

BETH
TIKVAH
SYNAGOGUE



HAKOL HADASH



SPRING EDITION
5784



MISSION TO ISRAEL
UNDERSTANDING • SHOWING SOLIDARITY
CONNECTING • VOLUNTEERING • ADVOCATING
JANUARY 16 - JANUARY 23, 2024

Cover photo by Barry Green

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - PASSOVER 2024/5784

Monday, April 22

| | |
|--|----------|
| Shaharit and Siyyum Bekhorim (study session for the first born)..... | 7:00 AM |
| Latest time for eating Hametz | 10:34 AM |
| Latest time for burning Hametz | 11:55 AM |
| There will be no Minha/Ma'ariv service | |
| <i>Candlelighting is at 7:52 PM</i> | |
| <i>The first Seder, according to tradition, starts about an hour after candlelighting.</i> | |

Tuesday, April 23

| | |
|--|---------|
| Shaharit for the first day of Passover | 9:00 AM |
| There will be no Minha/Ma'ariv service | |
| <i>Candlelighting is at 8:58 PM</i> | |

Wednesday, April 24

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Shaharit for the second day of Passover..... | 9:00 AM |
| Minha for the second day of Passover, Ma'ariv for Hol HaMo'ed | 8:05 PM |
| <i>Havdalah.....</i> | <i>8:59 PM</i> |

Thursday, April 25

| | |
|---|---------|
| Shaharit for Hol HaMo'ed..... | 7:30 AM |
| Minha and Ma'ariv for Hol HaMo'ed | 7:00 PM |

Friday, April 26

| | |
|---|---------|
| Shaharit for Hol HaMo'ed..... | 7:30 AM |
| Minha and Ma'ariv for Shabbat Hol HaMo'ed | 6:00 PM |
| <i>Candlelighting is at 7:56 PM</i> | |

Shabbat, April 27

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Shaharit for Shabbat Hol HaMo'ed..... | 9:00 AM |
| Minha for Shabbat, Ma'ariv for Hol HaMo'ed | 7:50 PM |
| <i>Havdalah.....</i> | <i>9:03 PM</i> |

Sunday, April 28

| | |
|--|---------|
| Shaharit for Hol HaMo'ed..... | 8:30 AM |
| Minha for Hol HaMo'ed and Ma'ariv for the seventh night of | 6:00 PM |
| <i>Candlelighting is at 7:59 PM</i> | |

Monday, April 29

| | |
|---|---------|
| Shaharit for seventh day of Passover..... | 9:00 AM |
| Minha for Passover Day 7 & Ma'ariv for the Eighth Night of Passover | 6:00 PM |
| <i>Candlelighting is at 9:06 PM</i> | |

Tuesday, April 30

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Shaharit for the eighth day of Passover (Yizkor recited)..... | 8:45 AM |
| Minha for the eighth day of Passover, Ma'ariv..... | 8:10 PM |
| <i>Havdalah.....</i> | <i>9:07 PM</i> |

SHAVUOT 5784

Tuesday, June 11 – Erev Shavuot

Minha/Ma'ariv..... 7:30PM
Candle Lighting..... 8:41PM

Wednesday, June 12 – 1st Day of Shavuot

Morning Services..... 9:00AM
Youth Programming..... 10:30AM
“Quick-Pick” Shavuot Featuring Torah Lectures
by Clergy and Volunteers
From 11AM-12PM

Special Dairy Kiddush Luncheon 12:00PM
Beit Midrash Study with Rabbi Grover..... 1PM-3PM

Minha/Ma'ariv for Shavuot 7:30PM
Candle Lighting..... 9:55PM

Thursday, June 13 – 2nd Day of Shavuot

Morning Services..... 8:45AM
Megillat Ruth 9:30AM
Yizkor Sermon by Rabbi Zilbershtein
Yizkor (approx.)..... 10:30AM
Youth Programming..... 10:30AM

Minha/Ma'ariv..... 8:55PM
Havdalah..... 9:55PM



**BETH
TIKVAH
SYNAGOGUE**



Beth Tikvah Synagogue

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Toronto, ON

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By Phone: 416-221-3433



A Message from our President



Barbara Albert

Looking back at the other articles I've written for Hakol, I noticed that they're all food related. I'm not one to argue with a good theme, so I'll stick with it, with your indulgence.

There are many wonderful explanations as to why we have a hard-boiled egg on our seder plate. We learn that the egg symbolizes life or the cycle of life. The egg is a reminder of spring, when new life is abundant, and the roasting of the egg symbolizes the korban, the sacrifice to the

Temple.

Each interpretation brings meaning and richness to the seder, but one explanation of that little chicken egg stands out as my favourite:

The Israelites were like a hard-boiled egg. Just like an egg when boiled becomes stronger, so, too, were our people. The harder we worked, the more we suffered, the stronger we became. Physically stronger. More resolute.

These past months have shaken us to the core. The events of October 7th forced us to examine ourselves, our commitment to Judaism, to Israel and our peoplehood. We could have crumbled, but we didn't. Instead, we became and continue to become stronger. Once again, we have become that hard-boiled egg that was, for so long, merely a symbol on a seder plate.

We at Beth Tikvah, like Jews all around the world, are ensuring our voices are heard. We fight for what's right. We raise dollars. We volunteer our time. We support our brothers and sisters here and in Israel. We stand together, cry together, mourn together. We are a community. And we are strong. That's what Beth Tikvah has always been and will always be. That's just who we are.

This year's Passover will be just a bit different from all other Passovers in our recent history. This Pesach, we as strong, dedicated Beth Tikvah members will dip our hard-boiled egg into salt water and shed the tears that we have been shedding since Simchat Torah. This year, the salt water will represent not only our life in Egypt in biblical times, but will remind us of those who have lost their lives in recent months and those still in captivity. The soldiers, the innocent victims and the hostages will most definitely be with us at our seder table.

Yes, we will cry, but we will stand strong. We at Beth Tikvah have always, and will always fight for what is right and just. Let us be proud of our strength, our resilience, our people, our history and future. Don't forget, we are, after all, that ever-powerful, hard-boiled egg!

Hag Kasher V'Sameah!

Am Israel Chai



A Message from our Executive Director



Rivka Campbell

Each year at the Passover seder, we recount the story of our bondage in Egypt and our subsequent freedom from enslavement. We relive the story through our senses: we taste the bitter herbs, rebuild Pithom and Ramses with charoset and eat matzah, the bread of affliction. As the list of plagues are recited, we spill a drop of wine for each, representing the blood that was spilled. Through all the various symbols on our seder table, we remember and symbolically reenact the story of our people craving freedom and the Egyptian Pharaoh who refused to let us go.

Since my recent trip to Israel, I find myself reflecting on the similarities of our ancient story juxtaposed with the current situation of the hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

The story of old echoes in our minds. Like our ancestors, Israel and Jews around the world are calling for the release of the hostages and repeatedly, our Pharaoh of today, Hamas, has refused to let them go.

Despite the similarities there is a huge difference between

our ancient story and our current situation; today we have our own country, with our own army. We are strong and resilient.

Today, Israel continues to apply increased pressure on Hamas while World Jewry does our part by standing up to anti-semitism and pressuring individual governments to act on our behalf. We must not give up. Israel must continue to apply pressure until every hostage is free, and the Jews of the world must continue to advocate for our rights and freedoms wherever we live.

We were slaves in Egypt and the Eternal brought us out with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. As we sit down to our seder tables, let us remember the story of old and think of our hostages today. Let us pray for those in physical bondage, and those suffering emotional bondage as a result of PTSD. Let us think of our soldiers and survivors.

“In every generation, one must see oneself as though having personally come forth from Egypt.” Wishing all of us freedom from bondage.

Hag Kasher v' Sameah

Next Year in Jerusalem!






Rabbi Jarrod Grover

Overcoming Fear: Lessons from a Journey through Israel's Turmoil

Despite being at Beth Tikvah for 15 years, this January I was privileged to lead my first congregational mission to Israel. We were a small group, merging our mission with that another synagogue, but it was an unforgettable

experience for each and every one of us. We chose to participate in order to learn, to volunteer, and to show solidarity with the people of Israel as they bravely protect the country from Hamas terror. In the chaos of war, our trip not only exposed us to the stark realities of geopolitical tensions but also taught us invaluable lessons about facing fear and standing up to bullies.

Setting foot in Israel during a period of heightened unrest was undoubtedly daunting. The news headlines were filled with reports of bombings, skirmishes, and political unrest. Friends and family expressed concern, some even urging us to reconsider our plans.

From the very first day, wandering through the streets of Jerusalem, the tension in the air was palpable. Military personnel were a common sight, and security measures were visibly stringent. Despite the underlying unease, we were struck by the resilience and warmth of the people. Their unwavering spirit in the face of adversity left a lasting impression on us.

One particular incident stands out vividly in my memory. While visiting wounded soldiers at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, I found myself in the midst of a heated argument between two hospital staff. What began as a trivial disagreement quickly escalated into a shouting match, with insults hurled back and forth. As bystanders looked on, unsure of how to react, I felt a surge of fear and uncertainty. It was a microcosm of the larger conflicts plaguing the region—echoes of deep-seated animosities reverberating through everyday interactions.

In that moment, I was reminded that fear is a natural response to the unknown, but it is our response to fear that defines us. Our tour leader stepped forward, intervened in the altercation, urged the parties to find common ground and resolve their differences peacefully. His persistence gradually defused the tension, and eventually, the two men shook hands, their animosity dissipating like the morning mist.

Bullies — whether on the playground or the world stage, whether it's Pharaoh or whether it's Sinwar — thrive on fear and intimidation. By refusing to cower in the face of adversity, by standing up for what is right, we deprive them of their power.

Our encounters throughout Israel, and particularly with IDF soldiers, taught us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to act in spite of it. It reminded us that true strength lies not in the might of weapons, but in the resilience of the Jewish spirit. Most importantly, it reaffirmed the belief that even in the darkest of times, there is always for reconciliation, hope for peace, and hope for a better tomorrow.

As we bid farewell to Israel, we carried with us not only memories of the heartbreaking scenes and testimonials, but also a newfound sense of courage and resilience. In the face of adversity, let us never be intimidated. Let us stand tall, unyielding, for we have learned that even in the midst of war, the Jewish spirit remains indomitable. Rabbi Jarrod Grover

Wishing you and yours a Hag Kasher ve'Sameah,

Rabbi Jarrod Grover



Barry W Green

Photograph by Barry Green



Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein

Liberation and Renewal: Embracing The Promise of Spiritual Freedom

As we prepare to celebrate Pesach, the festival commemorating the Exodus when our ancestors were liberated from slavery in Egypt,

we are reminded of the ultimate freedom we seek — the liberation of our souls. Just as the Israelites were released from the bondage of physical oppression, we too, must find a way to break free from the shackles that weigh down our spirits.

The burdens we carry in our modern lives are not those of backbreaking labour but of mental and emotional weight. The bondage from which we seek liberation today is not that of ancient Egypt but the oppression that stems from violence, hatred and a world that often feels immersed in darkness. The news reports and the hateful rhetoric can weigh heavily, allowing fear and anger to take root in our hearts. We may feel enslaved by worry over the safety of loved ones and the future of our people. This year, as we face a world filled with anxieties and the suffering caused by war and the rise of antisemitism, the Pesach story resonates deeply.

The Holy Torah tells us that during exile, the Israelites became burdened not just by physical labour but also by the emotional and spiritual weight of their situation. They endured fear, despair, and the anger that comes with oppression. When Moses shared the divine message of imminent freedom, the Israelites found it difficult to believe. "They did not listen to Moses because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery" (Exodus 6:9). This verse reveals the essence of their struggle; their spirits were so burdened by the relentless cruelty and despair of their situation that the very concept of liberation seemed unattainable.

The rituals and traditions of Pesach offer us tools to begin the process of healing these deep wounds left by oppression. The meticulous cleansing of our homes for Pesach is a powerful ritual that extends far beyond a simple spring cleaning. It's a symbolic act with profound meaning. This process unfolds in two key stages: Bedikat Chametz and Biur Chametz.

Bedikat Chametz involves a thorough search throughout

the house for the remains of leavened bread. This act mirrors the introspection we undertake within ourselves. We search for the emotional "crumbs" of negativity — lingering anger, resentment, or despair.



The following morning, during Biur Chametz, we burn all the chametz that has been found. This act becomes a powerful metaphor for releasing these emotional burdens.



This Pesach, I suggest you partake in the ritual of burning chametz as an act of both physical and spiritual cleansing. As the flames consume the forbidden bread, allow them to symbolize the release of negativity. Choose to let go of the pain that weighs you down, making space for healing and renewal within your heart.

Let this process of cleansing and renewal prepare our hearts for the celebration of Pesach. Gathering around the Seder table, let's embrace the rituals and stories as a guide for our own journeys. Let each cup of wine or grape juice, each recited blessing, and each shared story remind us of the endless possibilities that lie on the path to freedom. Let's talk, laugh, sing, and even cry together, for in these expressions lies the essence of our shared humanity and the promise of a brighter future.

Pesach Kasher ve'Sameah! May it be a festival of liberation and renewed spirit for you and your loved ones.

Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein



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IN PERSON LUNCH and LEARN

Spring
Session

May 7:



ROBERT ROTENBERG
in Conversation
with CJN's Ellin Bessner

What We Buried

May 14:



DAVID KOFFMAN

**William Kurelek's
Painted Canadian
Jewish history**

June 4:



CATHERINE R. POWER

**Lebn vi Got in Frankraykh?
Jews and Citizenship
in Revolutionary France**

June 18



AUREL BRAUN

**The Middle East & the Iran Regime:
the Centre of Incessant Terrorism**

**A new IN-PERSON
Lunch & Learn
Series:
4 sessions
beginning May 7th**

Come to Beth Tikvah for
12PM and enjoy lunch with
your friends. Then hear the
featured speaker at 12:30 PM
for an hour lecture!

Advance RSVP required.

TICKETS:

4 Pack:

Members: \$80

Non-members: \$100

Individual Session:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$30

This series has been generously sponsored by Helen Stollar

**MAY 7: ROBERT ROTENBERG
in conversation with the CJN's
Ellin Bessner
"WHAT WE BURIED"**

Robert Rotenberg is the author of several bestselling novels, including Old City Hall, The Guilty Plea, Stray Bullets, Stranglehold, Heart of the City, and Downfall. He is a criminal lawyer in Toronto with his firm Rotenberg Shidlowski Jesin. He is also a television screenwriter and a writing teacher. He will be presenting his latest novel: "What We Buried".

WHAT WE BURIED: A Toronto homicide detective is attacked at his doorstep when his investigation into possible links between the Nazi occupation of Italy and the murder of his brother decades later gets too close to the truth.

Sponsored by:



**MAY 14: DAVID KOFFMAN
WILLIAM KURELEK'S PAINTED
CANADIAN JEWISH HISTORY**

In 1976, the beloved Ukrainian, Catholic, Canadian painter created a suite of 16 paintings depicting Jewish life in Canada. The paintings were recently purchased by a group of Jewish art collectors and donated to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection where they were exhibited. The exhibition will tour the country over the next few years. How did the suite come to be? What was William Kurelek's version of Canadian Jewish history? And what does a reconsideration of these paintings, nearly 50 years after their creation, signify about the intersection of Jewish history and art history in Canada? Join Professor David S. Koffman for some show & tell, and a discussion about this fascinating series of paintings.

David S. Koffman is the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry, and an associate professor in the Department of History at York University, where he teaches courses on Canadian Jewish history, religion in American life, the meanings of money, genealogy as history, modern antisemitism, and religion & capitalism.

He serves as the editor-in-chief of the journal Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes, and the associate director of York's Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies. His first monograph, The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America (Rutgers University Press, 2019), explores the Jewish encounter with Indigenous Peoples in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the editor of and a contributor to No Better Home?: Jews, Canada, and the Sense of Belonging (University of Toronto Press, 2021). His newest book, an edited volume, Promised Lands North and South: Jewish Canada and Jewish Argentina in Conversation, is scheduled to be published later this spring.

**JUNE 4: CATHERINE R. POWER
JEWS AND CITIZENSHIP IN
REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE**

In 1789, Jews numbered perhaps 45 000 of a total population of 28 million in France. Yet, amidst the many topics of urgent concern to intellectuals and the revolutionary assembly, questions about Jews emerged again and again. Why were Jews (who were such a vanishingly small minority in France) even a topic of discussion amidst what would appear to be more pressing issues?

This talk will focus on what was being said about Jews, by whom, and what that can tell us about revolutionary political ideas and modern, secular citizenship.

Catherine R. Power is assistant professor of political theory at York University's bilingual Glendon campus. Dr. Power has published works on early modern and Enlightenment political thought as well as contemporary Judeophobia.

**JUNE 18: AUREL BRAUN
THE MIDDLE EAST & THE IRAN
REGIME: THE CENTRE OF
INCESSANT TERRORISM**

As the world's attention has focused on the devastating war in Ukraine, and more recently on the horrific atrocities of Hamas and then the conflict in Gaza, the Iranian regime has further reinforced its status as the primary global supporter of international terrorism. While domestically, huge numbers of Iranians have shown their opposition to the regime, the latter has effectively combined internal repression with external aggression. Iran is now a nuclear-threshold state that is able to intimidate its neighbors and use its proxies Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis with seeming impunity. Western democracies, and particularly the US administration, continue to work under the mistaken belief that this rogue Iranian regime, now allied with Russia, can be contained, appeased or deterred. The reality is that this regime is unrelentingly aggressive and irredeemably antisemitic. A nuclear arsenal would allow it to act with close to absolute immunity abroad and complete impunity at home.

Aurel Braun is Professor of International Relations and Political Science at the University of Toronto. He is also a Research Associate of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies and of the Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto.

Professor Braun has published extensively on communist affairs and strategic studies with a special focus on the problems of the transformation of the socialist systems in the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

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Bracha Feder

Anticipating Pesach Amidst War

by Bracha Feder

לאן הולכות
הדאגות בלילות

Where Do Our Worries Go At Night?

Written by Anthony

Browne, this story has recently been integrated into the Israeli school curriculum. Little Ilai worries about many things, big and small. Reassuring words don't prove effective. Unable to fall asleep at his grandmother's one night he shares his predicament. She responds by presenting Ilai with six 'worry dolls' saying; "simply tell each of them one of your worries and then put the dolls under your pillow. They will worry for you while you sleep."

That night Ilai slept, the night after and the night after. But then he began to worry again. Now he could not stop thinking about the dolls and all the worries he had transferred to them. It is so unfair, Ilai thought, how worried the dolls must be. So he made a worry doll for each worry doll - and all slept peacefully.

I sense that what Ilai ultimately does, explains my actions and those of many here during these months at war. In giving each doll a doll, Ilai reflects the belief that when one takes responsibility for someone suffering and cares for him, he is likely to experience a sense of wellbeing and even resilience. Clearly, even we adults are 'Ilai'.

Why make our trips to farms to pick tomatoes? Why do we cook Shabbat meals for a family whose husband/father is in *Miluim/Reserve Duty*? Why do we bake for wounded Lone Soldiers? Why do we stand with a flag outside the home of a *Fallen Soldier* to assure the family they are not alone as they leave to bury their child? To mention only a few of the phenomenal national efforts.

I would also ask why I raise my voice within my *Kehillah* praying for the welfare of the *Hatufim/Hostages*, the *Hayalim/Soldiers*, *Medinat Yisrael* the State of Israel and ultimately the world?

WHY THESE ACTIONS, SIMPLE ACTIONS ? To be sure out of a genuine desire to do one's little bit in assisting.

HOWEVER, I openly submit mine is not purely giving behavior. Like Ilai, these actions prevent me from being paralyzed by worry. Beyond this a greater purpose is served. I am part of a community. I am reminded that my fleeting individual existence thankfully is bound to this wonder known as *AM YISRAEL* in *ERETZ YISRAEL*. The combination of *DOING* and this overwhelming feeling of *TZIBUR/COMMUNITY* is absolutely a stimulus for resilience.

This said, in the scheme of things, how important is my level of resilience? Of far more significance is that of our soldiers and their families. Two brief comments: First, psychologists have explained the numerous weddings of soldiers since the destruction of homes and families on October 7th as reflecting the conscious decision to *CHOOSE LIFE* and *CONTINUITY*. Second, with Purim fast approaching, I have been hearing many mothers asking where to find soldier or border police costumes as this is what their children have requested. As I write this I am wondering if this request surprises you? It shouldn't. These children understand that their father or mother (sometimes both) have left them to fight those who want to hurt us. They are trying to wipe out evil and protect us. Wearing these costumes lets our soldiers know they are our heroes, admired and not feared by the young.

Indeed, God meant it when a short time after reading Megillat Esther, in the Haggadah it says:

וְהָיָה שְׁעִמְדָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ
שְׁלֹא אֶחָד בְּלִבָּד עָמַד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ,
אֲלֵא שְׁבָכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר,
עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ,
וְהַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא מְצִילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם

That which stood for our ancestors applies to us as well. For it was not only one individual who stood up against us to destroy us.

Rather, in every generation they stand up against us to destroy us.

But the Holy One, Blessed Be He, redeems us from their hands.

This Pesach the seder will provide a number of poignant moments even stinging ones.

הָא לַחְמָא אַנְיָ עַנְיָא עַנְיָא עַנְיָא

This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread, which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt.

Let all who are hungry come and eat.

Let all who are in want, share the hope of Passover.

As we celebrate here, we join with our people everywhere.

This year we celebrate here.

Next year in the land of Israel.

Now we are still in bonds.

Next year may we all be free.

How will we not think of the hostages (unless our prayers are answered) and their families? What about the displaced evacuees? Not to mention those ensuring next year we are free people!

Pour out Your wrath : שפוך חמתך: upon those who do not know You and upon the governments which do not call upon Your Name...Pour out Your fury upon them; let the fierceness of Your anger overtake them. Pursue them in indignation and destroy them from under Your heavens.

There are modern readers whose worldview of acceptance and tolerance lead them to compose a parallel text Pour out Your Love and sometimes eliminate the original text entirely. An appropriate response to the current, but not new wave of anti-semitism??

When reciting the Ten Plagues I will remove little drops of wine only for the innocent little Gazan children whose lives are being ruined by their elders. Some will think me naive.

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וָדוֹר : In each and every generation a person must view himself/herself as though s/he PERSONALLY left Egypt, as it is stated: “And you shall tell your child on that day, saying: It is because of this which the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt” (*Shemot/Exodus 13:8*)

The most powerful and impactful way to share the Exodus narrative is to convince the listener this really is your story. It brings to mind an often heard expression today. When asked, “how are you?”, a response is "שלומי כשלום עמי" (*shlomi k'shlom ami*) "I am as my nation is."

With the FIFTH CUP והבאתי / I WILL BRING YOU TO ISRAEL, God presented us with a gift and an ongoing challenge. One of the names of Passover is זמן חירותנו / the Time of OUR FREEDOM. Responsibility for our land entails the freedom to protect its citizens. Together with that thought uppermost in our minds and hearts will also sadly, probably still be the freeing of the hostages...

May it be a Peaceful Hag.

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.

Barry Green's Photo Essay from the Mission to Israel

Our member Barry Green documented the mission by taking over 3,300 photos. Barry's work displays his fascination with images that convey a strong story. These photos relive the emotional rollercoaster of the experience - everything from awe, delight, sadness, horror, anger and hope. To also read, Barry's heartfelt photo essay, "The Red Chair", please stop by the office for a copy.





How Much Can A Heart Carry?

by Linda Kirshenblat

Before these last few weeks...

All I constantly thought about was the barbaric and sadistic killing of beautiful mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents and children.

The kidnapped and the missing.

I could not fathom, or imagine, their daily horrors of survival. And I now bear witness to that which penetrates forever deep into my soul, I continue on the emotional roller coaster with an admission.

I was afraid to get on and now I just cannot get off.

How can we ever forget special people who have been taken?

How did they become “printed faces” on t-shirts?

How did they become a “slogan” to bring them home?

How did they become a “trinket” around our necks?

How did our enemies come to know the value of their lives to be bartered?

Can only their families feel the real value of their loved ones gone missing?

It haunts me ... and I have not forgotten.

I come from a family of Holocaust survivors where one can never, will never and should never forget. And I think about it all the time, listening to and recalling the stories of our new survivors.

I think about how so many people can be hidden for so long, without being spotted. I think and wonder if the Palestinians really do want to change their plight, would they join together to find our missing? To show that their lives matter, as do ours Only then, only then...

Yet it always seems to affect only the people that are most affected.

I wonder, how did the whole world come to legitimize terror? And how so quickly did our neighbours and friends follow suit in our Toronto?

Being in Israel was so purposeful, emotional, spiritual and

physical. I was empowered to express my feelings, without cherry picking the words. I did not have to worry about what “others” might think, or how they would “judge” me on what I would say.

It was so very easy, in every way.

I could openly cry when I felt the pain and express the anger, when I needed to explain. But most of all, to feel very, very proud of who I am and to feel at rest where I was and that it was truly my home. I saw in the darkness, my country at war, fighting with its might for righteous survival and the protection of all of Jews throughout the world.

It all seemed so normal and a matter of fact of everyday life. And in its power, I was awed by the light of our beautiful, developing and prosperous home. So advanced in all respects, living for the moment, while always peering into the future and building for a better day.

I loved being with people so close to the earth and walking with them on the thriving, cultivated land. I was in awe of the fruits and vegetables that we harvested and tasted, all so natural in the way they were planted. I never had the opportunity to feel so special as I worked the land. I was so proud that I was able to lend a helping hand.

And for our precious soldiers, the defenders of our people and land, There are not enough words to express my thanks and admiration. I tried my best to hold back the tears, as I wished them success, with the hope to see them again soon. For what I saw and what I heard, made me better understand.

Our response to the world, the emotional words of a senior army commander, who stumbled upon and stood in the blood of our murdered and burned brethren in a shelter. He summarized it all to me as he said:

“I saw the image of myself, a shadow.

And in that shadow, I stood tall and strong.

I saw my boots; I saw my rifle.

And I knew I could do it.

And I knew I had to do it.”

He was the grandson of a Holocaust survivor and that was it for me! My parents and his grandfather were survivors. We both grew up in different worlds but shared the same horror and darkness of the time. Deprived like many of family, whether brothers, sisters, children, parents and grandparents.

My father, Myer, the sole Holocaust survivor of his family, is alive and well at 101+. And he had entrusted me with a special message to tell the soldiers: "Their lives are so precious, it is not easy for me to say, But defend and fight for what you believe in. You are strong, smart, young and trained. And well equipped with everything you need to fight for what you believe in.

NEVER go like sheep into the chambers of death, for you

all have what it takes to defend our Jewish nation. I had nothing but a torn striped shirt on my back. No shoes, no food, freezing weather and only a small stone, with a big dream that tomorrow will be a better day."

I delivered my father's message in tears to the commander,

And with tears in his eyes, he dedicated a special video message to my dad, Myer. A message of fulfillment of my father's dream.

Shura, the rabbinic army training base.

It's sanctity and purposes were described to me. Yet in my mind it became an unfathomable purgatory, Where the holiness of the murdered were gathered for reunification and identification. With no uncertainty, before being met by their families, then sent on the journey to their final resting place.

Yet all the while the mending and rescribing of Torahs remained, reborn, lined up and shelved together for use as our *etzei chaim*.

We sought to understand and then returned home to be understood, But found our democracy tolerated and protected the behaviour and evil of vile free speech. To feel the pain of Jews printed and spoken everywhere, through the degradation of humanity the world over so difficult to bear. Jew hate never passed with the passage of time,

And we learned from the world Never Again really meant... Tomorrow Again. It has been called a Second Holocaust, but the victims cannot become just another story or memory. They must not be forgotten or become just a daily passing thought. Jews, whether in Israel and especially around the world, must awaken and unite to confront the terror that faces us all.

And the rest of the world must learn again to distinguish between light and darkness. To properly judge and stand with the good against true evil.

The Little Orange

by Jerry Lev

As we entered Kfar Aza and I saw just the beginnings of the destruction my heart sunk. As we walked and talked, and listened to the unbelievable personal stories, I picked up an Orange that had fallen from its family on the tree. I don't know why, I just did. It felt like the right thing to do in a place



like this where so many were now alone.

As we stopped at the street where the young people lived, I put my hand into my packet and remembered the Little

Orange, took it out and looked at. A thought ran through my head that The Orange and all the people who once lived on this street had so much in common.

The people all had a Family Tree; mothers, fathers, siblings, and grandparents. I don't know about Oranges, but they also live on a family tree with other Oranges of the same species, age and ancestry.

The young people who lived on this specific street had all reached a point in life where they were spreading out their wings and going forward with dreams, hopes, desires, everything we want our kids to have and were stopped in a very few minutes.

The Little Orange, who had ripened and was now ready for the next stage of its life lay on the ground waiting for its journey, which was now to begin. I picked it up.

As we walked from house to house we learned that this was a very tight group of kids - no young adults - who had finished the Army, and were now on to fulfilling their dreams in life. But as fate had it, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time and I really do believe that. Their lives were pulled violently apart, some lived, some died and some will live with injuries for the rest of their lives. I will never ever forget what I saw and heard, it is etched in my brain like my name.

What struck me is that it was just like The Little Orange, segments all held together by common stands, a family of kindred souls if you may, not knowing they may be soon pulled violently apart.

As we walked, listened, took pictures, and I hope pondered, how one set of humans could do this to others. I thought about where I was staying in Jaffa, surrounded by Arabs whom I see every day and know some of them by sight to nod "Good Morning". We were all there, we all heard the stories, we all cried, I'm sure we all thought of ways to stop this carnage from ever happening again, I don't think we can.



We will continue eating oranges segments and continue killing each other one way or the other.

As we ended our, and it's the wrong word, tour, I split open The little Orange and handed out the segments, thinking a "life fulfilled" that's what oranges are meant to do. Then looked around and thought "what a waste" what happened here is not what humans are supposed to do.

May all the souls of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives on Kfar Aza, Kissufim, Be'eri and the other settlements live on in our hearts and memories, they will never be forgotten.

May Little Oranges never have to see what they saw on Oct 07, 2023.

Excerpts from Linda Segal's Mission Journal
 written by Linda Segal photos by Barry Green

Monday evening, the day before the group meets officially: There is a feeling of solidarity, of unity in Israel that is evident wherever you go. Everywhere you look there are signs in Hebrew, on the walls of buildings, on street corners, in store windows; homes and cars have Israeli flags waving in the wind.

Tonight Rabbi Grover invited Noam Markose, son of Rabbi Howard Markose, to share his thoughts as a reservist, a father of four and a communications specialist in the army. In a crowded, noisy restaurant we listened with rapt attention as he shared his experiences of Oct. 7, being called up, the feelings of disbelief as he packed up to leave his family. This reserve duty was different. It was an emergency call. Usually there is a time limit on the period of service for reservists; but in times of war this can be extended. The question is for how long? The answer is not clear.

What particularly stood out for me was what he said about the heroes or heroines of the war: It is easier for those that go to fight than for the women left at home to keep the family together. While the fathers are absent for weeks on end, the women care for each other's children, drive them, feed them, comfort them, all the while holding down their own jobs and bearing the burden of worry. It's communal, and they all help each other. He called women the backbone of the war.

When we asked about the mood of the country, he said if there is one thing that stands out as a collective quality, it is the resilience. When you ask someone, even someone who has had a serious trauma, they invariably say, "It could be worse". He says people in this country do not feel sorry for themselves.

Today was such an emotional day, very intense. We spoke to families of hostages, survivors of the Be'eri massacre, who were peace activists to help the Palestinians to build a better life. Some of the better-off residents poured millions of dollars into Gaza, envisioning a shared economy. They thought they had friends there. But no one from Gaza warned

them, though they all knew what was coming. Soldiers found that every home in Gaza has a map of Palestine without Israel on its wall, and the homes are filled with armaments hidden in dolls and under beds...But we knew that.

...

Everyone begs us to let the world know. The women from Be'eri told us of the 65 friends whom they chatted with every day, and who were butchered and raped etc., and are no more. Now southern kibbutz residents have given up hope of a co-existence at least for a couple of generations. They cannot go back to their homes which have been completely destroyed, burnt to the ground, and if they did, they would never feel safe. And their entire neighbourhoods that they had built are gone. It would be starting all over. Hamas has promised to wipe the state of Israel out. The people are traumatized. We met them in a kibbutz hotel where they are being cared for. The whole family lives in a room, with mattresses on the floor, but at least they are fed and sheltered. We spoke to teenagers who are so sad. One of them hid under the bed while a terrorist with a machete killed his friend. Older teenagers are volunteering from around the country to provide activities for the kids at the hotel.

Every single person we spoke to said please tell our stories. The world needs to know. All I can say is everyone who can, should visit. It means a great deal to the people. They kept thanking us for coming.

...

Wednesday, Jan. 17th. We began by volunteering in Kfar Meimon. Oz, the chief farmer there is in a dire situation, as are most of the farmers in the country. The fruit is dropping to the ground, the crops are wilting. The numerous workers, in this case from Thailand, have been kidnapped, murdered, or gone home. And people across the country are driving to farms to volunteer. Our task was to pick the lettuce that another group planted 30 days ago. Romaine lettuce grows that fast. Some of us carried the baskets of lettuce back and forth on the mucky tracks of the greenhouse, and other cut the lettuce and put them in our baskets. We were there for 1.5 hours and we did half the job. We really did something valuable and important. Beside us, the clementines on the trees were unpicked and people are needed for those as well. And for avocados and and and...

After that we went to Kfar Aza. Words cannot describe the sheer devastation we saw. Every house is marked with a sign of which army unit has inspected it, and who lived there and a red dot signifies someone was murdered there. Entire families, half families, young people, old people. On each house is a large picture of the person who lived there and it says _____ was murdered here. The houses which have been visited by the emergency squad for taking care of dead bodies leave a sign on the houses as well. House after house after house, with burnt-out furniture, destroyed gardens, scorched roofs and doors, and peeking in between, a flower pot blooming, or a pair of slippers on the door as a welcome. They even massacred an 85 year old woman in a wheelchair in her home. Our guide, Lir, said so very poignantly, "they

sent rockets, and we sent over coloured balloons, we tried to tell them we want a better life for you." She said it so wistfully and with such disappointment, it breaks your heart. She, like everyone else, thanked us for coming! And begged us to tell the world their/our story.



As we drove to an early BBQ for the soldiers, we passed the place where the dance festival massacre occurred. The stage is there with the signs, and there are signs of violence. We only looked from the bus, but that was enough. To think young teenagers out to celebrate life were murdered, raped dismembered and taken hostage...the absolute violence and almost personal hatred for us, makes one wonder, who could do that? What human? And these are the people that rule Gaza.

But we passed that and when we got to the site of the BBQ, it was another story. The BBQ had to be held at 5:30 because the soldiers were going to Gaza to Kfar Yunis, right after. They had food for every taste; steaks, kebabs, chicken, hot dogs, salads, eggplant, humus, pita, pop, and 193 soldiers. 193! There was a ton a food. Chatted with the soldiers, and again, they thanked us for coming! Young men, sweet and gentle, but determined to protect the country from further attacks. And then a bunch of soldiers climbed into two trucks, and the next time I looked up, they were gone...to Gaza. I pray for their return.



With every thank you that they gave us!!! They said, please let the world know what has happened. And I have a question: Whenever there has been an earthquake, a tsunami,

or whatever, Israel always sends in crews to help. Why has not one country sent help to Israel?

...

In Israel, when bereaved families sit shiva, hundreds of people, many strangers, visit to share in the mourning. Our group, a smaller group today, maybe 20 instead of 40, went into the apartment in a suburb of Jerusalem. As is the custom, there are black and white signs posted in all the neighbourhoods, when someone in that neighbourhood dies, and everyone comes and brings food, and grieves with the family. People were lined up outside the door for this shiva. And there were many, many chairs and a balcony full as well. I was able to spend about 15 minutes with the woman, and I asked her to tell me about her son. He had three degrees. His field, agriculture, and he was trying to find a way to produce gluten-free wheat! He had read Harry Potter in 9 languages...He could have been anything in the army, softer jobs in intelligence or whatever. He didn't have to choose to be in the tanks, but he felt strongly that he was truly defending the country. He was a unique, gifted guy, but his mother said, "All of our soldiers are special". The country mourns together.



As each person shared their feelings and thoughts of all we have encountered this past week, it was clear that we had all gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for the tragedy of Oct 7th, and for the impossible situation of the Israeli people, surrounded by hostile neighbours who will do whatever they can to purge us from the country. We all were struck by the resilience of the Israeli nation, despite being in a time of national mourning, and of the appreciation expressed by every person we met, for our simply being there.

Once again, I urge anyone who can, to come and support the people. They are so very appreciative. They are moved to tears by the fact that we arrive to be there for them, and I am moved to tears by their appreciation. It has been a difficult time; but one of great pride. If you can find a way to visit and support the people of Israel, you will never regret it. They are fighting for survival, and we must stand with them.

Purim Carnival





Special Guest Speaker: Noy Leyb

Following the reading of Megillat Esther on Purim morning at Beth Tikvah, we had the privilege to hear from a very impactful, guest speaker, Noy Leyb. Noy is Canadian-Israeli reservist whose elite IDF unit was called up to go into Gaza after the October 7 terrorist attacks.



Noy shared his personal experience and the emotions behind being a soldier going into hostile territory in Gaza. First he went through several weeks of training without knowing exactly when he would be called to go into action. Then he told of the comradery of his unit and the challenges they endured, going from building to building, fighting in homes, schools and the streets. There were times of fear with several near-misses from enemy fire and times of tragic loss of those who fought side-by-side. In between two or three weeks of active duty, he had quick, 48 hour "breaks" where he could eat a hot meal and reconnect with family...or attend the funerals of fallen friends and comrades.



Part of Noy's most eye-opening experiences were how thoroughly Hamas' propaganda had brainwashed "innocent" Palestinian civilians. Hamas headbands, flags and recruitment posters were used to decorate living room walls. An 8-year old girl's room was decorated with flower motifs, a colourful butterfly wall-decal and posters of convicted terrorists. Instead of idolizing movie stars or rock 'n' roll musicians, these children looked up to Jew-killers.



And this was on top of weapons, ammunition and maps of terror tunnels hidden inside civilian homes.



Palestinian "civilians" who were left behind or had not evacuated the area were told to report to Hamas about IDF positions so Hamas could conduct surprise attacks from nearby tunnels.



These are not the kinds of things that we see in international media reporting. That is why, on top of physically fighting for Israel, Noy has taken on the task of documenting what he sees and speaking to people about what is really happening. He gives a first-hand account of his experience to battle the media war against Jews.

We are grateful to Noy for defending Israel and for standing up for Jews everywhere. To learn more, you can find Noy Leyb on Instagram: @noyleyb

BITZ MAKING SANDWICHES FOR VE'AHAVTA



B'nai Mitzvah PROGRAM

For those celebrating their Bnai in 2023-2024

Making Shabbat Candles with Shoresh

One of the Bnai Mitzvah activities was a workshop with Shoresh, a Jewish environmental organization. If you'd like to learn more about Shoresh please visit www.shoresh.ca



Shira shared with us how Shoresh grew from a small grass roots movement that now includes a beautiful farm and an apiary which makes their own delicious honey. We spent some time making Shabbat candles, the "old fashioned" way of dipping in bees wax which they collect from their honey combs.

The candles took quite some time and while we were dipping we discussed how we light candles for Shabbat and holidays and how the light makes us feel. We also imagined how long it would have taken to make these candles in "olden" times. Each candle is perfectly imperfect, the group did such a wonderful job.





What's a great way to inspire people of all ages to come to shul for community building and socializing with other Jews? Board games, apparently! Over 40 participants flocked to Beth Tikvah on March 9th for the last motsei Shabbat gaming session until the Fall.

Daniel Nurgitz, our Director of Marketing and Communications is also the organizer of Board Game Night. He couldn't be more pleased. "The Kulanu Room was packed, I had to keep running out to get more chairs for all the people!" he said.

"At the end of the night, people told me that they would definitely come back for more Board Game Nights. But I think what made me the most happy was at the end of the evening when I spoke with Laura Barkin, one of our young adult members. She and her husband Steven brought one of their own games and were soon joined by half-a-dozen other young adults. She told me she hadn't met any of them before but by the end of the night, she was glad to have made these new acquaintances. That is what this program is about: bringing people together in a fun way, centered around the synagogue".

Look for some upcoming Wednesday Night Board Gaming and a new afternoon program called "Get your Mental Exercise through Modern Board Games: Learn to Think Differently, Stay Sharp and Be Social".

Young Adult/Young Professional Task Force

Now, more than ever, there is a need for a unified and strong Jewish Community. Even in Toronto, where we thought that Canadian values would keep us safe, we are feeling the pressure and hatred from outright antisemitism. One solution is to stand together as a Jewish community but first, we need to build a greater connection with each other.

At Beth Tikvah, we would like to focus on building connections through our Young Adult/Young Professionals community. And we need your help!

We are looking to start a Task Force that will help plan social gatherings, activities, learning opportunities, and chessed and charitable initiatives that are meaningful and of interest to Young Adults.

This is an excellent leadership opportunity to engage with other Young Adults and have some agency in your experience at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. We need YOU to help us get the word out, to plan and to invite others in your age group to join these programs, so you can feel more connected with other Jewish young men and women.

The Beth Tikvah Staff is ready to support the Young Adult Task Force. We will help set up and market your programs. All we need is YOU.

For more information or to join the Task Force, please contact Daniel: daniel@bethtikvahtoronto.org

Adath Israel Congregation

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

AXE THROWING
and Tov Li pizza

BATL AXE THROWING VAUGHAN

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE 

COST \$25 **\$50 VALUE**

for **Young Adults** in their 20s and 30s



Join Beth Tikvah Women for the low price of \$36 and you too can enjoy these wonderful programs and meet some lovely women.

Thank you,

Adele Weinstein
adelew@rogers.com
President of Beth Tikvah Women

Shalom from Beth Tikvah Women

The Women of Beth Tikvah Women have been very busy this year. As the president, I recently returned from a Leadership Institute in Florida. Not only did I pick up some team-building skills and some ideas to strengthen my leadership skills, I also met some wonderful, dedicated women from different regions of Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ).

I am very pleased to announce that several of our Beth Tikvah Women Executive members will be taking on new positions on the board of our region, International Northeast Region of WLCJ.

Trudy Sassoon will be the Education/Programming VP. **Rivy Blass** will be the Canadian Treasurer. I, **Adele Weinstein**, will be the Torah Fund VP and **Marilyn Cohen** is our past region president. Kol Hakavod to everyone.

Beth Tikvah Women are continuing with our Tzedakah project of making sandwiches for the homeless. Together with the organization **Ve'Ahavta**, these sandwiches are delivered to those in need. Check the Beth Tikvah website for upcoming sessions.

May is a busy month for Beth Tikvah Women. We will be hosting our region's conference on Sunday, May 5th and Monday May 6th at Beth Tikvah. Listen to some wonderful speakers, enjoy delicious food, reconnect with Sisterhood members from the United States and Canada and make new friends. Please contact me for more details.

Beth Tikvah Women will be having our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. Pick up will be on Thursday, May 9th and Friday, May 10th. Red and Yellow begonias are only \$20 per plant and no limit to the number of plants you might want to purchase. Same price as last year!

Beth Tikvah Women will be going to see the wonderful play *Kiss Me Kate* in St. Jacob's on Tuesday August 27th. We are so happy that this event is already sold out!





SHABBAT CHOCOLATE SEDER



Shabbat, April 13 from 10:00AM - 11:45AM
followed by communal kiddush



WITH NADIA & MARK



BETH TIVVAH SYNAGOGUE  Youth & Young Families

Pre-Passover Hametz Dinner

Italian Theme



FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

Friday night services start at 5:45 PM
Featuring a special Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Kovari and his musicians!

Dinner will start at 7:00 PM.

Adult members: \$40
Adult non-members: \$50

Young Adult: \$25
(ages 14-25)

Children: \$18
(ages 3-13)

Children 2 and under:
FREE

Co-Sponsored By:



Musica Beth Tikvah

by Marsha Rosen

A number of years ago Srul Irving Glick, ז"ל, our first Choir Leader, then Music Director along with our members Isaac Silverstein and Gersh Sone, formed a committee known as Musica Beth Tikvah. Its objective was to bring Jewish music, Jewish composers and Jewish music themes to the Beth Tikvah community to enrich their appreciation of these various musical art forms. They were joined by a vibrant and dedicated group of volunteers that worked hard to deliver the programmes established each year.

We are proud to say that this tradition carries on to this day. Musica Beth Tikvah brings to our community, a variety of programmes throughout the year. Ranging from solo artists to Jazz to Broadway to Classical to home grown Beth Tikvah talent as examples. Something for everyone.

One special event that Musica supported was on Tuesday April 9th. It was a major event on the Toronto musical calendar. The Council of Hazzanim's Gala Concert "World's Greatest Cantors – Am Yisrael Chai" featured: Cantors Avi Schwartz, Shai Abramson, Netanel Hershtik, Yanky Lemmer and Gideon Zelermyer along with Maestro Raymond Goldstein as the conductor.

Another important event will be on Tuesday, May 28th as a part of Jewish Music Week. We are delighted to present at Beth Tikvah, "**The Reel Jewish Experience – Songs from the Jewish Cinema**". This is an important annual fundraiser for Musica. Money raised each year is essential to run programs that we offer throughout the year as well as to support our choir expenses.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of classic songs and hidden gems from Jewish-themed films with Beth Tikvah's own Hazzan Tibor Kovari, renowned and celebrated Cantor Magda Fishman from Boca Raton's B'nai Torah, her talented son, Yair Keydar, the gifted Michèle Tredger, with narration and musical direction by Cantor Eyal Bitton, who returns to us from Portland, Oregon. This fabulous cast of performers will be accompanied by a live band and string ensemble, enhancing this sonic silver screen experience.

Watch your 'inbox' for sponsorship and ticket information, we look forward to seeing you there.

Israel Affairs

by Howard Price

Since October 7, our world has changed dramatically and unexpectedly. None of us would have predicted the tragic, barbaric scope of October 7 and the heartbreaking capture of the hostages. Nor would any of us have predicted the disgusting antisemitism and Israel-hatred that we are seeing in Canada. Accordingly, the Israel Affairs Committee has also taken on the challenge of fighting the antisemitism that we thought we would never see in our own country.

In the fall, we had a panel dealing mainly with the exponentially increasing antisemitism at our own universities. Unfortunately, this antisemitism has been allowed to proceed unchecked by university administrators, all three levels of government, and the police. The panel was moderated by Rabbi Grover and included Michael Mostyn, the CEO of B'Nai Brith, Michael Kerzner, Solicitor-General of Ontario, Dr. Ayalet Kuper of the University of Toronto, and student representatives including Hillel and Allied Voices for Israel. There was a frank discussion and the audience had a chance to make their points very clearly.

In recognition of the fact that many members have voiced a wish that Beth Tikvah do something as a synagogue to help rebuild Israel, we are starting a grass-roots campaign for members to contribute to a Beth Tikvah Fund that will support the outstanding efforts of United Hatzalah and the rebuilding of Kibbutz Kissufim by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Details of this effort are being worked out and an evening program is being planned for April 11 with presentations by Eli Beer, President of United Hatzalah, and Lance Davis, CEO of JNF Canada. Please stay tuned.

Other programs are being worked out and will be announced shortly.

Am Yisrael Chai,
Beth Tikvah Israel Affairs Committee



Musica

Fighting Antisemitism on Campus

IS THE SLOGAN...
"FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE"
A CALL FOR PEACE?

Some who chant this slogan intend it as a message of peace, but fail to realize it originated as a call for a single Palestinian state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea in which millions of Jewish inhabitants are eradicated, expelled, or rendered a minority with no self-determination.

CLOSER LOOK

Concerned about the rise in antisemitism on Canadian campuses, University of Toronto Professor and Beth Tikvah member, Jason Weir, decided to take action this winter and created Campus Aware. The group comprises Canadian professors (mostly Jewish) whose aim is to help rebuild

a more respectful campus culture for Jewish students and faculty following the events of Oct 7.

The first mission of the group is a poster campaign across Ontario universities tackling the slogan "From the River to the Sea..." and the QR code in it links to a website with a more in depth message that can be seen here:

<https://campusaware.webflow.io/>

With the help of fellow member, Shirley-Ann Haber, Jason has arranged to have enough posters printed for free to reach five Ontario universities. If these five are successful and if he can secure similar support, his the goal is to expand to all Canadian Universities with a substantial Jewish population.

Jason has already faced pushback. The University of Toronto student union refused to put up the posters due to their content.

Two future poster campaigns are being planned. One will turn the settler colonialism charge upside down and place that charge on 7th century Arab invasion of the Levant. The other will argue that Zionists are not oppressors and that anti-Zionism is bigotry.

If you have a child or grandchild at University and would like to help, please visit the link below to the Campus Aware website and upload a testimony.

For posters and to support Jason and Campus Aware, please reach out to: jason.weir@utoronto.ca



Supporting Israel

This winter, Beth Tikvah's Mitzvah Knitters were very busy! Among other things, they knit and sent three duffel bags full of hats for soldiers in Israel. It was wonderful to see the cooperative and generous nature of our community at every stage; from donating yarn to knitting hats to donating three new duffel bags to collecting all the knitted hats, then transporting the bags to Israel, then connecting with people who could deliver the hats to Israeli soldiers. It felt great to see everything coming together!

Thank you to all of you amazing knitters for the hundreds of hats that you created, washed, dried and bagged to make this possible!

The response from the soldiers was emotional and full of gratitude. In a video, a big group of soldiers stood in front of the camera and said (in Hebrew): "We are so thankful to the community in Toronto, not only for these beautiful hats that you made by hand for us, but also for thinking of us and supporting us from across the world. The hats and your love will keep us warm. Toda Rabba!"



Three huge duffel bags full of knitted hats arrives at the airport in Israel, ready for distribution.



Warm Israeli soldiers wearing the knitted hats, scooping up snow.

B'not / B'nai Mitzvah

Son of Debbie & Steven Bergson, brother of Max Bergson. Grandson of Ronny & Roy Birnboim and Harriet & Eddie Rice.

Joel is currently in grade 7 at Bialik and is looking forward to attending CHAT after grade 8. He loves hanging out with friends, swimming, and playing soccer.

Together with his brother Max, Joel delivered a D'var Torah about the importance of giving to tzedakah and derech erez. For his Mitzvah project, Joel donated to the Chai Tikvah Foundation and is planning to help make sandwiches for the homeless with Ve'ahavta.



Joel Bergson

Bar Mitzvah: Feb. 24, 2024



Max Bergson

Bar Mitzvah: Feb. 24, 2024

Son of Debbie & Steven Bergson, brother of Joel Bergson. Grandson of Ronny & Roy Birnboim and Harriet & Eddie Rice.

Max is currently in grade 7 at Junior Academy. He enjoys going to amusement parks with his friends, solving Rubik's cubes, and performing magic tricks for the family.

During the Bar Mitzvah service, Max gave a D'var Torah - with his brother Joel - about the importance of derech erez and giving to tzedakah. For his Mitzvah project, Max helped pack Chanukah gift bags with B'nai Brith and delivered them in person to those in need. He also donated to the Chai Tikvah Foundation and is planning to help make sandwiches for the homeless with Ve'ahavta.

Son of Sarah Webb and Daniel Nurgitz. Sharing in the celebration were proud grandparents Naomi & Richard Nurgitz and Miriam & Bill Webb. Sammy's older siblings, Marya and Yossi were also there to encourage him. Sammy attends Netivot HaTorah and spends his free time pursuing his passion for trains and ships. Sammy visits different locations near and far where he films trains and uploads the videos to his YouTube channel, "Sammy With Trains & Ships".

The entire family is very proud that Sammy not only read from the Torah and presented his D'var Torah but he also led the Thursday morning services. A few months later, Sammy returned to Beth Tikvah to lead another morning service.



Sammy Nurgitz

Bar Mitzvah: Sept. 21, 2023



Joseph Reidiboim

Bar Mitzvah: Mar. 2, 2024

Son of Jennifer and Alex Reidiboim. Sharing in the celebration are siblings Damian and Samantha. Proud grandparents are Marilyn Braverman and Sofia and Efim Reidiboim. Sadly missed at this time is Bill Braverman z"l, Joseph's Zaide who was a devoted member of Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Joseph currently attends Bialik Hebrew Day School. Joseph loves to play tennis during the year and in summers. He also enjoys skiing, playing piano and spending time with his friends and family.

Joseph marked his Bar Mitzvah by chanting the Maftir and Haftarah for Parshah Ki Tisa. His D'var Torah spoke about the importance of patience. Joseph celebrated his Bar Mitzvah with a beautiful luncheon surrounded by his family and friends. Joseph's Bar Mitzvah at Beth Tikvah was a truly meaningful experience!

Son of Rachel and Jay Rolnick. Sharing in the celebration is sister, Kaylee and proud grandparents Toba & Robert Frimet and Bella & Abe Rolnick.

Jordan is currently in Grade 8 at Bialik Hebrew Day School - Himel Branch. He enjoys playing hockey, basketball and golf, spending time with his friends and family and looks forward to every summer at Camp Walden. For his Mitzvah project, he decided to give back to Canadian Magen David Adom to support Israel after the events of October 7th.



Jordan Rolnick

Bar Mitzvah: Oct. 19, 2023



Faith Shankman

Bat Mitzvah: Nov. 25, 2023

Daughter of Jodie Wolkoff & Neil Shankman. Sharing in the celebration is brother Solomon and proud grandparents Sally & Aaron Wolkoff (z"l) and Irene & Jerry Shankman.

Along with her studies in Grade 7 French Immersion at Northlea Middle School, Faith is active in many extracurricular activities including competitive downhill ski racing, dance and gymnastics, volleyball, sailing, and waterskiing.

Jewish heritage and traditions are very important to Faith, and she looks forward to celebrating Shabbat each week with her extended family, and celebrating the Jewish holidays. Faith volunteers teaching young children to read and write Hebrew at our local Chabad Hebrew School, and for her Mitzvah Project raised funds to donate to Israel.

Faith is very grateful for the Beth Tikvah community who supported her during her Bat Mitzvah studies, and helped celebrate this milestone with her.

Juliet Weingarten, daughter of Dara Laxer and Kevin Weingarten and sister of Bobby. Sharing in the celebration are proud grandparents Edda & Ron Laxer, Paul Weingarten, Sharon Gerstein, and great-grandparents Millie & Sonny Laxer and Muriel Mendelson. Sadly missed at this time is Juliet's Bubbie, Linda Weingarten, z"l.

Juliet is currently in grade 8 at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School where she is active on student council, and she spends her summers at Camp Manitou. Juliet is passionate about theatre, and loves singing, acting and dancing.

In honour of her bat mitzvah, in addition to her Torah reading, Juliet led the Mincha, Ma'ariv and Havdalah services. Her Torah portion was Chayei Sarah, the same portion chanted by her brother, grandfather, and great grandfather on their bar mitzvahs. The service was followed by a beautiful celebration at Beth Tikvah. A special thank you to Irv Kirshenblat, Gayle Kertzman, Rabbi Grover, Rabbi Zilbershtein, and Hazzan Kovari for guiding us through such a meaningful event.

For her mitzvah project, Juliet has committed to supporting Ve'ahavta by preparing food for those with food insecurity.



Juliet Weingarten

Bat Mitzvah: Nov. 4, 2023



Ava Urbas

Bat Mitzvah: Dec. 10, 2023

Daughter of Lynn Kirshin & Andrew Urbas. Sharing in the celebration were proud grandparents Rhoda & Barry Kirshin. Ruth and Arnold Urbas were sadly missed. Ava currently attends Associated Hebrew Schools - Danilack and enjoys spending time in the summer at Camp Northland in Haliburton. Ava loves spending time with her friends and family and was thrilled that they celebrated this important event with her. As Ava's bat mitzvah was on Chanukkah, in order to shine light in the world, for her Mitzvah project she asked all her guests to bring items of winter clothing to be donated to Ve'ahavta, a Jewish humanitarian organization which helps people of all faiths and backgrounds who have ben marginalized by poverty and hardship



MAZEL TOV TO THE FOLLOWING:

Bat/Bar Mitzvahs:

Tammy Lindover & Jamie Tepper in honour of Tammy's Bat Mitzvah.

Naomi Wyman & Steven Barwin on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Tyler. Grandparents are Cynthia & Michael Wyman, and Sandra Barwin.

Sarah Webb and Daniel Nurgitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Sammy Nurgitz. Grandparents are Miriam & Bill Webb, and Naomi & Richard Nurgitz and great grandmother Rita Drenfeld.

Shannon & Michael Anthony on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Charles Merrick Anthony. Grandparents are Barbara & Frank Cohen and Arlene & John Anthony.

Robin Waxer & Shaul Gorelik on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jonah Mordechai Waxer Gorelik. Grandparents are Susan & Harley Waxer and Dalia & Josef Gorelik.

Yvette & Dean Silver on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Emma and to Jennifer Shein & Evan Silver on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jonathan. Grandparents are: Arlene & Martin Silver, Joseph Lobl, Elaine & David Schouela and Ann & Steven Shein.

Rachel & Jay Rolnick on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jordan. Grandparents are: Toba & Robert Frimet, and Bella & Abe Rolnick.

Dara Laxer & Kevin Weingarten on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Juliet Weingarten. Grandparents are Edda & Ronald Laxer, Paul Weingarten & Sharon Gerstein. Great Grandparents are Millie & Sonny Laxer and Muriel Mendelson.

Stacey Fruitman & Kevin Goodman on the Bnei Mitzvah of their children Alexis Faith and Aiden Joseph Goodman. Grandparents are Leah & Harvey Fruitman and Naomi Fruitman and Jane Goodman and Cookie (Marcia) Baum.

Jodie Wolkoff & Neil Shankman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Faith Jordan Shankman. Grandparents are Irene & Jerry Shankman, Sally & Aaron Wolkoff z"l.

Jodie & David Rosen on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Dylan Cole Rosen. Grandparents are Miriam Rosen, Sylvia & Michael Kestenberg.

Lynn Kirshin & Andrew Urbas on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ava Rachelle Urbas. Grandparents are Rhoda & Barry Kirshin.

Lisa Bordan & Jordan Shapiro on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Andrew Henry Shapiro. Grandparents are Ziona & Norman Bordan, Pamela Shainhouse, Joel Shapiro & Suzanne Kosky.

Susan & Jeffery Armel on the Bnei Mitzvah of their children Samantha and Daniel Armel. Grandparents are Rona Armel and Adele & Marvin Randall.

Karyn Simon & Kevin Weagle on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Tanner Jack Simon Weagle. Grandmother is Suzanne Weagle.

Hazzan Tibor and Isabela Kovari on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ariel. And to his grandmother, Ana Vera Kovari.

Debbie & Steven Bergson on the Bnei Mitzvah of their sons Max and Joel. And to the grandparents Ronna & Roy Birnboim and Harriet & Edward Rice.

Jennifer & Alexander Reidiboim on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joseph. And to the grandparents Marilyn Braverman and Sofia & Efim Reidiboim.

Mel & Randy Gordon on Eitan Jacob Gordon's Bar Mitzvah. And to grandfather Alfred Gordon.

Laura & Elliot Bernstein on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Kyla. And to the grandparents Susan & Michael Bernstein and Amy & Larry Miller.

Birthdays:

Brooke Braverman on her 18th birthday.

Marcia Zalev on her 75th birthday.

Gordon Laiken on his 77th birthday.

Ellie Shulman on her 80th birthday.

Warren Cohen on his 80th birthday.

Louise Maerov on her 80th birthday.

Ed Levy on his 90th birthday.

Abe Birenbaum on his 94th birthday.

Mike Smith on his 101th Birthday.

Weddings:

Natalie Cohen & Ron Kapcan on their Aufruf and Wedding. And to the parents Dina & Pinchas Cohen, and Rachel & Dan Kapcan and grandmother Dalia Hayek.

Tamar Frank & Ezra Wakefield on their Aufruf and Wedding. And to the parents Shoshana & Leon Frank.

Allie Middlestadt & Aaron Fisch on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Jocelyn Levine-Middlestadt & Jorey Middlestadt, Michelle & Darryl Fisch; and grandparents Sharyn & Marty Middlestadt and Sylvia & Ed Fisch.

Stephanie Abbott & Trevor Kirsh on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are Felice & Wayne Kirsh and grandparents Sabrina & Al Green.

Weddings (continued)

Jennifer Arielle Cooper & Michael Jonathan Plant on their Aufruf and Wedding. Parents are: Suzanne Halberstadt & Michal Cooper and Lisa Gardner Gwartz and Mark Plant. Grandparents are: Gail & Norm Gardner and Esther & Bernie Jadd.

Rivka Savage & Jason Kraft on their Aufruf and Wedding. And to the parents Janice & Joel Savage and Arlene & Leslie Kraft and grandmother Ruth Pakes.

Zoe Berkley & Jeremy Kovac on their Aufruf and Wedding. And to the parents, Laura & Harvey Berkley and Dorit & Steven Kovac.

Chelsea Voronoff and Jason Brown on their Aufruf and Wedding. And to the parents and grandparents Renee & Barry Voronoff; Sharon & Allan Brown; Sandra Montgomery and Albert & Sabina Green.

Melissa & Noah Lockwood on their Wedding. Parents are Joanne & Paul Lockwood and Sharon & Stephen Schwartz and Alan Goodman & Fran Chodak. Grandmother is Debby Gollom.

Births:

Baden & Zane Colt on the naming of their daughter Scottie Joel Colt. And to the grandparents Lisa Colt-Kotler & Andrew Kotler, Howard Colt & Shelley McIntyre, Frances Russell and Gary Petigrow & Evelina Faraone; and to the great grandparents Harry Colt & Gail Carr-Colt, Judi Sporn and Elaine Abrams.

Tiffany Feler & Gregory Barr on the naming of their daughter Ellie Barr. And to the grandparents Ayala & Abraham Feler, Valerie & Jeffrey Barr.

Yuval & Aaron Kaufman on the naming of their daughter Alison Paige. And to the grandparents Yvonne Kaufman, Anat & Yaron Elbaum and great grandparents Irv Suchall and Paul Goldenberg.

Beth Tikvah's Rabbis' Assistant, Yardena Davis & Kobi Rosen on the birth of a baby boy, Moshe Yehuda. Big sisters are Amira, Goldie & Chana Baila.

Eve Hurowitz & Adam Jerusalem on the birth of their son, Jake Elie, brother to Hannah. Grandparents are Jack & Glynis Jerusalem, Dr's Eric Hurowitz and Beth Warren. Great Grandmother is Selma Chanock.

Anniversaries:

The Bernofsky Family in honour of Sheldon & Rochelle's Wedding Anniversary.

Barbara Albert & Alan Vinegar in honour of their 12th Anniversary.

Sarah and Gordon Laiken in honour of their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

Karny & Schura Vorona in honour of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Heather & Gary Feldman in honour of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Maya & David Burkes in honour of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Marsha & Fred Rosen in honour of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Candles For Israel

Our members, Bronna & Jeff Ginsberg and their family, have been opening their home each Friday before Shabbat to light candles for Israel. The initiative was started in South Africa when the war started #candles4israel.

Each week, the community comes together to say prayers for the hostages, prayers for healing, for the IDF, for Canada and Israel and conclude with lighting the candles and Hatikvah. It has proven to be a very meaningful experience for all that attend. The group has grown to as big as 60 ranging from weekly regulars to newcomers and strangers. All are welcome!

If you would like to attend, please reach out to Bronna by phone or text at (416) 990-8668.



Welcome to our New and Returning Members

- Stephanie Abbott and Trevor Kirsh
- Ruth Abrams
- Rachel Albert & David Hartman
- Shannon & Michael Anthony
- Sandra & Eddie Apelowicz
- Rebecca Baruch & Michael Lazovsky
- Bonnie Bereskin
- Richard Berish
- Riva & Shane Black
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- Marlee Vinegar & David Warshafsky
- Karin & Noah Weisberg
- Robyn & Mallory Wise
- Jodie Wolkoff & Neil Shankman

Archival Committee Update:

Over the summer and fall, our committee came together to begin organizing our documents that have been donated by members and that we have found throughout the Synagogue with the goal of preserving them at the Ontario Jewish Archives. While this is an arduous process, some of our treasures are now on display by the front entrance across from the coat check. Please stop by and take a look!

A key mandate of the committee is to collect the oral testimonies from Founding Members. Founding members this fall were invited to two afternoon sessions to collectively discuss the founding of the Synagogue with the goal of sending the recordings to the Ontario Jewish Archives. Founding members were then asked if they would like to record individual testimonies. Thank you to Lisa Newman and Barry Green who have volunteered many hours to interview and record these important stories. If you are interested in recording a personal testimony and would like to preserve your memories for future generations, please contact, Gayle Kertzman at gayle@bethtikvahtoronto.org. We will be resuming after Passover and can accommodate interviews either at the Synagogue or in your home.



Lisa Newman in conversation with Founding Member, Reva Stern



Interviewing Beverly Schaeffer in the Chapel with the Aron Kodesh that she procured from her hometown of Kirkland Lake

We extend Condolences to the following:

Jeffrey & Gayle Jackson on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Sybil Jackson, z"l.

Barbara Prince on the passing of her husband, Jack Prince, z"l.

Howard & Carolyn Rose on the passing of their brother and brother-in-law, Stanley Rose, z"l.

Susan Rosenstein on the passing of her husband, Mervyn Rosenstein, z"l.

Tsipora & Ken Krupat on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Hamama David, z"l.

Goldie Ungar on the passing of her husband, Stanley Ungar, z"l.

Elaine Zuck & Bernard Mailach on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Victor Zuck, z"l.

Georgia Dennis on the passing of her sister, Anne Greenspoon, z"l.

Monica & Ben Nemani on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Doris Parker, z"l.

Elinor Caplan on the passing of her husband, Wilf Caplan, z"l.

Anna VanDelman on the passing of her husband, Louis VanDelman, z"l.

Rochelle Berg on the passing of her husband, Max Berg, z"l.

Sara Aronson on the passing of her husband, Yair Aronson, z"l.

Alexander Budanitsky on the passing of his father, Marat Budanitsky, z"l.

Edith Cantor on the passing of her sister, Rosalind Jarvis, z"l.

Shawn & Marsha Klerer on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Kay Klerer, z"l.

Ruth Abrams on the passing of her husband, Louis Abrams, z"l.

Ellen & Howard Shanfield on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Benjamin Libman, z"l.

Marilyn Braverman on the passing of her husband; Lisa Braverman, Ian & Hayley Braverman and Jennifer & Alexander Reidiboim on the passing of their father and father-in-law; Sally Ann Wolkoff on the passing of her brother, William Braverman, z"l.

Joseph Glass on the passing of his father, Sheldon Glass, z"l.

Vanessa Judelman & Michael Davidson on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Alan Judelman, z"l.

Louis & Shirley Greenbaum and Garry & Shirley Greenbaum on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Helen Greenbaum, z"l.

John Colomby on the passing of his wife, Patti Colomby, z"l.

Andrea Bricks on the passing of her husband, Harry Bricks, z"l.

Greta Rabinowitz on the passing of her brother, David Douglas, z"l.

Zelda Safer on the passing of her husband, and Andrea & Robert Safer on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Leon Safer, z"l.

הַמָּקוֹם יִנַּחַם אֶתְכֶם
בְּתוֹךְ שְׂאֵר אֲבְלֵי צִוּן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

Simone Stern on the passing of her husband, Norman Stern, z"l.

Barry & Beth Stern on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Norman Stern, z"l.

Sonya Mingail on the passing of her sister, Toby Mortfield, z"l.

Judi & Jack Maltz on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Leon Josephs, z"l.

Sandi Silverman on the passing of her husband, Lionel Silverman, z"l.

Ellen & Howard Shanfield on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Rita Libman, z"l.

Marilyn Mudrik on the passing of her mother, Diane Sobel, z"l.

Paul & Sandi Mandel on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Seymour Mandel, z"l.

Shelley & Dan Baruch on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Ronald Nefsky, z"l.

Beverly Schaeffer on the passing of her husband, Fred Schaeffer, z"l.

David & Sasha Schaeffer on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Fred Schaeffer, z"l.

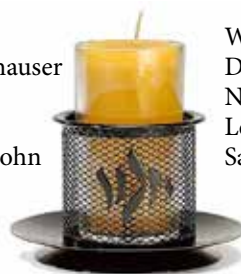
Reah Feldman on the passing of her sister, Janice Mervin, z"l.

Sally Ann Wolkoff on the passing of her husband; Jodie Wolkoff & Neil Shankman and Jay Wolkoff & Marcy Kroach on the passing of their father and father-in-law, Aaron Wolkoff, z"l.

We would thank those who made Yahrzeit Donations:

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Situated close to the coat check room in the foyer.

All donations are taken to shelters
or Pride of Israel Kosher Food Bank
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Time to fill the cupboard with:
Used Eye Glasses • New & Unused Cosmetics • Creams, Shampoo,
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The cupboard is checked weekly. Let's fill it up!!!

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THE LIVES BEHIND THEIR TEACHINGS

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Hillel & Shammai

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Meet our Upcoming Shinshinim

Hello Beth Tikvah! We have selected our two outstanding Shinshinim for the 2024-2025 year. Please welcome Noga and Yoav to Beth Tikvah! They are so excited to meet you all and to spend a year with us beginning in September 2024! Beth Tikvah will be sharing our UJA Shinshinim with Beth Emeth and Reena.

Beth Tikvah is honoured to welcome Alisa Feldbloom as the UJA Shinshinim Lay Leader. Alisa brings years of experience as a Lay Leader and has cultivated many long lasting and meaningful relationships with the Shinshinim. If you are interested in being a host family and experiencing Israel in your home, feel free to contact Alisa to learn more, alisafeldbloom@gmail.com.

Introducing Noga and Yoav:



Hi, my name is Yoav Mulchansky I'm from Givat Shmuel which is a small city near Tel Aviv. My favourite place in Israel is a small club in Tel Aviv called Barby, it's a place where Israeli singers and bands perform concerts. I play the guitar and I love going to concerts and supporting Israeli musicians and creators. The thing in Toronto that I'm most excited about is meeting the community and getting to know new people. Looking forward to meeting you all!!!!



Hello Beth Tikvah community! My name is Noga Avisar and I'm from Tsur Yigal, a small town (Yishuv) in the center of Israel. My favourite place in Israel is my hometown because of the vast fields surrounding it. I love taking walks there and breathing the fresh air. It always fills me with positive energies and makes me peaceful. The thing I'm excited for the most about coming to Toronto is getting to know the people in the community, and forming meaningful connections. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you! We are going to have a wonderful year together!



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Beth Tikvah Celebrates LAG B'OMER!

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 26, 2024

