

HARACH HADASH JIJI SPRING EDITION 5783

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - PASSOVER 5783

Wednesday, April 5		
Shaharit and Siyyum Bekhorim (study session for the first born)	7:00	AM
Latest time for eating Hametz	10:41	AM
Latest time for burning <u>H</u> ametz	12:01	PM
Minha and Maariv services for Shabbat and the 1st night of Passover Candlelighting is at 7:31 PM	6:15	PM
The first Seder, according to tradition, starts about an hour after candlelighting	<i>y.</i>	
Thursday, April 6		
Shaharit for Shabbat and the first day of Passover		
Min <u>h</u> a for the 1st day of Passover and Maariv for the 2nd night of Passover <i>Candlelighting is at 8:34 PM</i>	6:15	PM
Friday, April 7 (Statutory Holiday)		
Sha <u>h</u> arit for the 2nd day of Passover		
Minha for the 2nd day of Passover, Maariv for Shabbat <u>H</u> ol Hamoed		
6:15 PM Candlelighting is at 7:33 PM		
Candlenghung is at 7.55 FW		
Shabbat <u>H</u> ol Hamoed, April 8		
Shaharit for Shabbat Hol Hamoed	9:00	AM
Min <u>h</u> a for Shabbat, Maariv for <u>H</u> ol Hamoed and Havdalah	7:30	PM
Cumden Annil 0		
Sunday, April 9 Sha <u>h</u> arit for <u>H</u> ol Hamoed (at Adath Israel)	8.20	A N A
Minha and Maariv for Hol Hamoed	7.00	PM
Monday, April 10		
Shaharit for Hol Hamoed (at Adath Israel)		
Min <u>h</u> a and Maariv for <u>H</u> ol Hamoed	7:00	PM
Tuesday, April 11		
Shaharit for <u>H</u> ol Hamoed (at Adath Israel)	7.30	ΔМ
Minha for Hol Hamoed and Ma'ariv for the 7th night of Passover	6:15	PM
Candlelighting is at 7:38 PM		
Wednesday, April 12		
Sha <u>h</u> arit for 7th day of Passover	9:00	
Minha for 7th day of Passover & Ma'ariv for the 8th night of Passover Candlelighting is at 8:42 PM	6:15	РМ
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Thursday, April 13	2	
Shaharit for the 8th day of Passover (Yizkor recited)	8:45	AM
Minha for the 8th day of Passover, Ma'ariv and Havdalah	7:50	PM
Havdalah is at 8:44 PM	A ST	See. 8
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THURSDAY, MAY 25 Min<u>h</u>a/Ma'ariv.....6:45PM

FRIDAY, MAY 26 - 1ST DAY OF SHAVUOT

Morning Services	9:00AM	
Youth Programming	10:30AM	
Quick-Pick Shavuot Featuring Torah Lectures		
by Clergy and Volunteersfro	m 11AM-12PM	
Special Dairy Kiddush	12:00PM	

Minha and Kabbalat Shabbat	6:45PM
Candle Lighting	8:29PM

SHABBAT, MAY 27 - SHABBAT AND 2ND DAY OF SHAVUOT

Morning Services	9:00AM
Megillat Ruth	9:45AM
Yizkor Sermon by Rabbi Grover	
Yizkor (approx.).	10:30AM
Youth Programming	
5 5	

Min <u>h</u> a	8:30PM
Havdalah	9:41PM

SUNDAY, MAY 28 (ISRU <u>H</u>AG)

Min <u>h</u> a7	:30PM
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Beth Tikvah Synagogue 3080 Bayview Ave Toronto, ON M2N 5L3 Canada Phone: 416 221 3433 www.bethtikvahtoronto.org





Every donation to Beth Tikvah is greatly appreciated. There are many ways you can help support the Synagogue.

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By Phone: 416-221-3433

MONDAYS AT 2:15PM Starting April 3, 2023

Rabbi Jarrod Grover's

PARASHAT

HASHAVIJAH

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A Message from our President



Barbara Albert

As my chicken soup bubbles on the stove, I am profoundly aware that Pesa<u>h</u> is just around the corner. At least in our home, Pesa<u>h</u> is on the brain for most of the year. In fact, when our family gathers for Sukkot, someone invariably manages to remind us that Pesa<u>h</u> is only six months away, and that we must begin to prepare. After all, Pesa<u>h</u> is our central holiday. It is about freedom, family.

traditions and of course, food. One food in particular that I wish to focus on is the delicious, yet fascinating, haroset.

<u>H</u>aroset is that yummy, sticky, fruity mixture of goodness that is a true enigma. Let us remind ourselves, the Torah does not command us to eat it, nor does it mention <u>h</u>aroset at all. There is, in fact, no blessing for <u>h</u>aroset in the Haggadah.

Also, if you look at the taste profile of everything on the seder plate, <u>haroset</u> simply doesn't fit in. All of the other foods are either salty, bitter or are prepared without spices. They are there to remind us of slavery, our embittered life. So, why is <u>haroset</u>, the symbol representing the mortar of the bricks we built as slaves, sweet tasting?

The Talmud attempts a few different explanations. One in particular describes the women of the Pesa<u>h</u> story. These women defy Pharaoh's decree to kill the first born males, and decide to have children. They then choose to give birth under apple trees. It is because of this story that we use apples when making <u>haroset</u>. Indeed, mixed with the horseradish, the

sweet taste of <u>h</u>aroset balances the bitterness of the maror, symbolizing the optimism of the Passover seder.

It is, therefore, with optimism in mind that I approach Pesa<u>h</u> this year. In our home, after two years of COVID restrictions, we will once again be able to have seders with our family. We are, God willing, looking forward to a new grandchild at the end of April, and a wedding at the end of May.

Our Beth Tikvah family is also looking bright. We have big plans for Youth and Young Families. At the same time, we are strengthening all facets of programming for all ages by increased partnership with other shuls. This strategy helps us to build bridges as well as pool resources to deliver top-notch programmes on a regular basis. Of course, no matter what we do, we are keeping our viability and financial concerns at the forefront. We are working from a position of strength and will maintain that as we move forward.

<u>H</u>aroset reminds us of the mortar, of the glue that built Pithom and Ramses. At the same time, however, <u>h</u>aroset reminds us that if we "stick" together as a people, the results will be sweet.

As we approach Pesa<u>h</u>, I invite you to think about attending a shul service, class, or programme (and bring a friend!). Volunteer for something at the shul that you feel passionate about. Your participation is valued, meaningful and appreciated. Most of all, please know that any of the above adds to the sweetness that is our Beth Tikvah <u>h</u>aroset. When working together, I have complete confidence that if we stick together, our future will surely be sweet!

Wishing you and your family a Hag Kasher V'Sameah!





A Message from our Executive Director



Rivka Campbell

Redemption song by Robert Nesta Marley OM (*Order of Merit*) is one of my favourite songs. While I enjoy listening to the song year round, it becomes more significant at Pesah.

"Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds." What is mental slavery? It is when you become locked in,

when your thoughts, beliefs and expectations are so restrictive that you can't see beyond the imprisonment. It is easy to stay in our comfort zone. To get caught up in the mindset of "this is the way we have always done it." These inner restrictions are more constraining than outer restrictions such as lack of time, human resources or money. Reflect on how we as a synagogue are caught in this state of mental slavery. Are we living in a manner that feels safe? Are we afraid to rock the boat? Are we worried about stepping out of our comfort zone?

How do we free our minds? It involves clarity and courage. First, let us gain clarity by examining what this freedom from mental slavery would look like. Would it mean special incentives for young families? Would it mean changing the footprint of the synagogue? If we truly had no limits, what would we do as a community? What would we look like as a synagogue?

Once we have achieved some clarity, the next step is the need for courage. It will take courage to take the necessary steps to free ourselves. We have to be willing to let go of the negativity that can accompany change. We have to have the courage to go against what makes us feel comfortable. Embrace the fear and do it anyway.

Thinking of the Passover story, the Hebrews who were enslaved physically in Egypt, were faced with a choice. Did they stay in Egypt with the certainty of being slaves or face the unknown in the desert? There's comfort in certainty but is it an illusion? Is it sustainable? The alternatives meant the discomfort of the unknown. The pessimist would see death in the desert but the optimist could foresee the opportunity for redemption, and becoming an independent and free nation.

Redemption song is the last song on Bob Marley's final album with The Wailers. It has been viewed as his legacy. What will be our legacy? Will we break free and move forward? To quote another line "We forward in this generation. Triumphantly."

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Rabbi Jarrod Grover

The Mitzvah of Celebrating Israel's 75th

On the fifth of Iyar, seventy-five years ago, (May 14, 1948), three years after the conclusion of World War II and the destruction of European Jewry, including the murder of six million Jews, fiftyone years after the First

Zionist Congress, and close to two thousand years after the destruction of the second Temple, David Ben-Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel, based upon the UN Partition Plan (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181) approved on November 29, 1947. The next day, the armies of five Arab countries—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq—attacked Israel, launching the War of Independence, which lasted close to a year.

Nineteen years later, shortly after Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser expelled the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) from the Sinai Peninsula (May 1967), Egypt amassed 1,000 tanks and nearly 100,000 soldiers on the Israeli border. Jordan and Syria signed mutual defense treaties, and Iraqi tanks lined the Jordanian border. Fearing an imminent attack, Israel launched a preemptive strike on the Egyptian air force on June 5, 1967. Jordan responded by attacking Jerusalem, Netanya, and the outskirts of Tel Aviv. On June 9th, Israel attacked the Syrian-controlled Golan Heights, from which Israeli settlements in the Galilee were shelled for the previous seventeen years.

By June 10th, Israel had seized the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank, including the Old City of Jerusalem, which had been under Jordanian control for seventeen years. Israel's territory grew by a factor of three.

The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, representing the first Jewish autonomy in the Land of Israel in almost 2,000 years, as well as the ensuing military victory, signaled the return of *Am Yisrael* to Zion and the rescue of the Jewish People – those who lived in the Land of Israel, as well as those who now had a nation to which they could flee. The victory of the Six Day War not only saved the young country from almost certain defeat at the hands of its Arab neighbors, but returned Jerusalem and the Temple Mount to the Jewish People, as well as the heart of the Biblical land of Israel, including Judea and Samaria.

Volumes could be written about Israel's achievements as a nation over the past 75 years, socially, militarily, economically and politically. But the point is clear – Israel has thrived and despite its small size in land and population, constant threats and challenges, it has risen over them and is influencing the world far beyond its weight.

For the religious Jew, such events demand a spiritual response. The Talmud (*Sanhedrin 94a*) teaches:

The Holy One, blessed be He, wished to appoint <u>H</u>ezekiah as the Messiah, and Sennacherib as Gog and Magog, whereupon the Attribute of Justice said before the Holy One, blessed be He: "Sovereign of the Universe! If You did not make David the Messiah, who uttered so many hymns and psalms before You, will You appoint <u>H</u>ezekiah as such, who did not praise You in spite of all these miracles which You wrought for him?"

<u>H</u>ezekiah was due to be appointed the Messiah, but his lack of gratitude denied him, and the Jewish People, this opportunity.

All who recognize God's hand in modern historical events must feel obligated to respond. Over the past seven decades, Jewish religious and political figures have grappled with the appropriate means of celebrating Israel's independence. And though we will celebrate differently, let us all commit to marking this milestone as a mitzvah with our friends, families, and community. We salute Israel on its 75th birthday and look forward to the next 75 years far outshining the first!

Rabbi Jarrod Grover

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Pesah Messages from Our Rabbis





Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein

Going Forth on Pesa<u>h</u>

In my life, I have had the privilege of celebrating Pesa<u>h</u> with many different congregations in many different countries. I celebrated in very traditional communities and in very liberal ones. With friends and family and with people I met for the first time. With Jews and with people of different

faith and origins. Each Pesa<u>h</u> in my life is a little different. I never had two celebrations that resembled each other. I never had two Passovers with exactly the same people. And this year is different once again.

I arrived in Canada just eight months ago. I find myself missing my family and friends back home. Yet, I know that my congregation here is my family too. You have welcomed me with open arms, and I am grateful for the community you provide. You make my life meaningful and give me solace.

Pesah is my favourite holiday in the Jewish calendar. I love the energy of spring. The feeling of new hope. Once upon a time in Jewish history, Pesah marked the beginning of the New Year, and it still bears this meaning for me very much. I enjoy the fresh warm winds, bright sunshine, and the appearance of flowers and greenery. The words of Song of Songs resonate with me very deeply "For now the winter is past...The blossoms have appeared in the land, the time of pruning has come; The song of the turtledove is heard in our land." (Song of Songs 2:11-12) Do you remember how I appeared for the first time in our congregation on Zoom? The first class that I ever gave was on the meaning of the Songs of Songs. (If you still haven't watched it, go find it on YouTube!) And though I am here less than a year, we made it together through one cycle of the Jewish holidays. So what have I learned in this time?

The Holy Zohar teaches us that the Song of Songs embodies the entire Torah, the story of the exile in Egypt, and the redemption of Israel from there, as well as from many other oppressions. I came to a country I had never been to before to live with people I never knew. It gave me a chance to start a new life. It saved me from disaster. But it gave me so much more. I am grateful that I can trust my congregants, my colleagues and my teachers. I share my successes and my failures with the people who surround me every day of my life. It is a true miracle that I can fully rely on people who did not know me less than a year ago. Today, I cannot imagine my life without my community.

One of the most important lessons we can learn from Pesah is the importance of perseverance and faith in the face of adversity. The Jewish people faced countless challenges and hardships and yet they never gave up hope. Instead, they remained steadfast in their traditions and continued to believe in their freedom. As one of the most famous quotes of the Haggadah reminds us, "In every generation, a person is obligated to regard themselves as if they themselves had gone forth from Egypt." This quote reminds us that the story of Pesah is not just a historical event that happened thousands of years ago. It is a story that continues to impact our lives today.

Pesa<u>h</u>, like no other holiday reminds us of the importance of family and community. The Jewish people came together as a community to celebrate their freedom, and they continue to do so to this day. Pesa<u>h</u> is a time when families come together to share a special meal, retell the story of the Exodus, and celebrate their freedom. This year I am blessed to celebrate Passover with all of you.

Pesa<u>h</u> Kasher ve'Samea<u>h</u>! May we have many more celebrations together!

Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein





Dayenu by Fiona Gold Kroll

The Baby Blitz began during the evening on January 22, 1944, when more than four hundred Luftwaffe bombers skimmed rooftops without warning. Most of London's Jewish immigrants lived in the East End, close to the docks where they arrived from Eastern Europe. But the area was a target for the German bombers to disrupt food supplies shipping in and out of London. There was no time for Moshe and Sophie to get to the underground, so they hurried into the bomb shelter in the garden. The raid lasted half an hour, but it left landmarks and homes broken and in flames. Nearly one hundred Londoners died that night, and the hospitals were filled with casualties.

Miraculously, with just a broken window, Sophie and Moshe's home survives. Jagged glass is carefully removed around the gaping hole and boarded with plywood.

1944 is a leap year, and Sophie and Moshe's youngest daughter goes into labour on February 29. The baby boy arrives just after midnight on March 1st, and since he is the firstborn son, the family celebrates with a Pidyon Ha'Ben thirty days later.

Sophie prepares for Pesach immediately afterwards, and with help, every cupboard is emptied and scrubbed. Soon, the chimney sweep arrives and scours the black soot from all the chimneys and fireplaces with his brushes and long poles.

Moshe drags the boxes of Passover dishes out of storage and carries them into the kitchen.

"Where do you want these?"

"Beside the sink," Sophie says as she hurries out the door toward Ridley Road market to place The Pesach Order, including as many eggs as her food ration book will allow. Everything arrives two days before the first Seder begins, boxes stacked and covered in the now spotless living room.

The oak dining table is small and has no leaves to make it larger. But, as always, they make it work and set eleven places at a table made for six.

The first Seder night is on April 7, and the family welcomes a Jewish soldier away from home — something they have

done each year since the war broke out — and the smell of chicken soup fills his lungs with warmth. Freshly polished candlesticks gleam on a tray in the center of the dining room table covered with a crisp white cloth. Then, finally, the blackout curtains are drawn throughout the house.

"Let's pray for a quiet night," Sophie sighs, looking up.

Everyone squeezes in around the table, and Sophie covers her greying hair with a lace scarf, lights the candles and shades her eyes as she makes the blessing.

Moshe pours Sophie's homemade wine from the glass decanter, and their eldest granddaughter reads the Ma Nishtana. "Why is this night...?" A hush blankets the room as Moshe responds from the Haggadah. Before they eat, he adds a blessing for their family in Poland and France and all the troops fighting Hitler in Europe, including the one who sits at their table waiting to ship out.

And they all say Dayenu.

Fall is Coming by Raizie Jacobson

And then the winds began to blow The leaves on the trees had just begun to turn A few days ago *How beautiful the scenery was* The nostalgia of summer past and fall upon us *Now the beautiful pictures have disappeared* So quickly Memories of past years' High Holidays Walking through the crunchy leaves On the way to shul Oh Mother Nature we cannot forget *You are the mistress* And we are but pawns in your wake Too soon the frosts will come The colours will all be gone We will be left with the colourful memories For the next several months *The bare trees, the snow, the ice, the cold* The short days, the long dark nights Looking forward to spring and the green shoots On the trees, the buds with the promise of Colourful flowers to brighten our days Longer days, sunshine and warmth And so the cycle goes



Gert Goodman's Pesa<u>h</u> Sponge Cake from Arlene Goodman Sylver

Here's a great Pesa<u>h</u> recipe that's easy to make, light and delicious! Arlene says: I remember helping my Mom make this cake using a hand rotary mixer. My Mom made this cake every day of Pesa<u>h</u>. We ate it for breakfast as well as during the day. I learned to cook through the love of helping my Mom in the kitchen.

INGREDIENTS:

- \cdot 10 eggs + 1 extra egg white
- ·1 Cup of Sugar (divided into two)
- ·1/2 Cup of cake meal
- ·1/2 Cup of potato starch
- Juice of 1/2 lemon or orange
- + rind of lemon/orange (optional)
- ·1 tsp oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Preheat the oven to 350°F.

2) Over a large piece of wax paper, carefully sift and measure the 1/2 cup of potato starch and 1/2 cup of cake flour into one bowl. For this recipe, always sift the flour before using, keeping it light and fluffy, never knock it down.

3) Separate eggs and beat yolks until light yellow with 1/2 cup sugar. Pour into large bowl.

4) Whip egg whites in a separate bowl. Add 1/2 cup of sugar after whites start foaming. Beat until peaks form.

5) Put mixer on the lowest speed and add yolks OR just fold yolks in.

6) Add juice and optional rind, plus 1 tsp oil.

7) Fold in cake meal and potato starch. Add these dry ingredients slowly, a bit at a time.

8) Pour into a Tube Pan.

9) Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes. Then turn oven down to 325°F for 10-20 minutes.

10) Remove from oven and immediately turn upside down. Make sure to elevate the pan at least 3-4" so there is air space beneath the cake pan. Let cool and then serve!



Light and fluffy Pesah sponge cake, top with whatever suits you or enjoy just the way it is!



Don't miss this fantastic program. Register on the Beth Tikvah website.

HOLLYWOOD PURIM PARTY



PURIM CARNIVAL





Purim Carnival 5783



Telling Our Story at the Seder by Bracha Feder

It is our responsibility to tell the story of our Egyptian Enslavement and our Exodus. I suggest here three questions for discussion around the

seder table. My ultimate concern and BIG QUESTION:

Which of the following elements of the Haggadah do you think is the most crucial to telling the story with the objective of awakening within people the determination to defeat any 'ongoing Egypts '- personal, communal, national, global?

1) We are meant to begin our telling with the Israelites' **DEGRADATION** (we were slaves) and end with the Israelites' **GLORY** (we are free).

Do you think remembering ourselves as weak and subservient is valuable? Or do you agree with Yudka quoted below? Yudka is a pioneer in early modern Israel and in Hazaz' story is addressing his kibbutz' council. Like many Chalutzim, Yudka was embarrassed by the image of the Jew in Europe and the Shoah.

"I want to state that I'm opposed to Jewish history... Because we "didn't make our own history...Non-Jews made our history for us to suit themselves, and we took it from them as it came. But it's not ours at all ... I don't accept it...Just think- what is there in it? Oppression, again defamation, persecution, martyrdom. And oppression, defamation, and martyrdom. And again and again and again, without end... I would simply forbid teaching our children Jewish history. Why the devil teach them about their ancestors' shame? I would just say to them: from the day we were driven out from our land we've been a people without a history. Class dismissed...I know that there is heroism in the way we stood up to all that oppression and suffering... but I don't care for that kind of heroism... it's nothing but the heroism of despair... But here, in our own land... let there be no continuity but a break, the opposite of what was before, a new beginning." (Haim Hazaz/ The Sermon)

2) Interestingly, **MOSHE**, such a key player in the exodus narrative, except for one time, is absent from the Haggadah. Why do you think that is?

A few theories are suggested:

a) The emphasis is on God as the one ultimately responsible for redeeming us.

b) All human beings are equal before God, including Moshe and this is to be remembered throughout the year.

c) Don't want a People to be permanently organized around one person.

d) Even Moshe, as is the way with individuals with power, is indicated by Sefer Bamidbar that his power may have been going to his head. Limits had to be set.

e) The Egyptian Experience is meant to be a paradigm for on-going struggles and Moshe is absent so as to make the story less specific.

BUT perhaps the most significant and empowering reasons are these two which reflect opposite perspectives:

f) Every person, not just an extraordinary one such as Moshe, can play a role in changing the world.

OR

g) As the Kluausenberger Rebbe said when describing his fellow camp inmates during the Shoah: Moshe's absence from the Haggadah was a source of strength for them. As they looked around and saw there wasn't a human savior among them, they believed that just as God was thee savior in Egypt, He too would save them .

3) Our tradition warns us that we cannot rely on the annual reading of the Haggadah alone but must be reminded daily to ensure dedication to redeeming/changing our world. Rav Kook understood the need for both thought, feeling and action as we face life's 'Egyptian' challenges. His daily reminder was evoked by his head, heart and hand. He explains: "The impact of the wonders of the Exodus must be engraved both in the realm of deed-the element of active existence, and the realm of reflectionthe element of thought and feeling ... To subdue the profane and the grosser elements of existence which constituted the struggle in Egypt, a strong hand was necessary to bring you forth from there by the word of the Lord. Similarly, this achievement of the triumph of the sacred over the profane has to be kept up by great effort and a strong hand whose potency would be made manifest by this precept, majestic in the holiness of the letters of the Tefillin which embrace the twofold symbols of deed and thought.

Only through this mighty twofold power would it be possible to maintain that which had been achieved in days of yore ' with a strong hand'."

What is your daily reminder?

Bracha Feder has shared her passion for learning and teaching with teens, adults and teachers for years. She holds an M.A. in Jewish Thought and Education from the Hebrew University. She was Instructor of Ethics in Jewish Living for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School of the Hebrew University in Toronto for 12 years.

Currently, she offers Synagogue Adult Education courses and on topics such as Jewish Thought, Tanakh, Tefillah, Shabbat and Holy Days.











THE PULSE OF ISRAEL MONDAY, MARCH 27 AT 12:30PM LIVE FROM ISRAEL - ON ZOOM

With YAAKOV KATZ Editor-in-Chief of The Jerusalem Post

In conversation with Rabbi Adam Cutler & Rabbi Jarrod Grover

AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH GENEALOGY

Learn how to research, organize, and create your genealogy story/family tree

Online videos + Hands-on Workshops

Details on the Beth Tikvah website

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP

HAKOL HADASH | Pesah 5783



Mental Well Being through Photography by Rick Bornstein

My interest in photography started in April 1970 with the acquisition of a single lens reflex camera. I don't know what inspired me to

spend US \$200, the full extent of the money that I had at the time, on this luxury item. I don't recall that I had shown any prior interest in the visual arts. Through introspection and examination of results, I learned that I had an expressive side to me, which was ideally suited to photography; to capture moments, to find beauty and to experience a zenlike feeling while in the midst of creating the photograph. Through the years, I have come to appreciate that photography has also contributed greatly to my sense of self and by extension, my mental well being.

I believe, based on my experience as a photography teacher and a writer, that engagement in photography, as a hobby, has positive effects on one's physical and emotional well being.

I write this not only to my photography friends to reinforce in them the reach that this activity provides. I also direct this message at those struggling to find a rewarding and meaningful activity. My cohort has aged and left the working world. Some of them may have too much time on their hands while others have busy 'hands' but are missing the activity that provides socialization, purpose, fulfillment and enjoyment. In truth, there are other pursuits in which to become engaged, where positive outcomes can be achieved. However, it is photography that I know and can speak to.

Through fifty plus years as a student of photography, I have found that the process of creating an image, from the point of visualization (mentally envisioning an image), to the moment the shutter button is released, to be an exercise in exploration, experimentation, self expression, creativity and joy. During an outing to create images, my mind, my body and my eyes are in sync. I am 'in the moment' and in control. Such activity for me is 'my yoga', my mindfulness'.





With respect to my students, it is my belief that each person registered for my class in order to learn how to be become a better photographer. However, they got much more!

These observations arose out of my teaching a group of people, who did not know others in the group at the commencement of the program:

• The students were inclusive, cooperative, generous, respectful and kind towards each other.

• Close friendships developed, which have gone beyond the classroom and into their non-photographic lives.

• You will hear from a student that photography has created in them a different perspective and a different way of seeing. They understand that a subject or a scene is impacted by light, by colour or the absence of colour, the time of day, the weather, the season, and from the perspective in which the subject is viewed. They see the chaos in the everyday scene and work to create an image that excludes these nonessential elements. What I have described above is 'seeing photographically' and this goal is a work in progress for even the seasoned photographer.

• Photography performs as a platform for self expression and provides an opportunity to explore one's creativity. Asked before joining the class whether they thought themselves creative, most stated that they were not and would not know where to start. Their creative output has put to rest that formerly-held belief.

• The improvement in their work served to bolster their self confidence and by extension their self worth.

• Together, we created a safe place, an environment where a student could show their work for critique, not criticism, and be confident that the class was behind them to help them improve.

• The students were encouraged to create photos across a wide spectrum of subjects. One such subject, portraits of people, strangers often, were out of the comfort zone of many. What a feeling of accomplishment this exercise brought to those who tried it!



In the past few years there has been much research done and papers written on the effects of art on physical and psychological health. The making, the analysis and the use of photography in the healing process has been termed Therapeutic Photography. For those who wish to read further, the articles that I enjoyed were:

• The Connection Between Art, Healing, and Public Health; A Review of Current Literature.

• Jenn Pereira's 10 Benefits of Photography to Mental Health, published in Picture Correct.

• Bryce Evans is the creator of "The One Project", which focuses on the healing power of photos for mental health. In his words "Photography can be harnessed as a meditative and mindfulness tool for further introspection by allowing you to look through a new lens photography opens you up to positive perspectives and healing."

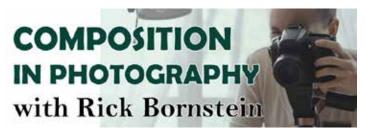
Concluding Comments:

My interest in photography has expanded over the years. The early stage was family photos and vacations. This mass of images are lodged in photo albums. Throughout the years I moved on to create what I deemed to be 'art' and had some success commercially. Today I continue to create images that I use for my personal enjoyment. I spend a great deal of time writing articles on the technical and artistic aspects of photography. For the past eight years, I have taught photography with an emphasis on composition, and with the underlying theme being 'from a snapshot to a work of art'. I get much gratification and a feeling of accomplishment from these three activities.

Throughout much of 2020, I was ill and confined to both hospital and home. In the hospital environment, my mind often took me to thinking of images made and images that I would like to make. I sought out those health professionals who enjoyed photography and spent some time in conversation with them. These thoughts and interactions became a focus and were an escape from the physical and mental ordeal with which I was confronted.

I hope that my thoughts have communicated to you the positive impact that engaging in photography has had on me. My thanks go out to those who created and further developed this art form, to my students from whom I continually learn and to my wife who encourages me, allows me to roam about seeking compelling images, and who critiques my photos from her artistic perspective.

Rick Bornstein's 10 week photography course at Beth Tikvah starts March 23rd from 10AM - 12PM.







הקול 🛲 חד ש

Youth & Young Family Programming



Hello Youth and Young Families!

The last few months at Beth Tikvah have been such a positive experience for me. I have been welcomed by this warm and thoughtful community that I have, very quickly and easily, grown to feel a part of. I have enjoyed getting

to know you, your children, and your extended families at the many events we have planned for you. From <u>H</u>anukkah to Purim, we have had an absolute blast! We are just getting into the groove of celebrating together in person again and it feels fabulous! We have a lot on the calendar for the next few months, be sure to read my weekly emails so that you register and join us for it all!

Wishing you and your loved ones a <u>H</u>ag Kasher v'Samea<u>h</u>!

Nadia Moldaver

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

April 1: Shabbat morning "Chocolate" seder with Nadia and with Mark Weinstock. 10:00AM - 11:30AM followed by kiddush.

April 23: The Bagel King: Bubbies, Zaidyes & Kids Bagel Brunch with author Andrew Larsen. 10:00AM -11:30AM

May 8: Lag B'Omer Celebrations at Beth Tikvah... fun for the whole family!







An Update from Gayle Kertzman, Director of Programs, Events & Community Relations

I would like to dedicate this update to two extraordinary women that we have lost in the past six months. Both women were instrumental in shaping our programming at Beth Tikvah. First, **Mona Brown** z"l, who passed away

this fall, was a Co-Chair of the Adult Education Committee for many years and was one of my mentors. Her positive attitude and love of Beth Tikvah will be something that I cherish as I continue to carry out her vision. Second, **Gerda Frieberg** z"l, who passed away this winter, was a remarkable woman with a remarkable story of survival and resiliency. She helped shape our Holocaust Education programming and was a welcomed addition to our many Shul committees, including Musica. Both women will be greatly missed by our community.

Our calendar of programming in 2023 has been filled with many educational, informative, and entertaining programs – both online and in-person. Highlights have included our discussion with Dr. Isaac Bogoch, learning how to make Montreal bagels, learning about ancient Jewish DNA, our special winter session of Lunch & Learn, and our Israel Affairs two-part program with Iddo Netanyahu.

I continue to partner with the many other Conservative Synagogues in Toronto to bring you additional quality programming As we head into spring, we will continue to move towards more in-person programming, which includes Shabbat dinners, Scholars-in-Residence, handson, Jewish Genealogy courses, a multi-Shul Film Festival, Yoga with Orli and a return to in-person Lunch & Learn programming, after a four-year hiatus. I'm especially looking forward to taking our programs outside of the Shul and out into the community. We have already taken groups to special exhibits at Holy Blossom and the Ontario Archives and I welcome you to join me when we visit the newly renovated Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre this spring. Lastly, stay tuned for our book selection for our annual Summer Reading Series.

Remember to head to the Beth Tikvah YouTube page to watch all of our programming and check out the Beth Tikvah website to learn more and register for our upcoming programs.

Thank you to the volunteers and donors who have helped make our programs and events such a success. A special thank you to Richmond Hill Bingo for their support. Without their involvement, we wouldn't be able to bring you this high-quality calibre of programming.

SAVE THE DATES:

April 19 Jewish influence on Italian Cooking

April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16 Spring 2023: In-person Lunch & Learn with speakers: Mike Daley, Karen Shopsowitz, Jerry Gray & Nathan Greenfield

> May 3 Ask the Expert about Diabetes with Dr. Dan Drucker

May 7 Book Launch: Nothing Could Stop Her with author Rona Arato

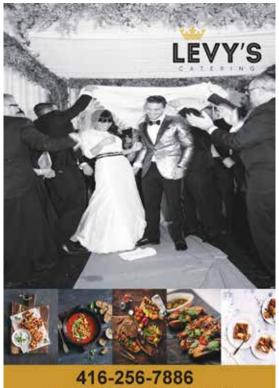
> May 8 Lag B'Omer Celebrations

> > May 30 Musica Concert

June 11 Donor Appreciation Evening

End of May/Early June Ask the Expert - Estate Planning with members, Alan Birnbaum *(accountant)* & Felice Kirsh (*estate litigation lawyer)*

Spring/Summer Reading Series



www.levyskoshercatering.com levyskoshercatering@gmail.com "Mention this ad and receive a complimentary add-on for your menu"

הקול 🚓 חדש

MITZVAH KNITTERS AT BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

Beth Tikvah's Mitzvah Knitters have been busy making a variety of beautiful, colourful and warm knitted chemo caps, winter hats, scarves and other much-needed items. All these wonderful creations are donated to different community organizations around the city. Below, Renee and Elaine show off a sensory Fidget Muff/Fiddle Muff with different textures, colours and materials that give joy and comfort to people with autism or dementia.



Whether you are new to knitting and crocheting or a pro, come join the Mitzvah Knitters to swap yarns (literally & figuratively), socialize and do a mitzvah by donating your creative work to those in need!



Watching a demonstration on how to use a round loom.



One of Beth Tikvah's newest programs is Board Game Night, led by Daniel Nurgitz. "We've had four sessions so far and people have really enjoyed them!" says Daniel. "Board games have come a long way since Monopoly and Scrabble. These modern games offer the opportunity for a fun night of competitive interaction and really get your brain thinking in a different way. I've chosen some light and entertaining games that will keep you coming back to the table for another round!"

Look for more Board Game Nights at Beth Tikvah. Keep your mind sharp and have fun with us - be sure to come try it out!





Another group that's been keeping active throughout the year is Walk with Beth Tikvah. Come out and join the group as they explore and walk different trails in the greater Toronto area. Look for the schedule of upcoming walks on the Beth Tikvah website.





Join us in our many fantastic programs!

Shalom from Beth Tikvah Women

Beth Tikvah Women have some exciting programs planned for the Spring and Summer.

Our very successful annual Mother's Day Plant Sale will be held in May. Watch for the flyer and place your order before we are sold out !!

We are also planning a "Guided Painting program". You do not need to be an artist to participate in this fun program, where everyone will complete a beautiful painting.

Beth Tikvah Women will continue to assemble sandwiches for Ve'ahavta. Together we have made 1,100 sandwiches for the homeless. What an achievement! A huge thank you to all our absolutely fabulous volunteers who made this possible.

Being a member of Beth Tikvah Women entitles you to participate in Women's League for Conservative Judaism programs and programs through our region, International Northeast Region. Our upcoming Torah Fund program with a cantorial student in March and our program "Beyond the Headlines- The Israel we don't hear about" with our Israeli kehillah in April.

Beth Tikvah Women invite you to an enjoyable day at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse theatre. On August 3rd, we will be seeing the play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat". Men and Women are welcome. Watch out for our flyers for all these events and register early.

Thank you for being a member of Beth Tikvah Women,

Adele Weinstein President of Beth Tikvah Women



Sandwiches for Ve'ahavta

It's official. We can now call ourselves *Professional Prolific Sandwich Producers*. Since last writing, volunteers have made a grand total of 2,300 sandwiches.

When the program launched, our goal was to make 200 sandwiches in two hours. Production has now increased to 300 sandwiches packaged individually, in approximately one hour. The plan for April is to aim for 400 sandwiches without even breaking a sweat!

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of this program, and thanks also to the office and custodial staff for their ongoing support.

Please consider coming out for an hour and being part of the production line. It's social, It's fun and it's very rewarding.

Sasha and Adele

NEW DATES FOR 2023: March 13th, April 24th, May 8th & May 29th

We meet from 11:00am-12:00pm in the Beth Tikvah Assembly Hall on the lower level.

A Message from the Ritual Committee: Beth Tikvah has a new policy on headcoverings while in synagogue. Visit www.bethtikvahtoronto.org/ritual for details.







EXCELLENT MAIN FLOOR SEATS THEATRE ACROSS FROM DISCOUNT MALL AND MARKET *PICNIC TABLES *JACKS RESTAURANT

LUXURY COACH BUS LEAVES BETH TIKVAH 9:00 AM

ST. JACOBS THEATRE - DRAYTON THEATRE GROUP

מה ימה ירושתנו

BETH TIKVAH

WOMEN

Rona Arato BOOK LAUNCH



SUNDAY, MAY 7 2:30PM at Beth Tikvah

Ruth Gruber, born to a Jewish American family in 1911, grew up to become a renowned journalist and activist. Her career led her to places that other reporters wouldn't or couldn't go, from Nazi Germany to the remote Arctic regions of the Soviet Union. Ruth told the stories of people in need and fought for their rights to live in safety and freedom.

NOTHING COULD STOP HER

The Courageous Life of Ruth Gruber

\$80

FRIENDS:

\$90

SYA

Musica Beth Tikvah

Musica Beth Tikvah, is committed to bringing you musical programs for all tastes. This year we celebrate Israel at 75!!

We hope you enjoyed the Shabbat (March 24th and 25th), that RAK SHALOM joined us.

We thank the Shulman Family for sponsoring the appearance of this wonderful a cappella group in memory of Arnie Shulman *z*"*l*

Coming next on our Musical Agenda:

May 8, 2023 Lag Ba'Omer for the Whole Family

Celebrating 75 Years Of Israeli Culture

5:30 pm - Youth and Young Families – Carnival with lots of surprises & BBQ in the BT parking lot

7:30 pm - Minha-Ma'ariv Services

8:00 pm - ISRAEL'S MUSICAL MOSAIC

Join us as we celebrate the vibrant musical diversity of modern Israel. Through the music, photo collage and insightful narration we will highlight the contributions made to this relatively new culture by groups of Jewish immigrants from various ethnic backgrounds. With their return to our homeland, they brought along a wealth of influences and human expression from all around the world. Our performers will delight us with authentic Jewish music from communities from the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and more.

Come and enjoy a sample from Israel's diverse cultural mix!

Featuring: World renowned <u>Hazzanim Aaron Bensoussan</u>, David Guber and our very own <u>Hazzan Tibor Kovari</u>.

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Music Week at Beth Tikvah is back!

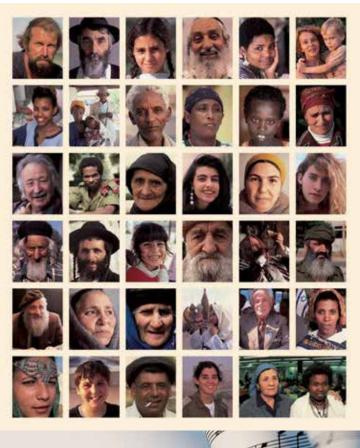
JEWISH CLASSICS

Our Annual Gala Fundraiser will be taking place on Tuesday May 30, 2023: 8 pm at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Featuring: the Inaugural Concert of the Toronto Jewish Camerata Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Alexander Veprinskiy. **Special guest performer:** Internationally renowned Israeli Opera Singer: Guy Mannheim

Watch your inbox for further details. There's something for everyone. Remember, even though a program might be offered free, donations to the Musical Heritage Fund are needed to keep our high quality programs going. Join us, please. We hope to see you in person, but we will of course, also offer the programs through live streaming/YouTube.





23

הקול 😹 חדש

B'not / B'nai Mitzvah



Cody Black Bar Mitzvah: January 2, 2023

Cole Feldbloom

Bar Mitzvah: Aug. 27, 2022

Son of Shane and Riva Black, grandson of Gloria Shapero, Ian and Helen Black, and the late Faye Black *z"l*. Cody, a gifted lover of the theatrical arts currently starring in the role of Gad in the Mirvish production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat, gave the performance of a lifetime by participating in a special weekday shaharit service where he layned from the Torah and delivered a Tony-worthy D'var Torah. Surrounded by his family — Bubi Gloria, Zaidie Ian and Bubi Helen, sisters Samara and Jordyn and brother Zachary — Cody received a standing ovation for all his hard work.

Special thanks go to his supporting cast, Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein, Cantor Tibor Kovari, teacher Noah Diamond and all the people backstage at Beth Tikvah who made his Bar Mitzvah so special.

Daughter of Julia & Larry Borins, big sister to Hana & Ruby Borins. Proud grandparents Mel & Bonnie Borins, Stephen & Marion Feldman, great-grandmother Marabelle Cornfield. Lyla currently attends Summit Heights Public School in grade 7 and spends her summers at Arowhon in Algonquin Park. Lyla is a competitive hockey player and currently plays for the North York Storms. She loves science, art, reading, music, and spending time with her friends and family. As part of Lyla's Bat Mitzvah Project, she decided to write a picture book for children, raising funds and awareness for the Israel Guide Dog Center. They are an organization in Israel that serves over 24,000 blind and visually impaired Israelis. Lyla's picture book illustrates what having a guide dog looks like, and all the money she raises from the sale of this book will go directly to the charity. Lyla looks forward to visiting these special dogs one day soon, meeting the trainers, and touring the facility when her family travels to Israel. (*See page 27*).

We are grateful that Lyla celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Grover and the special community of Beth Tikvah. She did a beautiful job reading from the Torah, and delivered a very meaningful and insightful D'var Torah. She also led the Havdalah Service, accompanied by her Father, Grandfather, and Uncles.

Son of Alisa and Michael Feldbloom. Sharing in the celebration are sisters Hannah and Shayna, as well as grandparents Phyllis and Ken Feldbloom. Sadly missed at this time is grandmother Claire Sluser z''l. Flying in from Israel is our "oldest" child, Noam Moser, the Shinshin we hosted 6 years ago.

Cole currently attends Bialik Hebrew Day School (Himmel). He is thrilled to celebrate at Beth Tikvah because his father, sisters and uncles all had their bar/bat mitzvahs at BT as well. Cole grew up at Beth Tikvah and feels very much at home there. He loves that Rabbi Grover has a nickname for him and was happy to be one of the first students to

work with Rabbi Zilbershtein. Cole thought Irv was hilarious as his teacher for the Torah and haftorah. Cole spends Friday nights having shabbat with his family and many Saturdays here at BT.

Daughter of Rabbi Jarrod and Carmela Grover, and big sister of Jonah, Nate, and Gabriel. She is a 7th grade student at Netivot Hatorah Day School. Renee led Kabbalat Shabbat services and delivered a D'var Torah from the bimah on Parashat Vayera.



Renee Samara Grover Bat Mitzvah: Nov. 11, 2022

Bat Mitzvah: Dec. 10, 2022



Son of Ur Metser and Israel Friedman. Sharing in the celebration (via streaming) were Etye's family in Israel including proud savta Ruth Metser. Sharing in-person were Etye's great-aunt Rouhama Danto, brother Liad and twin sister Leia. Both of Etye's siblings missed out on their own synagogue experience due to the pandemic, and Rabbi Grover surprised them both when he called them up to the Bima to stand with Etye to have the candies thrown at them as well. It was a beautiful and emotional moment we will all cherish. Sadly missed were saba Yuval Metser z''l, saba David Friedman z''l as well as Etye's uncle Ahrale Friedman z''l.

Etye attends Grade 8 at Bialik Hebrew Day School and is a member of Student Council. He loves doing outdoor activities with his friends and travelling with his family. Etye read his Torah portion from parshat Lech-Lecha beautifully and his D'var Torah focused on Hashem's message to Avraham Avinu that he should forge his own Jewish path in life. This is a message that Etye plans to implement for himself.



Etye Metser-Friedman Bar Mitzvah: Nov. 3, 2022

Thank you to the Rabbis and staff at Beth Tikvah for making this such a memorable milestone for us all.



Leah Langburt Bat Mitzvah: Sept. 10, 2022

Daughter of Michelle and Dr. Wayne Langburt. Sharing in the celebration are her older sisters Dahlia and Maya. Proud grandparents Marsha and Morris Goldstein, and Helen and Nathan Langburt (from Montreal).

Leah currently attends Associated Hebrew Day School in grade 8. She spends her summers at Camp White Pine in Haliburton. Leah is an excellent tennis player. She also enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and soccer. She loves skiing with her family during the winter. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and Menchie (family dog).

Leah is looking forward to continuing her Jewish Education at TanenbaumCHAT next year.

Mazel Tov Leah!!

Gavin, son of Seribeth and Adam Kertzner, brother of Luke, Grandson of Shelly and Stuart Kertzner and the late, Victoria Traub z''l, took on his responsibilities of a Jewish adult with grace and confidence. Gavin read from the Torah and delivered a meaningful and powerful D'Var Torah honoring his late Boobie Frieda z''l, a holocaust survivor who passed away at 100 years old in June 2022. He also honored his Boobie Vici z''lwho left us too soon on Mother's Day 2022.

Gavin was born and bred in New York City, is a dual Canadian + American citizen and is now in his 8th and final year at Palm Valley Academy in Northern Florida going into High school in the fall of 2023. Gavin spends his summer at camp in Ontario where he made great Jewish friends who were the reason Gavin chose to have his Bar Mitzvah in Toronto. Gavin spends his free time playing hockey, golf and DJ'ing.

Gavin is the most amazing son, loving brother and loyal friend. His parents are so proud of the man he is becoming and wish him nothing but good health, happiness and success.



Gavin Spencer Kertzner Bar Mitzvah: Oct. 22, 2022

Son of Natalie Pancer and Mitchell Rose. Sharing in the celebration is older brother, Rubin and grandparents, Lynnda & Jeffrey Pancer and Clara Rose. Celebrating in spirit is Zadie Irwin Rose *z"l*.

Jack is currently in Grade 8 at Bialik Hebrew Day School. He enjoys hanging out with friends, playing rep hockey and giving lots of hugs to his dog Milo.

We are very grateful to be a part of the warm and supportive Beth Tikvah community and we are very happy to have celebrated Jack's simcha here. We are especially grateful to the amazing BT clergy, including Rabbi Grover, Rabbi Zilbershtein, <u>Hazzan Kovari</u> and Irv Kirshenblat for guiding Jack through his Bar Mitzvah experience.



Jack Rose Bar Mitzvah: Oct. 29, 2022



Theodora Muse Shulman Bat Mitzvah: Nov. 26, 2022

Daughter of Cara and Matthew Shulman. Sharing in the celebration is brother, Ezra and proud grandparents Amy Contino and Lou Shulman. Sadly missed at this time are grandparents Peter Contino z''l and Judy Shulman z''l. Theodora attends Rawlinson Community School and spends her summers at Camp Shalom. Her current passions are knitting, video games and all things Harry Potter. She's active with student council, school clubs, and babysitting.

Theodora marked her Bat Mitzvah by chanting the Maftir and Haftorah for Parashat Toldot. She also delivered a thoughtful D'var Torah about lessons from Torah relating to cheating and lying. Her Mitzvah project included donating clothing and preparing sandwiches for Ve'ahavta, a Jewish humanitarian organization dedicated to promoting positive change in the lives of people of all faiths and backgrounds who have been marginalized by poverty and hardship.

Daughter of Elli & Michael Weisdorf. Sharing in the celebration is sister, Samantha, and proud grandparents Agi & Jack Mandel and Joel Weisdorf. Sadly missed at this time are grandmother Gay Rudolph *z*"*l* and great-grandmother Stella Rudolph *z*"*l*.

Madeline currently attends The York School in grade 8 and spends her summers at Camp George. Maddie loves creating visual art, swimming, treetop trekking, and spending time with her friends. Madeline was thrilled to finally become a Bat Mitzvah after postponing due to the pandemic. It was beautiful and meaningful to be able to celebrate with friends and family in person at Beth Tikvah.



Madeline Weisdorf Bat Mitzvah: Dec. 3, 2022



Amy Weissberger Bat Mitzvah: Dec. 17, 2022

Daughter of Laya and Jeff Weissberger, and sister of Evan and Aaron. Proud grandfather is Milton Rusonik. Lovingly remembered are grandparents, Gilda Rusonik z''l, and Eva and Tibor Weissberger z''l.

Amy is currently in grade 7 at the Toronto Heschel School, and is eagerly anticipating her Senior Year at Camp Shalom this summer. Amy also loves performing in musical theatre productions. Fittingly, Amy read about Pharoah's dreams from Parshat Miketz, and led a beautiful Havdalah Service. She was taught by Moreh Uncle Alan Rusonik and Morah Lesley Cohen. The meaningful service was followed by a beautiful party surrounded by the warmth of family and friends. Amy continued the tradition of Rusonik/Weissberger Smachot at Beth Tikvah, including her baby naming and her brothers' bar mitzvahs. Zaidy Milton, a founding member and past president of Beth Tikvah, couldn't be more delighted.

For her Mitzvah Project, Amy turned to her love of baking and held a bake sale and also created and sold copies of a cookbook with her favourite recipes. Amy's mitzvah project raised over \$1800 and she divided all the funds between Food Banks Canada and Leket Israel to help those who are living with food insecurities. (*See next page*)

Mazel Tov Amy!

B'not Mitzvah Projects Tracy & Me by Lyla Borins

Dog Center

At the Israel Guide **V** Dog Center, we

are blessed to have wonderful friends who love our clients and dogs and the work we do every day on their behalf.

This year, we were incredibly blessed that Lyla Borins, a Bat Mitzvah girl from Toronto, undertook a special project with us in mind. Lyla wrote and illustrated a beautiful book called *Tracy & Me*. She and her family worked with the Canadian Friends of the Israel Guide Dog Center and our staff in Israel to create a touching story of Sabrina, a young visually impaired girl and her special dog, Tracy.

"I decided to create a picture book to illustrate what having a guide dog looks like." In the process, Lyla learned about guide dogs, how they are trained, and the unique partnership between a visually impaired person and their dog.

The family had the book printed and bound, creating a creative and innovative fundraiser for the IGDC. *Tracy* & *Me* is a terrific tool to help kids understand the bond between guide dogs and their blind or visually impaired handlers. The book was Lyla's Bat Mitzvah project, and she has already raised \$400 for us! She's excited to visit our center in Israel and see our puppies, dogs, clients, and staff first-hand.

Lyla and her family have graciously made the book available to anyone who would like a copy for themselves. All proceeds will go to the Canadian Friends of the Israel Guide Dog Center, and books will be mailed to the donor.

Visit: https://israelguidedogcenter.crowdchange.ca/27990 to donate & receive a book.





Amy's Cookbook

My name is Amy Weissberger. Food Banks I have been a member of Beth Tikvah since I was born,

and my grandparents, Milton and Gilda Rusonik, were founding members of the shul. As some of you might know, I really love baking. It just so happens that my Torah portion for my Bat Mitzvah has to do with food. In my Parshah, Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams as seven years of feast followed by seven years of famine in Egypt. I decided to connect the idea of food insecurity and my love of baking for my Bat Mitzvah project.

I decided to make a cookbook featuring some of my favourite recipes. I was inspired by the amazing desserts made by my various family members, including my mom, great aunt, and my late Bubbie Gilda. I am selling copies of my cookbook for \$18 - I can email you a digital copy or print a copy for you (printed copies will be \$20). The famine in my Parshah made me think about those who are hungry across Canada and Israel. So 100% of the money raised from the sales of the cookbook will be donated to Food Banks Canada and Leket Israel.

Thanks for your support! I can't wait to share my special book with you. Contact me at amynataliew@gmail.com for more information.

Amy

Mitzvah Projects



MAZEL TOV TO THE FOLLOWING:

Bat/Bar Mitzvahs:

Lindsay Frimet, Brandon Frimet and Jenna Greenspoon on the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Frimet. Grandparents are Toba & Robert Frimet, Heidi & Jonathan Pivnick.

Michelle & Wayne Langburt on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Leah. Grandparents are Marsha & Morris Goldstein and Helen & Nathan Langburt.

Melanie Craig & David Rouhi on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Noa. Grandparents are Evvie Craig and Helen & Harry Rouhi.

Catherine Bourgouin & Steven Holcman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Michael James Holcman on Hoshana Raba. Grandparents are Elizabeth Johnson, Paul Bourgouin, and Angie & Nathan Holcman.

Tanya & Darryl Sylver on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Austin Sylver. Grandparents are Arlene & Allan Sylver and Natalie & Ian Peter Gerson.

Seri & Adam Kertzner on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Gavin Kertzner. Grandparents are Shelly & Stuart Kertzner, Victoria Traub and great-grandmother Freida Traub.

Natalie Pancer & Mitch Rose on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jack Rose. Grandparents are Clara Rose, Lynnda & Jeffrey Pancer.

Ur Metser & Israel Friedman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Etye Metser-Friedman. Grandmother is Ruth Metser.

Karen & Cory Freed on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joshua Freed. Grandparents are Eva & Earl Biderman.

Rabbi Jarrod & Carmela Grover on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Renee. Grandparents are Richard Grover and Joan & Larry Lieberman.

Yael Baruch & Ron Basch and Evan Lewis on the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lewis. Grandparents are Karen & Amnon Baruch, Sharyn & Tony Lewis. Great-grandmother is Susan Baruch.

Dayna & Cory Bruner on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Mason Bruner. Grandparents are Barbara & Harvey Citron and Susan & Carey Salem.

Cara & Matthew Shulman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Theodora Shulman. Grandparents are Amy & Peter Contino and Lou Shulman.

Elli & Michael Weisdorf on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Madeline. Grandparents are Agi & Jack Mandel and Joel Weisdorf.

Julia & Larry Borins on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Lyla. Grandparents are Marion & Stephen Feldman, Bonnie & Mel Borins. Great grandmother is Marabelle Cornfield. Laya & Jeff Weissberger on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Amy Natalie Weissberger. Grandfather is Milton Rusonik.

Nadine & Jordan Grossman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Mathew Gil Grossman. Grandparents are Rhonda & David Newman, Cheryl Rosenberg, Mark Grossman, Margorie Frimeth and Pearl Newman.

Marisa Wardinger & Alan Kahn on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Tamar Rafaela Kahn. Grandparents are Susan & Alan Roadburg, Marylin & David Kahn and Mory Wardinger.

Birthdays:

Allan Krett on his 90th Birthday.

Isaac Silverstein on his 90th Birthday

Rona Armel on her 80th Birthday

Bryna Garmaise on her 81st Birthday!

Mazel Tov to Harvey Haber on his 87th Birthday.

Weddings:

Gila Gabay & Corey Bloom on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Fay & Ely Gabay and Susan & Jeffrey Bloom. Grandparents are Gusty Schachter, Rubin Reisler and Barrie Reisler.

Emily Cohen & Joseph Schneider on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Fran & Jordan Cohen and Lili & Aby Schneider.

Rachel Albert & David Hartman on their wedding.

Dayna Mailach & Shaiel Dukerker on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Elaine Zuck & Bernard Mailach, Binyamin & Rina Dukerker. Grandfather is Victor Zuck.

Kate Tenenhouse & David Kornhauser on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Corinne Halpern & Bryan Tenenhouse and Deborah & Danny Kornhauser. Grandparents are Miriam & Alex Spilberg, Marsha & Howard Halpern.

Rochelle Thalmann & Sheldon Bernofsky on their Wedding.

Bailey Frid & Aaron Spritzer on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Gail & Larry Frid and Julia & Marvin Spritzer. Grandparents are Bubby Rose, Hillel and Nadia Frid and Granny Riva Levick.

Dara Lockwood & Eduardo Brandao on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Joanne & Paul Lockwood and Celia & Marco Brandao. Grandmother is Debby Gollom.



Mazel Tovs & Celebrations

Births:

Eve Hurowitz & Adam Jerusalim on the naming of their daughter Hannah Sydney Jerusalim. Grandparents are Beth Warren and Eric Hurowitz, Glynis & Jack Jerusalim.

Leiza Kaufman on the naming of her daughter Ainsley Sloane Kaufman. Grandmother is Yvone Kaufman. Great grandfather is Irvin Suchall.

Sarah & Bram Rosenberg on the naming of their daughter Ariana Liora Michal Rosenberg. Grandparents are Beth Rosenberg, Lorenzo & Colette Berardinetti. Great grandparents are Evelyn Mitchell and Phil Rosenberg.

Myrna & Ed Levy on the birth of their great-grandson Asher Rymberg-Davis. Parents are Melina Rymberg & Alexander Davis. Grandparents are Beth Levy and Roger Davis and Marissa and Gustavo Rymberg. Great grandmother is Jeanie Davis

Jenna and Jesse Silverman on the birth of their son, Atlas Kai Silverman.

Grandparents Yvonne Kaufman, Debi Traub and Steve Sheffer, David Silverman and Lori Epstein. Great-Grandfather Irv Suchall

Welcome to our New and Returning Members

- Steven & Naomi Barwin
- Sheldon Bernofsky & Rochelle Thalman
- Larry & Julia Borins
- Zachary Chippin
- Jack & Mindy Cohen
- Zane & Baden Colt

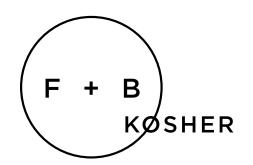
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Remembering Gerda Frieberg, 97, a Holocaust survivor who was a dynamo in education and community activism in Toronto

Reprinted from the Canadian Jewish News January 9, 2023 by Ron Csillag



Gerda Frieberg, an outspoken, energetic and pioneering advocate for Holocaust education and Jewish causes, died at her home in Toronto on Jan. 3. She was 97.

For years in local Jewish circles, the name "Gerda," on its own, was often enough to conjure an image of a whirlwind in perpetual motion, whether it was raising funds or organizing meetings for a wide variety of Jewish and human rights causes.

Widely accomplished and known for her chutzpah and tenacity, she was perhaps most closely associated with memorializing the Holocaust, which she had survived, and educating young people about it. She began speaking about the Shoah as early as 1962, first in local schools, then across Canada.

She went on to chair the committee that created Toronto's Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre (now the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre).

She called it the highlight of 43 years of volunteerism that included State of Israel Bonds, the campaign for Soviet Jewry, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, B'nai Brith Women, and the Ontario Cabinet Roundtable on Anti-Racism.

Fellow Holocaust survivor and educator Nate Leipciger said he met Frieberg in 1980, when the two began plans for a Holocaust memorial centre in Toronto. He remembered her "dedication and ability to cut through bureaucratic obstacles, and get things done."

Leipciger recalled "a fantastic orator (who) usually spoke without notes. Her message was always positive and inspiring. She challenged her audiences to action and never to abandon the memory of those we lost in the Shoah."

The Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre opened in September 1985.

As chair of the Ontario region of the now-defunct Canadian Jewish Congress in the early 1990s, Frieberg was the public face of and spokesperson for a variety of major events and Jewish news stories. Even before that, she was a go-to for reporters who needed to interview a Holocaust survivor.

Bernie Farber, the former CEO of the CJC, recalled that around 1992, Frieberg insisted on accompanying him to Toronto City Hall to lay a complaint against Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel and Wolfgang Droege, leader of the far-right Heritage Front, who were both scheduled to speak there.

"As we approached Nathan Phillips Square, and with media in tow, she walked directly up to both Droege and Zundel," Farber told The CJN. "She went eye to eye with them—I will never forget this—and uttered something in German. Then she turned to the press and said, 'I told them there is no room for the three of us here and I have no intention of leaving!" The two men turned and walked away.

Recalled Farber: "She would always say to me, 'those bastards are not getting away with their mishigas on my watch." Frieberg seemed to delight in describing herself as "a troublemaker," but she made education, philanthropy and human rights priorities.

For the Toronto Holocaust Centre, she led fundraising by holding private salons and securing support from the provincial and federal governments, said Dara Solomon, the centre's executive director. Frieberg also procured loans of artifacts from international institutions, Solomon added.

"Gerda inspired thousands of students with her testimony and she also inspired many survivors to join the centre as Survivor Speakers," Solomon said. "I was always so moved when she spoke, as she was both passionate and incredibly articulate."

Frieberg's work at the centre paved the way for the new state-of-the-art Toronto Holocaust Museum, scheduled to open this spring, Solomon said.

Hers was a rags to riches story, eulogized her son, Jack, at Frieberg's funeral on Jan. 5. She was born Gerda Steinitz on Oct. 12, 1925 in the mostly German-speaking Polish village of Bielschowitz, in Upper Silesia. The village was once part of Germany and only one kilometer from the German border. They were the sole Jewish family in the village, and Gerda attended religious school on the German side of the frontier.

Her father, Josef, ran a general store and freely extended credit to customers who toiled in the mines. She recalled a happy childhood.

"My earliest memory of tzedakah was when my mother would send us to deliver food to needy Jewish elderly in the neighbouring town," Frieberg reminisced in an online archive of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

The family witnessed the expulsion of Polish Jews from Germany. "They were left without food or shelter so my mother offered our kitchen to prepare meals and we helped to deliver them."

On a trip to visit an aunt in Berlin during the 1936 summer Olympics, she caught a glimpse of the U.S. sprinter Jesse Owens. It was the first Black face she ever saw. From aboard a bus one day, she also witnessed a limousine carrying Adolf Hitler and his entourage on their way to a function. Traffic

Remembering Gerda Frieberg

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stopped. The arms of bystanders and the bus passengers all snapped into the Nazi salute, amid cries of "Heil Hitler!"

The young Frieberg realized something: "My grandfather was buried with military honours but I don't belong here anymore," she recounted in video testimony for Crestwood Preparatory College's oral history project.

Two years later, in the German town of Hindenburg, just across the border, she witnessed synagogues and Jewish schools aflame, Torah scrolls and prayer books dumped onto the streets, and broken glass everywhere during the countrywide pogrom known as Kristallnacht.

It was "a very rude awakening for a 13-year-old," remarked her son. Indeed, the episode was seared into her memory. In a reminiscence for Postmedia in 2017, she recalled that horrible day in November, 1938:

"My father knocked on a door of a family friend, an elderly woman, but no one answered. So we went back to (his) motorcycle. And I can still see this, even after so many years. I can still see this...the curtain was slightly parted and the lady was looking out, and so we went back and knocked. The Nazis had come in the middle of the night looking for her husband. She told them he had never returned from the First World War and that he had fought for Germany. They called her a lying Jew and threw her down the stairs. She was blue with bruises. They trashed her apartment. We left."

In October 1939, just one month after the Second World War began, Frieberg's father was picked up but was able to return home for a time before being deported again. Meantime, Frieberg, her sister Hana, and their mother Elfrieda were shipped in 1940 to the Jaworzno Ghetto in southern Poland and, on the last day of Passover 1942, Frieberg was sent to the Ober Alstadt labour camp in Czechoslovakia, where she worked in the machine shop of a spinning mill. She later noted that she had spent precisely 1,123 days there.

The family received letters from Josef until early 1945. They learned after the war that he likely died of typhus at the Gross-Rosen death camp, which had been the parent camp of where his wife and two daughters had been.

After liberation in May, 1945, Frieberg, her sister and mother spent four years in a displaced persons camp in Landsberg, near Munich, where Frieberg became a proficient seamstress. It was also where she met her husband, Louis Frieberg, a fellow Polish survivor.

In all, Frieberg lost 172 members of her family. She, her sister and mother were the only survivors.

Having met David Ben-Gurion, then chairman of the Jewish Agency, who had toured the DP camps to raise morale and enlist support for a Jewish state, Frieberg, her mother and husband-to-be made their way to fledgling Israel in 1949. She and Louis wed there that year, but the clan left three years later for Toronto, where he plied his craft as a carpenter and Gerda hers as a seamstress, earning 70 cents per dress in a sweatshop on Spadina Avenue. She spoke no English.

Within a few years, they'd founded their own construction company and, as a 2014 Maclean's profile on Frieberg

noted, "rode Ontario's late-century development wave to prosperity." Their son went on to own the building where his mother had sewed.

In a full life, she traveled extensively and her athleticism was renowned. She hiked, kayaked, sailed, canoed and cycled. She was fierce at tennis, and played often with the late Rabbi Gunther Plaut, disputing shots and keeping score in German. Her family noted that she skied for eight decades.

She became a licensed pilot in her mid-40s, flying Shabbat goodies to her son in university in London, Ont. She later obtained her demanding Instrument Rating. At an Acapulco resort, she boldly strode up to Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, who were relaxing at the pool, to ask a question that had been bothering her: What direction would a compass point if you were at the North Pole?

Over the decades, said her son Jack, she spoke to tens of thousands of people at universities, churches, synagogues, schools, at Roy Thomson Hall, in front of Parliament in Ottawa and at Queen's Park in Toronto, and at Holocaust survivors gatherings all over the continent.

"When she spoke, not only you could hear a pin drop, you also could hear tears drop, as she had an amazing way of reaching into the hearts of those that were fortunate to hear her," Jack Frieberg eulogized.

"She always said she had no regrets, and she definitely did it her way, by hook or by crook, through the front door or the back," he went on. "She accomplished what few could in a lifetime."

Frieberg self-published two memoirs, 2013's I Kept My Promise, in which she recalled her family's story, followed up two years later with Never a Bystander, which began with her arrival in Canada in 1953.

She echoed the title of the second volume in 2016, when she joined other well-known Holocaust survivors at a press conference in Toronto to urge the world to intervene in atrocities being committed in Syria. "We must not become bystanders," Frieberg said. "We can make a difference. Let our voices be heard."

Her husband died in 2009. She is survived by her children, Josey Frieberg and Jack Frieberg, six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

In one of several interviews with The CJN over the years, Frieberg reflected on her life and its meaning. "I considered my survival a gift

dedicated to be to the memory of the victims of the Shoah," she said. "Amid the silence of the world, the plea of the victims, 'Remember us' became а commandment."





Remembering Mona Brown, z"I

By Rabbi Jarrod Grover

Beth Tikvah was really a home to Mona – she loved this place, and we loved her. She was one of the most engaged and involved members of the shul who was involved from the very beginning. I worked closely with her on the Adult Education Committee and the <u>H</u>esed Committee, and many other synagogue projects. She was the first one to show enthusiasm for a project, particularly when it involved Jewish culture or Jewish music or Yiddish. Volunteering was her life. She volunteered outside the synagogue as well at Baycrest and the Toronto Holocaust Memorial Museum. These weren't just pastimes for her, they were passions. Her commitment to her heritage and her community was unshakeable.

Mona was one-of-a-kind. She spoke often about growing up

as an only child, and how, perhaps paradoxically, that helped her develop better social skills, and do so faster than others, and how that shaped her worldview to appreciate and care for others in unusually significant ways. Some people speak to you so that they can size you up. Mona never did that. She didn't judge anyone for where they came from or what they did. She talked to you so that she could genuinely get to know you and connect and find something to appreciate about you. If you were having a happy day, she would be happy for you and with you. With a smile that was compelling, as it was genuine. If you were having a hard day, she would sympathize and give you encouragement. If you were struggling with something, she wouldn't just jump in with advice, she would find some way first of empathizing. She talked to you so that she could put a smile on your face by making some happy comment that really would lift your spirits and improve your day.

Her humanity – her genuine desire to connect with people – fueled many different parts of her life. It explains the strong connection with her children and grandchildren. It explains the wonderful soirees that she would host with Leo z''l – she loved to entertain.

But I can testify personally to her sensitivity in caring for others behind the scenes in her volunteer capacities at Beth Tikvah. For several years, Mona and I had to work closely together because of her leadership on the <u>H</u>esed committee. As part of her job, she managed a fund called My Brother's Keeper. It was a fund set up by the <u>H</u>esed committee to help members in need. When I heard of a case of need, I would have to speak to Mona confidentially to get her permission to use some of those funds.

Mona always respected that confidentiality and she didn't just rush to approve the distribution of funds, she also wanted to know more about the situation so she could determine if there was some other way she and others could be helpful. For her, <u>H</u>esed wasn't just a job or a responsibility, it was in her DNA.

Mona had great taste - an eye for beautiful things and great food too. We connected years ago over some delicious lemon squares that she baked for me. She presented and decorated them like they came from a fancy bakery. She had class, elegance, and style. Impeccable matters, always speaking respectfully and sincerely. Never talked down to anyone. And she loved to laugh. Even when I knew that things in her life were difficult. Even when there were losses and challenges. She still found something to be positive about. Something to laugh about.

Mona was a wonderful person to have on your side, and over the years she became a dear friend. She lived just next door for a big part of her life. And even though I only knew her in her later years, I was always inspired by how she aged and handled transitions in life with grace, acceptance, optimism and humor.

> The day before she died I had a very meaningful call with her. And before I spoke to her, I talked to Janet, who said sadly that I probably wouldn't have much a conversation with her. Mom can't speak much, and she has memory issues. But you can try.

I called and I had to try a few times, but eventually she picked up, I said, Mona, I'm so happy you picked up - it's Rabbi Grover.

I waited a bit, worried that she wouldn't be able to respond, or perhaps would be too

confused to know who she was speaking to. But she responded.

She said, "Oh, my friend."

Now I serve hundreds of people at this shul and even more in the wider community. But Mona Brown was the only one person who regularly called me, "My friend." We spoke with each other and shared our affection and respect for each other, with the hope that we would get to speak again soon.

Janet prepared me for the worst, but the conversation was actually the best. Mona knew she had lived a full life, and that those times of intensity and activity and involvement were behind her. Now she was weak of body, but strong enough of mind to say goodbye knowing that her family, from near and far, was embracing her in love.

And I will never forget that on her last day of her life, when her body no longer allowed her to do any good deeds anymore, her spirit still reached out to speak to me with Mona's classic affection and warmth, and called me friend. Even on her last day, she was thinking of others.

Mona Brown was an incredible, incredible woman who will never be forgotten. An inspiration for all of us. May the good deeds and the <u>hesed</u> that she performed, and the good memories that she leaves behind, endure here in this world as an eternal blessing for all of us.

We extend Condolences to the following:

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David Herlick Kenneth & Esther Hersh Linda Hoffer Alan & Rita Hoffman Sam & Beverley Holtzman Howard Honickman & Janice Wolochow Louisa Hostick Alan & Lin Judelman Selwyn & Sandy Kahn Rita Karp Reene & Marvin Katz Gayle Kaufman The Kaufman Family The Kerekes Family The Kerekes Family Gayle & Stephen Kertzman and Family The Kessel Family The Kestenberg Family Michael & Sylvia Kestenberg Kay Klerer & Family Sydney & Brenda Klug Danny & Deborah Kornhauser Simon & Ruby Kreindler Allan & Pamela Krett Allan & Paméla Krett The Kwinter Family The Laikens Marvin & Rose Lavine Ronald & Edda Laxer Michael & Cheryl Levick Jeff & Renee Levine Barbara Levitt Halina Levitt The Levitt Family Edward & Myrna Levy William & Anne Lieberman Mark & Marilynn Lockwood Philip & Frances Macarz Ronald & Sherry Mandel Harry & Molly Mann Anne & Michael McCleave The Melzer Family Joshua & Eileen Mendelsohn Howard Michaels Honey & Meier Miller Douglas Millstone & Linda Chodos The Mintzberg Family Faye Minuk Fagel Mitgang Stuart & Barbara Mlotek Maurice Moss & Karen Garmaise Allan & Esther Nadler and Family Alisa Naiman Joseph & Freda Naiman Renee Naiman Rosalie Nepom The Newman Family Barbara, Robert, Samantha & Noah Palter Silvia Vides Perez Malcolm & Betty Perlman Marlee Petroff Gloria Pinkus Lorne Pollock & Sharon Walder Esta Pomotov The Posen Family Wayne & Melissa Potashner Howard & Leah Price Stephen & Maxine Price Jack & Barbara Prince Janet Rabovsky The Raise Days Team Stanley & Susan Rabovsky Annette Rapoport Arthur & Arlene Resnick Edward & Harriet Rice Clifford Richler Lauren, Neil, Benji & Emma Richler Alan & Susan Roadburg Robert & Susan Robinson Richard & Sheila *z*^{*Tl*} Rodney The Rogow Family Rachel & Jay Rolnick Abraham & Vivienne Rootenberg

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SHABBAT MAY 13



SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

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In Conversation with Rabbi Jarrod Grover & Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein

D'var Torah by Rabbi Nevins & Conversation Followed by Kiddush-Luncheon

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of his rabbinate, with a focus on training the head, heart and hands to engage with Jewish wisdom, create compassionate communities, and pursue justice.





