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18 Reiner Road, Toronto, Ontario M3H 2K9 416-636-3451

**Parshat Bereshit**

**October 6, 2018 27 Tishrei 5779**

Torah: Page 16, Ch 5, v 1,  
Maftir: Page 19, Ch 6, v 5, - Haftorah: Page 21

Today's Congregational Kiddush will take place in the Belzberg-Weisberg Social Hall on the lower level.

**Holocaust Education Week: November 1-8, 2018**

Saturday, November 3 @ 9:30am Radomer Memorial Shabbat

**Special Kiddush and Guest Speakers**

Register at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com) – no charge

Monday, November 5 @ 7pm Beth Radom Presents:

**How Japan saved Thousands of Jews**

Illuminating The Shadows: Untold Stories Of The Holocaust

More information at: <https://www.holocaustcentre.com/HEW>

**Adult Education with Rabbi Haber** **Tuesdays**  
**Oct 9**  
**Oct 16**  
**Oct 23**  
**7pm**

coping with compassion fatigue  
register at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)

**CANDLE LIGHTING & SERVICE TIMES:**

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Friday, October 5            | Light Candles at 6:34pm   |
| Saturday, October 6          | Shabbat ends at 7:40pm    |
| Sunday, October 7            | Morning Service at 9:00am |
| Monday, Oct 8 (Thanksgiving) | Morning Service at 9:00am |
| Friday, October 12           | Light Candles at 6:22pm   |

Regular Monday-Friday - Daily Minyan begins at 7:30am  
Sunday and Monday Stat Holidays – Minyan begins at 9:00am  
Shabbat Mornings - Service begins at 9:30am

**Things to Look Forward to in December & June!**

Chanukah begins! Light candles every night - Dec 2 - 9

**Saturday, Dec 3 | 9:30am**

**Family Shabbat/Chanukah Celebration**

Register at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com) – no charge

**Adult Ed with Cantor Burko: Thur, Dec 13, 20, Jan 10, 17**

**Heretic! The Lives & Beliefs of Infamous Jewish Thinkers**

Register at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com) – no charge.

**DATE CHANGE! Beth Radom's 2019 Charity Golf Tournament: Tuesday, June 11**



**A HEBREW SCHOOL THAT KIDS LOVE!**

**JK - BAR/BAT MITZVAH REGISTER ONLINE.**

Beth Radom always welcomes NEW MEMBERS!

See our Membership Promotion at [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)

Invite your Family, Friends and Neighbours – Jewish Day School

Families receive 25% off Membership at Beth Radom

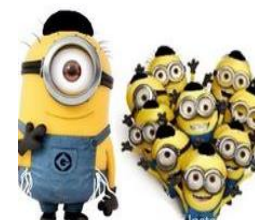
Beth Radom hosts a morning minyan,

**Monday to Friday at 7:30am**

**Sundays & Stat Holidays at 9am**

As some members are currently saying Kaddish, we ask that you make every effort to attend morning services as regularly as possible to help achieve a minyan each day. Please attend. It's a Mitzvah!

**Members: Call or email the shul office request a minyan!**



A Prayer For Healing

*Mi she berach avoteinu*

*M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu*

May the source of strength, who blessed the ones before us;

Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing.

מי שברך: אבותינו,  
מקור הברכה לאמותינו

and let us say: Amen.

*Mi she berach imoteinu,*

*M'kor hab'racha l'avoteinu*

Bless those in need of healing with refuah sh'lema

The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit, and let us say: Amen

מי שברך: אמותינו  
מקור הברכה לאבותינו

**RABBI: Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Haber**

[rabbi.haber@bethradom.com](mailto:rabbi.haber@bethradom.com)

**CANTOR: Jeremy Burko**

[cantorj@bethradom.com](mailto:cantorj@bethradom.com)

**PRESIDENT: Ronald Lindsay**

[president@bethradom.com](mailto:president@bethradom.com)

**GABBAI: Mark Vernon**

[mark@bethradom.com](mailto:mark@bethradom.com)

**HEBREW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Cindy Joseph**

[cindy@bethradom.com](mailto:cindy@bethradom.com)

**ADMINISTRATOR: Miriam Sharpe**

[miriam@bethradom.com](mailto:miriam@bethradom.com)

**We wish Refuah Sh'lema to:**

Howie Meyer

Joe Levitan

Bella Davidson

Joel Zeger

Dorothy Shessel

Allan Fryman

Rachel Akierman

Phillip Shadlesky

Anice Stark

Gerald Robinson

Sam Weisberg

Abe Swimmer

Ilsa Matheus

Ruth Leichner

Rosa Weisberg

If you know Beth Radom members who would benefit from Clergy outreach or should be part of our Refuah Sh'lema list, please contact office@bethradom.com . We assure you of confidentiality.

**With Reverence, We Honour The Yahrzeits of:**

Samuel Samet

late father of Bella Karalnick

Sol Levitt

late father of Joel Levitt

Pearl Haber

late mother of Betsy Haber - Riesz

and Marilyn Feldman

Sam Hershenfeld

late father of Seymour Hershenfeld

Fanny Glass

late mother of Rosalie Goldberg

Levy Rosenbaum

late Father of Rochelle Mandel

and Sam Rosenbaum

**Happy Birthday Wishes To:**

Tamara Blitz-Miller

Agnieszka Van Bergh

Edna Lisus

Alexandra Madan

Melanie Kohn

Jaimie Levett

Leora Haber

Dora Fuchs

Ita Streiman

**Happy Anniversary Wishes To:**

Raphael & Patricia Edery

24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sidney & Debra Zucker

41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

James & Agnieszka Van Bergh

14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**B'nai Brith** needs men's, women's & children's **winter clothes**, gently used, current styles, to distribute to those in need.

**Drop-off at Beth Radom: Oct 9, 10 & 11 between 9am-4pm**

**NEW DISPLAYS FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

**CHECK OUT BETH RADOM'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY**

Does your family have things to add to this museum? We would appreciate donations of plaques, photos, paperwork, hand written letters, booklets, flyers, old landing papers – anything related to the once thriving, Jewish, City of Radom. And of course we are looking for funding streams to expand the presentation space. Contact Allan [afryman@rogers.com](mailto:afryman@rogers.com) for more information.

**THE BLESSING FOR STUDY:**

Barukh attah Adonai

ברוך אתה ה'

Eloheinu melekh ha-olam

אלהינו מלך-העולם

asher qidshanu b'mitzvotav

אשר קדשנו במצותיו

v'tzivanu la-asoq b'divrei Torah.

וצונו לעסוק בדברי-תורה.

Praised are you Adonai, our God, eternal Sovereign of the Universe, Who sanctified us with [God's] commandments and enjoined upon us to study Torah.

## RABBINIC REFLECTIONS—PARSHAT “BERESHIT”

Rabbi Geoffrey Haber, MA, DMin, DD (Hon.)

Robert Fulghum, in his best seller, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, writes about the children’s game Hide and Seek: “Did you have a kid in your neighborhood who always hid so well, nobody could find him? We did. After a while, we would give up on him and go off, leaving him to rot wherever he was. Sooner or later he would show up, all mad because we didn’t keep looking for him . . .

“As I write this, the neighborhood game goes on, and there is a kid under a pile of leaves in the yard just under my window. He has been there a long time now, and everybody else is found and they are about to give up on him . . . I considered going out and telling them where he is hiding . . . Finally, I just yelled, “Get found, kid!” And I scared him so badly that he started crying and ran home to tell his mother. It’s really hard to know how to be helpful sometimes.

“A man I know found out last year that he had terminal cancer. He was a doctor. And he knew about dying, and he didn’t want to make his family and friends suffer through that with him. So he kept his illness a secret. And died. Everybody said how brave he was to bear his suffering in silence and not tell anybody . . . But privately, his family and friends said how angry they were that he didn’t need them, didn’t trust their strength. And it hurt them that he didn’t say good-bye.”

Fulghum concludes: “He hid too well.” Getting found would have kept him in the game. Hide and Seek, grown-up style: Wanting to hide. Needing to be sought. Confused about being found. “I don’t want anybody to know.” “What will people think?”

Hiding is something that we do well. Too well at times. We hide our emotions; we hide our motives. We hide psychologically, and we call it a defense mechanism. We hide religiously and we call it skepticism or agnosticism or “just too much trouble.” There is a midrash which teaches about hiding: When the angels heard that God was going to create the image of God’s own being, and breathe the breath of God’s life into it, they conspired with each other to hide the image of divinity. One angel proposed to put it on the top of a mountain. A second proposed to hide it at the bottom of the sea. Finally, a third angel turned to the others and exclaimed: “Let us hide it by putting it in man and woman, because that is the last place anyone will look for it.”

Ironically, hiding may be one of those basic human instincts: The first question of the Bible is asked by God to Adam: “Adam, where are you?” And where was Adam? He was hiding, because he

was ashamed. He ate the forbidden fruit and was hiding from God. Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Ladi, the founder of Habad Hassidism, comments: “What? God didn’t know where Adam was hiding?” To which he answers, “Of course God knew where Adam was hiding, but Adam needed to be asked where and why he was hiding.” This week’s Torah reading, Bereshit calls our hiding into question. “Where are you?” is a question posed to each of us. Where are we hiding? Where is our place in the world? What are we doing with our lives?

Our tradition talks a great deal about the fact that human beings are, by nature, hiders and concealers, but it also provides models for us to emulate of those who chose not to hide, not to run. When we read the story of how God comes to Abraham and asks him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac (Genesis 22:2), imagine the existential angst that must have filled Abraham’s entire being. But Abraham does not hide. He confronts his destiny and immediately answers God with the word “Here I am;” I know who I am; I know what is important to me; I stand ready to face the realities of my life no matter what the consequences. I cannot and will not hide from life.

“The web of life,” wrote Shakespeare, “is of mingled yarn, good and ill together.” Tzores and triumph is the stuff of life. We cannot deny this or ignore it. Judaism teaches us that we cannot hide from life. Like Abraham, we must respond to life’s challenges and vicissitudes with “Here I am.” James Baldwin said it best when he remarked: “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” I suspect, however, that most of us find it difficult to confront our true selves. We are always looking for excuses to avoid confronting important issues in our lives. We use our busy schedules and hectic lifestyles to conceal our identities, to evade the ultimate questions in our lives.

Most people don’t search for themselves because underneath they are afraid they are tainted by their deeds. If they discover who they really are, they might not be able to live with themselves. Judaism teaches us that we are not innately evil or tainted even if we have sinned. Every human being is a descendant of Adam, created “in the image of God.” The soul is pure and that never changes, no matter what we have done in life. We can derive strength from the belief that at the core of our beings, we are pure. All of us have it in our power to return from the darkness and pain in our lives and emerge into the light of wholeness graced by honesty and crowned by self-affirmation.

Each of us has been, at one time or another, bruised by life. We have suffered tragedy, gone through a divorce, lost a job, missed a promotion, experienced a death in the family, confronted

sadness and hardship we did not expect and which took us by surprise. There are those among us who are burdened by their guilt, eaten up by envy of someone else’s good fortune or possessions, soured by jealousy, haunted by the past or obsessed with loss. There are times when life’s difficulties seem too great to bear and so we create facades behind which to hide. We don the mask of self-deception. Scraping away the layers of denial, of callousness, of selfishness, of fear - removing the masks we wear - is the only way we will emerge from our hiding and discover that what lies beneath our failures and foibles is a pure soul, a human being - with the capacity for inward change and renewal. Our Rabbis teach: “The gates of prayer are sometimes open and sometimes closed, but the gates of repentance, are always open.” It is never too late to come out of our hiding, to overcome our loneliness, to strengthen our human relationships, or even to return to God.

God’s timeless question of “Where are you?” is addressed to each person’s soul and conscience. Each of us will have to answer for ourselves. And I pray that each of us will find the strength and courage to answer - not with the silence of Adam, but with the bold affirmation of Abraham, with “Here I am!” I shall not be silent; I will hide no longer! May it be so.

Shabbat Shalom!

### Beth Radom’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chanukah Extravaganza!



**Cantor Magda Fishman, Chazzan Jeremy Burko & the Yonge Guns Quartet!** Tickets: [www.bethradom.com](http://www.bethradom.com)