (cont'd)

Janie and Warren Shendelman in memory of Janie's mother Florence Donnenfield

Joyce Zweig in the memories of her husband Stephen Zweig and partner Jack Halberstadt

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Marjie Zacks and Joel Rosenberg on the yahrzeit of Marjie's mother Adelyn Zacks

ANN ZWORTH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Tara and David Abrams to Marie and Steve Borlak in celebration of the birth of their grandson Samuel Charlie and in memory of their brother and brother-in-law John Korfel; to Andrea Rifkin in celebration of her special birthday; and to Jodi Rachman Patel and Jack Patel and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Harvey Patel

Judy Zworth on the yahrzeit of her mother Yona Bebtchuk

ARTHUR & DVORA BROWN CAMP GEORGE FUND

Melissa and Corey Adler to Jono Halpern in memory of Esther Halpern

Samantha and Shelly Bacher to Andrew Brown, Shanan Spencer-Brown and Stephen Brown in memory of their dad Joseph Brown; to Elka and Brian Birnbaum in celebration of the birth of their grandson Eli Nathan; to Rhonda and Michael Pearl in celebration of the birth of their grandson Eli Nathan; to Cookie Hartman and family in memory of Alan Hartman; and to Jodi Rachman Patel and Jack Patel and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Harvey Patel

Faga Clapham to Rhonda and Michael Pearl in celebration of the birth of their grandson Eli Nathan; and to Sally Pearl in celebration of the birth of her great grandson Eli Nathan

Ryanne Clapham and Hart Kerbel to Stephen Pearl in celebration of his birthday

Karen Fisher to Barbara Herland and family for their loss

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ilissa and Tony Katz on the yahrzeits of Ilissa's great aunt Jenny Romish and her father Seymour Rosenthal

Pearl and Ken Rose in memory of their brother Robert Rose

Rodica Rudner in memory of Alec

THZ Choir to Brena and Tom Taylor in memory of their cousin Marc Salmanovich; and to Jack Furman for a speedy recovery

John and Glyn Wolpert on the yahrzeit of John's father Solly Wolpert

DAVIS YACHT GARDEN-MOSHE FUND

Betsy and Phil Wolfenden to Gwen Yacht in celebration of her special birthday

DIRECTOR of EDUCATION & SCHOOL FUND

Sheree Davis to Brena Taylor in appreciation

LEGACY FUND

Betsy and Phil Wolfenden to Erica Saltiel Levin in memory of her mother Natalie Saltiel

LYNN RAE ISRAEL FUND

Joan and Alan Dessau in appreciation

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS FUND

Faye Thorek to Sam Castiglione in appreciation

MUSIC FUND

Evelyn Krakauer to Gary and Susan Landsberg in memory of their mother and mother-in-law June Landsberg Weinberg; and on the yahrzeit of her father Moses Katindig

PAULETTE VOLGYESI MEMORIAL CHESD FUND

Ruth and Rob Brickman to Gail Agensky in celebration of her birthday

Julie Cook and Marianne Lantso in memory of Paulette Volgyesi

Joan and Alan Dessau in appreciation

Frances Malach on the yahrzeit of her husband Howard Malach

Evelyn and Martin Simon on the yahrzeit of Evelyn's father Mottel Gurandianu

George Volgyesi in memory of his wife Paulette Volgyesi

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ted Berman to Wendy Peer and family in memory of their husband and father Guy Peer

Tya and Irving Blumenthal in appreciation

Natalie Cremer; and Joan and Alan Dessau in appreciation

Karen Fisher to Laura Tabbara in memory of her husband Mike Tabbara

Brian Gerstein in memory of his father Moses Gerstein

Mary Anne and Willie Handler to Marcia Craft in memory of her aunt Rose Abrams

Nathalie and Stuart Rudner to Jodi Rachman Patel and Jack Patel and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Harvey Rachman

Devon Spier in appreciation

RABBI MICHAEL & CELIA STROH ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Steve and Marie Borlak on the yahrzeit of Steve's grandmother Sarah Borlak

appreciating

SCHEINBERG FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Melissa and Jordan Cait; and

Brigitte Waisberg to Joodi and Ron Pollock in memory of their father and father-in-law Philip Shore

Claude and Adele Heimann in memory of Claude's father Bill Heimann and Adele's father Max Masail

Stephen and Myrna Marcus on the yahrzeit of Stephen's father Lorne Alter

Lisa Rose and Sidney Fox to Marie and Steve Borlak in celebration of the birth of their grandson Samuel Charlie

Julian and Donna Pencharz on the yahrzeit of Myer Pencharz

Betsy and Phil Wolfenden to Jessica Edelglass, Hilary Stiss and Max Stiss in memory of their grandfather Sol Stiss

SISTERHOOD FUND

Sharon Hochberg; and Sharon and Sholem Prasow to Phylis and Alan Coles in memory of their sister and sister-in-law Alice Misciano

Bunny and Ken Saul to Andrea Rifkin in honour of her special birthday

remembering

TARA ABRAMS LEGACY FUND for MUSIC EDUCATION and PROGRAMMING

Brena Taylor to Tara Abrams in appreciation

TEMPLE HAR ZION FUND

Tya and Irving Blumenthal in appreciation

Paula and Irving Frisch to Marie and Steve Borlak in memory of their brother and brother-in-law John Korfel

Karen Grimm to Linda Waldman in memory of her husband Barry Waldman

Kehillat Chaverim in appreciation

Naomi and Saul Joel on the yahrzeits of Naomi's parents Sarah Ruby and Peres Percy Benjamin

Norman and Lillian Sirota in memory of Norman's mother Rose Sirota

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

Sharon and Mark Rubinstein to Gail Agensky in celebration of her birthday

Brena Taylor to Jodi Starkman-Mendelsohn in appreciation

Naomi Yudelson on the yahrzeit of her mother Esther Shulman

YOUNG FAMILIES ENGAGEMENT FUND

Dr. Jacob Langer to Marnee Birnbaum and Adam Pearl in celebration of the brit milah of their son Eli Nathan Birnbaum Pearl

Jodi Starkman-Mendelsohn and JD Mendelsohn to Jodi Rachman Patel and Jack Patel and family in memory of their father, father-in-law and grandfather Harvey Patel

celebrating

honouring

sustaining

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](#).

An abstract painting of a pond scene. It features several lotus flowers in various stages of bloom, with petals in shades of pink, purple, and white. The background is a dense, colorful composition of brushstrokes in green, blue, yellow, and brown, suggesting lily pads and water. Thin, white, swirling lines are scattered throughout the scene, adding a sense of movement and depth.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Calendar, [click here](#)

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