

CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

התשע"ח - 5778





From the Editor

Mike Cohen

Côte Saint-Luc is part of my DNA. I grew up here and for the past 12 years I have been proud to serve the voters of District 2 on city council. My decision to seek a fourth mandate in the upcoming November 5 elections represents my commitment to community. This is very much the same for many members and leaders of TBDJ.

I joined the shul a decade ago and immediately became involved as the editor of this Bulletin and a communications advisor. It has been an absolute privilege to watch this synagogue shine and experience a rebirth under a vibrant new executive. When our amazing spiritual leader, **Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz**, left for a career opportunity in New York, our leaders rose to the occasion. We are so lucky to have **Rabbi Freundlich** who has adapted to his new surroundings in fine fashion.

Distributing this Bulletin during the High Holidays has become a tradition over the past few years. I find that most members read it cover to cover. It is also posted on our website. At TBDJ, we communicate regularly with our members, via our weekly Shabbat bulletin and regular e-mail messages.

This edition of the Bulletin provides a comprehensive overview of how active our shul has been these past 12 months, and what is on the horizon. Reports are submitted by our dedicated committee chairs and clergy. I have also filed stories recapping the Yom Hashoah commemoration held here annually, and the wonderful installation ceremony for our Rabbi. In these pages you will also find out what activities are set to take place in our building.

This year, we decided to approach a handful of TBDJ members to ask them what the synagogue means to them. Among those individuals we approached were **Dr. Paul Weinstein**, **Alex Benmergui**, and **David Steinlauf**.

Paul has been a member for over 40 years and recently retired from his pediatric dentistry practice after an incredible 50-year run. **Alex** has been a leading member of our relatively new Émet LeYaakov TBDJ Sephardic Minyan, helping it grow in participants and activities over the years. **David** and his family are regulars at TBDJ (including founding members of the 6:15am Gemarah class with Rabbi Y!) and his amazing printing work can be seen on our walls. You'll see these personal submissions throughout this edition.

It has been a privilege to work so closely with past president **Judah Aspler** these last few years. His dedication to this shul is already legendary. We now welcome **Jonathan Gal** to the helm.

Please share your feedback with me at info@mikecohen.ca.



CRÉATIONS VIVIMAR INC.

TBDJ once again extends its gratitude and sincere appreciation to

David Steinlauf
and
ViviMar Inc.

for their enthusiastic guidance and assistance with our special media and printing projects throughout the year.

THANK YOU!

The TBDJ Annual Report

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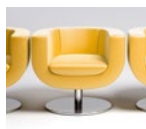
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Community First

Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich

There is a story told of a congregant who wrote a letter to his Rabbi before Rosh Hashanah with a request for help. “I would like to be more successful in my business. I want to be a better person. I want to be able to achieve my goals. I want to make sure my children are being raised appropriately. I would appreciate any advice you can offer.”

The Rabbi’s response was simple but insightful. He circled the first letter of each sentence and simply returned the letter. The congregant opened the letter to find the letter “I” circled five times. The message was clear. We often have a tendency to put ourselves first. But to be successful from a Jewish perspective, we must learn to put others before ourselves. It is often paradoxical in the modern cut-throat world we live in to think that by allowing someone else to succeed we can somehow end up doing better. Yet, that is the reality of the spiritual world. The Talmud summarizes this sentiment beautifully with the statement that “One who prays for a friend while he/she is in need of that same request, will be answered first”.

* * *

Last year as I prepared for the High Holidays, our family had just moved to town. Boxes were still piled high, I didn’t know very many of your names, and I was still using Waze to get to The Cavendish Mall.

What a difference a year makes.

While there are still a few random boxes left, Rifki and I are definitely settling in. We’ve begun to figure out our way around Montreal and now know quite a number of names (though we are definitely not completely there yet). Most importantly, we have truly fallen in love with the Baily shul and couldn’t be more proud to call TBDJ our spiritual home.

And the anecdote above explains why.

Throughout the year, we have seen time and time again the generosity and selflessness of this community. Whether shul organized MADA events, hosting a special needs youth Shabbaton, bone marrow drives, the outpouring of support for my Houston mission, or the generous response and donation of time and funds when I ask for help- this shul, as a family and community, is ready and willing to

be there for each other and anyone else who needs. It is a value that is fundamental to who we are and what we stand for.

It is of note that on Rosh Hashanah, despite the fact that it is the Day of Judgment, we do not make personal requests for our own health, wealth or success in any of the silent *shmoneh esrei* prayers. We are only focused outwards. And we do so in two ways. On the one hand, we stand united in our recognition of G-d as our King and we as his people. Secondly, we stand together as a community.

There is a custom many people have that when they complete their silent *shmoneh esrei* and take 3 steps back, they turn to their right and bow slightly, then turn to their left and similarly bow, and then bow while facing

forward. It has been suggested that this is to remind us, after completing our conversation with our Creator, to look around the room and make sure that all is in order with everyone around us, too. A Jew cannot feel at peace in his relationship with G-d if all is not well in his/her relationships with people.

I wish to bless us all with a happy and healthy new year, a year filled with growth and generosity, in which we care for each other and are sensitive to each other's needs.

From Rifki, myself and the kids – Shanah Tova!



Clockwise from top-left: Rabbi Freundlich with Elul minyan contest winners at Chez Benny; Rabbi Freundlich delivering snacks to IDF soldiers on Mega Mission; Rabbi Freundlich visiting Camp Moshava and camper Yanick Widman; Rabbi Freundlich serving as a judge in Herzliya High School's Moot Court Beit Din Competition.



President's Report

Jonathan Gal

As I sit and try to put my thoughts to paper, I wonder how I got here. It seems just a few years ago I was a kid living across the street, playing coat check football downstairs at TBDJ. I was that kid who ran around the halls, played outside when I shouldn't have, and broke things which I shouldn't have. But besides the wild stories which may or may not have been greatly exaggerated, I have countless memories of TBDJ from childhood; coming to the Sunday morning library program with my maternal grandparents, my paternal Bubby making doughnuts on Simchat Torah for what seemed like the entire shul, walking my paternal Zaidy to and from shul on Chagim, my Father as Gabbai, my mother organizing countless events and programs, ball hockey, bowling, Habs and Expos games, Sukkah parties and so many others...

A few years later, as Youth Director, I saw a different side of things as a young adult. Helping to organize events and taking some responsibility was fulfilling. Little did I know what lay ahead.

A number of years ago, our esteemed past president asked me to sit on the Board of Directors after I had expressed some interest in helping grow our membership. Well, after being involved in a few things like the Kiddush Cup, the Baily Road Diner, membership campaigns, and building renovations... here I am. I may not be completely sure how I got to this point but I am humbled, honored and tremendously excited to be the President of Congregation TBDJ.

I have been told countless times in the lead-up to the General Meeting that "I have big shoes to fill". These words could not be more true. Unless you were intimately involved in TBDJ these past 4 years, you cannot imagine the unbelievable amount of time and energy that **Judah Aspler** dedicated to this synagogue. His unwavering dedication to this esteemed institution will go down in the TBDJ record books and we are all eternally grateful for his service. Undoubtedly, Judah will be a tremendous resource for me and will still continue to serve TBDJ in the years to come.

It is remarkable that Congregation TBDJ is blessed with so many amazing leaders. After the devastating flooding in

Houston, the Congregation received an email from **Rabbi Freundlich** about heading there to help on a Chesed mission. True to his word, a few days later the Rabbi, **Sandy and Marnie Stein** and myself were on a flight to Houston, where we were joined by Judah. A true leader is someone who both talks the talk and walks the walk. Rabbi Freundlich is exactly that, a true leader who rolls up his sleeves and gets to work when there is work to be done. Quoting one of his Atlanta friends who said this to me as we were ripping up flooring in a flooded home, "You guys don't know how lucky you are to have the Rabbi and Rifki!". We definitely do realize just how fortunate we are!

While being President seems to give off the impression that one is in charge, what really makes TBDJ run on a daily basis is the committed professional staff that we have. I have been working closely with **Joyce, Brian and Tatyana** in the office for a while now and we have established an excellent profession and personal rapport. As has been





documented in these pages before, **Yakov Lev** is the *heart* of TBDJ and is vital to so many things that happen here. He is someone who I rely on tremendously, and am proud to call a friend. **Reverend Amiel Bender** is always full of ideas, energy and a quick one liner, and can always be counted on. Those qualities are hard to find, and we are lucky he calls TBDJ home.

There are so many people who commit their time to TBDJ and have done so selflessly for many years by sitting on the Executive and Board of Directors. As a community, we cannot thank you enough for your service, and hope that no matter the exact role you are currently in, that you continue to be involved and volunteer for the good of our shul and community. This year, we are proud to be bringing in new Board members full of fresh ideas and energy, and I am looking forward to working with both the Board 'veterans' as well as the 'rookies'.

I have been asked a few times what my goals are as President over the next 2 years. After all, TBDJ is in a good place. The building is always buzzing with activity, both academic and social. Membership is healthy. Our Sephardic Minyan continues to grow. Weekly Shabbat services are always busy with dozens of strollers in the building each week. We have an amazing Rabbi and Rebbetzin, along with dynamic leaders and volunteers who all care about the future of this synagogue. So let the good times roll, right? Well, not so fast. To paraphrase a Rebbe I had in

Yeshiva several years ago, "Shul life is like walking uphill on a downwards escalator. Walk and you stay in the same place. Stand still, and you sink down. Run, well that's the only way to climb higher." I plan to run. I plan to run with all the people I mentioned above. I plan to run with amazing leaders like **Josh Orzech, Yair Meyers** and **Keren Ludvig** (to name just a few). I plan to run with all of you. The real reason I am on the TBDJ letterhead is because I care about TBDJ. I have always cared about TBDJ. If you are sitting in this building, so do you.

I'm asking you to come with me, help me continue the amazing work of my predecessors, and help grow Congregation TBDJ. There is something for everyone here. Find the piece that interests you and try it out. What you will find is an amazingly diverse group of people who all feel connected to this shul. Hanging outside the building, we have an incredible banner that says "Where Worlds Meet and Generations Unite". This is a perfect description for TBDJ. People of all different backgrounds and ages, meeting and uniting under one roof. My ultimate goal is to have everyone reading this article unite together to continue growing TBDJ for future generations.

On behalf of my wife Natalie, and daughters Ella and Abigail, I would like to wish everyone a Shana Tova U'metukah.

May this year bring you only good health, joy and happiness.



Past President's Message

Judah Aspler

Four and a half years later, and all I'm asked is, "So, are you relieved?" The short answer is "No". I'm not relieved because I was not burdened. It was truly an honour to serve as President of this incredible shul, and to help lead an amazing team of volunteers in continuing to improve on what we have and what we offer. When you're able to see and feel tangible results, it's not a burden. It's a privilege.

If relieved isn't the right expression, then what is? I'd say excited. I'm excited to see what our next leaders, and in particular **Jonathan Gal** and **Josh Orzech**, will do next. Much of what we enjoy today, and what I often get credited for, is thanks to them, their vision, and their dedication. Both Jon and Josh came on board when I took on this role in May of 2013. And they jumped right in. Within just a few months, while I was busy tending to some ominous matters that still linger like soiled winter snow in spring, Josh had on the table a proposal for an innovative and disruptive (in a positive way) youth department strategy. Camp Ilan @ TBDJ was his response to the questions of "How can we improve our youth programming? How can we embark on a path that sees us improving year over year without having to reset and restart every 24 months." He thought outside the box, placed his bets, worked out the details, convinced others of their merit.... and the rest is history. He succeeded.

Once that project took flight he didn't sit back and rest. While assisting it in a very hands-on way, he came up with some more ideas... and long story short, TBDJ Connect! was born. The concept, the strategy, and the execution. He handled all of it. I'm now excited to see what comes next.

Jon Gal and I go back a little further. He may not remember this, but we worked together at TBDJ a few decades ago. We were employed on Sunday mornings- he got the fun job of running street hockey, and I got the less-fun job of folding every talit left in the sanctuary a day earlier. Hundreds of them. While hearing the sounds of festive hockey just outside. From that moment on I was determined to get the better job ahead of him, at any cost. The jury is still out.

Fast forward a number of years and we're working together at TBDJ once again. Jon has an incredible level of commitment to this shul, and a passion to get things done, and to get them done correctly regardless of effort required.

I am excited to see the stamp he puts on TBDJ in the coming years, and to see him continue to attract and develop new leaders for our next generation.

Aside from being excited, I am a bit disappointed as well. Disappointed in that I didn't have more than a year to work with **Rabbi Freundlich** at the helm of our shul. I've said it publicly several times, and written it a couple more, but it's worth repeating one last time while I still have access to the Baily airwaves. We at TBDJ and in the broader community are truly blessed to have Rabbi Freundlich with us, and leading our journey to greatness. That is no catchphrase. He is leading us on an actual journey to greatness, and all that we are required to do is show up, have our eyes and ears open, and follow his lead. Simple. Proven. Powerful.

I'm sure I will stay close and help out where I can, and that I'll also enjoy being the recipient of TBDJ services without necessarily having to worry about what is going on behind the scenes. This is a magical shul, and one that we should both cherish and utilize regularly.

I've also been asked by many what the most difficult part of the job was. To be honest, it was dealing with bereavement. Over the last handful of years I had the opportunity of getting to know so many shul members, including many I did not know previously. That was a genuine blessing. But attending funerals and shivas, and connecting with many TBDJ families during those times- that was the most difficult part, during my first days and up to my last. Each member we lost was a loss for the entire shul family, and as President I felt it directly. We've lost some great people, great leaders, in our community over the last short while. It's incumbent upon us, and especially the younger segment of our shul, to ensure that their ways are a roadmap for how we continue down the path they set us on. Jon and Josh are on that path.

Please allow me to close by thanking everyone who helped me put pieces together and orchestrate the ongoing at TBDJ. There are many of you. Many who are just getting started in their leadership careers. I look forward to the opportunity to perhaps return some of that help you gave me, and watching your success - our success - here at Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, the Greatest Shul on Earth!

The Y-Studs

Returning for an encore performance on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur



TBDJ is pleased to welcome the return of The Y-Studs to our High Holy Day services. They are an elite all-male Jewish a cappella group from Yeshiva University in New York. Known for their bright harmonies, youthful energy, and ability to connect with their audience, the Y-Studs always deliver unforgettable performances.

The musical troupe was founded in 2010 by visionary college students who realized there was too much musical talent left untapped on campus. Now, seven years later, they have performed at all sorts of functions, before a diverse array of audiences and communities in the United States and beyond. After making their presence known through their CDs, music videos, and performances, the 'Studs' are among the most recognized names in Jewish a cappella.

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Membership/Chesed Chair:	Yair Meyers

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An Interview with Three Leaders

By Mike Cohen

TBDJ Bulletin editor Mike Cohen sat down with outgoing President **Judah Aspler**, his successor **Jonathan Gal** and Vice President **Josh Orzech**, to get their perspectives on the new mandate.

* * *

When you were young and growing up at the TBDJ, did you ever think you would one day be president?

JUDAH ASPLER: Growing up at TBDJ, I never even thought I'd be old enough to be president, let alone be nominated and elected. I don't know what that says about my impression of the age of those before me, or about my own age awareness today. Either way, it wasn't exactly on my mind some 30+ years ago. I also heard all the shul president jokes, which don't exactly inspire you to go that route. That said, I do believe it's very important to have young leaders at the helm alongside veteran ones.



JONATHAN GAL: Both my parents were very involved at TBDJ for many years (and continue to be) so getting involved in a place that I grew up in and cared so much about seemed natural. Being president however, that never even occurred to me. But as I became more involved in different aspects of the shul, I began to sense it was a possibility.

Were your initial plans to serve a two year term?

JUDAH ASPLER: Indeed, they were. I thank Rabbi Steinmetz and the Search Committee of KJ in New York for calling that audible. My initial term of two years was ending just as

Rabbi Steinmetz accepted his next challenge, and after speaking with several others within TBDJ's leadership group, I agreed it was not the right time to step aside. Not until we were able to say a proper thank-you and farewell to the Steinmetz family, and then capitalize on the immense, yet potentially challenging, opportunity that presented itself.

How much did your family support you in terms of the time that was required to fulfill these duties?

JUDAH ASPLER: If I told you that they took on a large number of chores that I'd have otherwise performed, and sacrificed many of their own needs, as well as their time and patience, all in favor of what I was busy with- I'd only be scaring away future young leaders. So, let's just leave it at "yes, they were very supportive." The truth is though, the above is quite accurate and I thank them for it.

What achievements are you most proud of from this term?

JUDAH ASPLER: There are many that I look back at and smile. The first and foremost is the new team of leaders that came on board with me in the Spring of 2013 and stepped into key committee and executive roles. Especially the two gentlemen sitting here with me. They all performed their duties with tremendous commitment, vision, and creativity. This resulted in the many amazing successes we experienced together, and it firmly set TBDJ up for another



generation of being the greatest shul in Montreal. I'd be remiss if I didn't include the onboarding of Rabbi Freundlich at the top of this list as well. For the last year I have been in awe of how fortunate we are to have such a Rabbinic leader at our helm. Sometimes I can't help but wonder if we are worthy. The devotion, passion, commitment, intelligence, care, wisdom, and tireless drive that he exhibits each and every day, and in every facet of his role, is truly remarkable. To know that Rabbi Freundlich, along with Rifki, are at the forefront of everything we will plan and do at TBDJ, makes me even more certain that our shul and community is one to be a part of and invest in.

JONATHAN GAL: So many things make me proud of TBDJ! I'll give one small example. Seeing multi-generational members from the same family - grandparents, children, grandchildren - together at TBDJ. It really means a lot knowing that we're a place people feel so comfortable and connected to, that they share it with their families.

What was your single biggest challenge?

JUDAH ASPLER: It's not the weekly Shabbat announcements, as many would guess. Those can actually be fun. When you inherit a shul with such a storied history and so much opportunity at its doorstep, the biggest challenge is living up to what the shul was and should be, and what its members deserve. The potential for our shul is endless. The challenge was, and still is, pacing yourself to deliver successful programs and initiatives at the right time and over a prolonged period- not biting off more than you can chew. I didn't always succeed at this, but in general am proud of the structure and processes we put in place, which allow us to sustain what's in flight while strategically adding to it.

What role will you play at TBDJ as Past President and in years to come?

JUDAH ASPLER: I plan to support our new President, and his Executive and Board, however he would like me to. We've discussed some ongoing projects which I could continue to assist with, such as solidifying our Endowment Fund- an element vital for our future. I'm sure there will be other projects as well that I'll jump into, and I look forward to doing so. The other role I look forward to playing right away is that of Member- just being a part of TBDJ and enjoying all that it offers the community.

What are your goals as Vice President?

JOSH ORZECH: Listen, learn, support and help wherever I can. TBDJ has become more than just a synagogue or place I go, but rather an important and active part of mine and my family's lives. I will do my best to contribute, nourish and continue its growth and success while exposing all the great things that take place at TBDJ to the greater Montreal Jewish community.

(continued on next page)

What have you learned from working with Judah?

JONATHAN GAL: Hudi can do so many things and he seems to do them all well! I'm not sure his talents and extreme work ethic is teachable. His unwavering dedication and commitment to TBDJ has secured his legacy as a president to be emulated, and I endeavor to try and do so to the best of my abilities.

How do you explain the very active role you began to play here in just six short years as a member?

JOSH ORZECH: As an entrepreneur, what excites me is a business or cause that I can be passionate about, an organization that can make a difference, and an opportunity that has potential for growth. TBDJ definitely checks all those boxes! Its appeal, together with our outstanding clergy and passionate leadership group, have made it easy for others to join in and feel a part of something. The reality is it's my honor and pleasure to have been given the opportunity to be part of the TBDJ team.

What have been your proudest moments since becoming involved in the shul?

JOSH ORZECH: There are many... but if I had to choose, I would go with the relaunch of TBDJ youth in partnership with Camp Ilan. Over the past several years we have rebuilt our youth programming from the ground up. We have seen many successes which I am very proud to have been a part of but know there is still lots of room to grow.

Why do you think TBDJ continues to thrive while some other synagogues do not?

JONATHAN GAL: There is no secret formula. It's really the people in the building that make TBDJ special. Something about the mix of the different types of people we have makes TBDJ unique and extraordinary. With Rabbi Freundlich leading the charge, I am so excited for our future!

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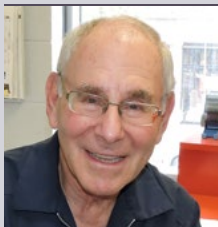
Your TBDJ

In this edition of our Annual Report we asked some of our members the following three questions. Their answers can be found throughout the edition.

What does TBDJ mean to you?

What is your personal highlight at TBDJ?

What do you look forward to at TBDJ in the future?



Paul Weinstein

"For myself and my wife, TBDJ has been a way of life for 40 years. Our three boys had their bar mitzvahs here. The congregation was there for us when we lost loved ones and I have been personally highly motivated by Rabbis Steinmetz and Freundlich in particular. This is a wonderful synagogue with highly stimulating lectures, something I hope to avail myself more of now that I have retired from my dental practice of 50 years."



Corey Miller

"TBDJ is our home base. It is where we turn for the important, the serious and the fun. As we grow our family, we feel the responsibility to guide our children and instill in them a strong sense of Jewish identity and commitment to the Torah. We couldn't ask for a more vibrant and nurturing shul and community to be the center of our Jewish life, and to embolden our children's and our own Jewish experience."



Alex Benmergui

"In a time of uncertainty and extremism, this institution represents a sanctuary where my family and I can gather among friends and familiar faces. It, along with Shabbat, allow us to provide our loved ones with a place that will both nurture their faith in good and acts of kindness while allowing for the creation of friendships lasting a life time. Personally, having grown up in this shul, not as a member but rather as an outsider - coming as a Sephardic Jew with only with my eldest brother for guidance at the age of eight- I appreciate the evolution which has taken place in the leadership over these years. The current leadership's openness and acceptance of the 'modern families' leads me to believe this place will continue to be special for many people and have a bright future."



Michael Szirt

"Up until I was about 40, all the synagogues I had ever gone to were somebody else's synagogue, either my parents' synagogue or wife's family's synagogue. TBDJ welcomed me in a way that no synagogue ever had and it became my synagogue. It gave me the opportunity to make my kids' comfortable in a synagogue. Personal highlights for me have been at two levels: watching my kids when they were younger take part in some of the programs like a sukkah hop, and a kids learning evening that they attended on Shavuot and at the intellectual level, the quality of speakers / scholars-in-residence that I have had the privilege of seeing on Shabbat mornings such as Hillel Neuer, Rabbi David Stav, and Rabbi Steven Weil. I have seen TBDJ grow and develop so much in the 10 years that have been there and I look forward to seeing it continue to flourish in the future."



From our Chazzan Sheini

Rev. Amiel Bender

Shalom to all!

As we are about to embark on another exciting year at TBDJ, I would like to take a minute to reflect on some meaningful projects that I worked on this past year. My wife Cheryl and our children join me in wishing the TBDJ family and Klal Yisrael a Shana Tova, a year filled with peace, health, Nachas and prosperity!

Holocaust Memorial Wall

Last November, we dedicated a Holocaust Memorial Wall in our daily Chapel, which was filled to capacity.

A beautiful stained glass “Zachor” designed by artist **Nora Golic** was unveiled above our “Pillars of Memory”, where plaques of holocaust martyrs and deceased survivors alike are displayed. In his introduction to the ceremony, **Rabbi Freundlich** shared precious family memories and spoke about the importance of having a place to come to, in order to remember the Holocaust. Nora spoke about the motive behind her design and the Executive Director of the Montreal Holocaust Center, Alice Herscovitch, praised TBDJ for this initiative. There were speeches from **Benny Osher** and **Yossi Remer**, as well as Holocaust reflections from **Susan Wainberg**. I personally spoke about the age old Jewish tradition of memorializing the deceased in our houses of worship.

The ceremony closed with the singing of *Ani Ma'amin* and *Hatikvah*, following which our members kindled the lights next to the plaques of their beloved deceased.

Thank you to committee members **Nathan Rosenshein**, **Leo Grunstein** and **Joyce Reinblatt** for making this project a reality.

We acknowledge the meaningful pillar donations from the following members and their families: **Reesa and Ephriam Kandelshein**, **Elizabeth and Meir Israel**, **Fanny and Nathan Rosenshein**, **Bonnie and Leo Grunstein**, **Erin and Alex Halperin**, **Ira and Kathryn Kroo**, **Esther and Michael Rozenek**, **Pnina and Kopel Osher**, **Martin Osher**, **Susan and the late Mark Wainberg**.

* * *

“Scribe With The Tribe”

In March of this past year, Congregation TBDJ dedicated a community מגילת אסתר.

With great thanks to my wife and event co-chair, **Cheryl Gnatt Bender**, I am proud of our initiative to have a Megillat Esther written in honour of the youth of TBDJ.

One week before Purim we had an amazing evening to kick off our 2017 Purim experience: **Rabbi Yitzchak Cohen**, a



local scribe, completed letters in the Megillah together with TBDJ members of all ages.

Long tables of Hamantaschen, candies and toys were set up in order for everyone to assemble Mishlochei Manot for the Family Store.

We proudly raised a substantial amount of money with this fundraiser which will be put towards funding TBDJ youth programming. The Megillah was then read for the first time on Purim.

We graciously thank all of our donors for their support of this initiative, and Rabbi Cohen for all of his assistance.

Hockey Playoff Pool

This year TBDJ had it's first Hockey Playoff Pool. Congratulations to our winners: **Ben Cobrin** (1st place), **Issie Shostak** (2nd place) and **Gavi Aspler** (3rd place).

יום ירושלים - Yom Yerushalayim

A special 50th anniversary celebration for all ages, as TBDJ

celebrated the 50th year of the reunification of Jerusalem with a big bash which included Jerusalem food, arts and crafts, a DJ, and a mega-inflatable Jerusalem playground for the kids. The Main Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion and a mini Kotel was set up for photo opps.

Thank you to **Joyce Reinblatt**, **Yakov Lev** and **Cheryl Bender** for their invaluable help!





The Gift of Tefilla

Inspiration from the TBDJ Youth Minyan

Rabbi Eddie Shostak

Requiring active concentration and participation in dialogue with our Creator, teenage prayer may be one of the most challenging aspects in the religious life of a Jew. For teens, this sometimes seems like an insurmountable challenge, with everything stacked against them.

First, adolescents are biologically wired to simply be un-functional in the earlier hours of the day, and their attention spans are getting shorter and shorter. It is the nature of adolescents to sometimes be moody, secretive and sarcastic, and teens are developmentally primed for a quest of identity and rebellion.

With all these factors at play and more, we expect our teens to wake up earlier than their bodies are ready for, we put words into their mouths that, even if they understood them, are not their own and demand that they repeat them back with passion and fervor. On top of it all, we expect this on a regular basis --rinse and repeat.

Why would we encourage an endeavor that seems doomed to failure? Firstly, as an Orthodox institution we believe in a halachic system that was set in motion by God and was guided by our sages with our best interests in mind. Second, our youth minyan serves as a kind of minor league farm system, where teens train to one day populate our main sanctuary pews and lead our 'adult' service.

But, perhaps most importantly, we do this because we believe in our youth. We believe that they have in them the ability to express themselves religiously through tefilla, enabling them to develop their spiritual selves, their relationship with God, and connection to each other. Now and not only in the future.

It is this last reason that got me involved in working with teens.

For the last several years I have had the privilege to pray on a regular basis together with our youth. While I officially serve as the Rabbinic presence and resource in the room, my recurring message to the teens in my *Divrei Torah* is that it is *their* space. That each one of them is charged to discover and to bring their uniqueness, becoming essential contributor to the building of our tefilla and wider

community. This group never ceases to amaze me with their care and pride for each other, as well as their devotion in ensuring success in our little corner of the "Baily Shul".

As adults, perhaps we understand a little better the value and power of prayer --as a mitzvah, as self-reflection, as a means for us to come closer to our Creator and to each other. But, for teens it is sometimes less obvious.

So how do we make tefilla a more engaging and meaningful experience?

By the ongoing development of three foundational aspects of prayer:

1. **Keva**, skills and literacy.
2. **Kavanah**, the emotional & spiritual connection to tefilla.
3. **Kehilla**, a sense of belonging & building of community.

In our TBDJ Youth Minyan we aim to focus on each of these areas in both traditional and innovative ways.

When it comes to **Keva**, we have a "know-by-doing" attitude in our minyan, where we encourage our teens to develop their skills by actively participating in reading from the Torah portion and leading as *chazanim*. Risk taking is welcome and mistakes are appreciated as learning opportunities.

New for this year -- we will be introducing a 5 minute *Dvar Tefilla* during kiddush, that will hone in on different practical aspects of tefilla.

We work on deepening **Kavanah** through introducing new melodies as well as weekly *Divrei Torah* that are relevant to the teenage religious experience.

New for this year -- we plan on introducing the Koren Ani Tefilla Shabbat Siddur developed educationally specifically for teens. These siddurim will allow our youth to explore an innovative tefilla resource that is filled with developmentally appropriate translations, thought-provoking questions, narratives, and quotes to help them think and feel beyond the standard text.

We build **Kehilla** by empowering students to take leadership roles whether as *gabbaim*, as *chazanim*, and as mentors to

newer members. We ensure a warm and welcoming young ladies section and encourage their maximum participation. And, of course, no tefilla community is complete without a proper weekly *kiddush* serving to both satisfy teenage hunger and to ensure proper time for socializing.

New this year -- we will partner with **Camp Ilan @TBDJ** to create an integration program for pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids.

The TBDJ Youth Minyan has always had an important place in the life of our shul. Year after year, teens take ownership of their beautiful prayer space, making it come alive in enviable ways. We invite teens of all ages and backgrounds to join us to discover an appreciation of the gift of tefilla. A gift filled with religious, emotional and social benefits that challenge us to grow as individuals, build community and develop our relationship with our Creator.

Blessings for a sweet, happy and healthy new year.

Shana Tova.



Youth Minyan Gabbaim Yoni Drazin and Binyamin Freundlich, together with Rabbi Eddie Shostak



Émet LeYaakov Minyan Sepharade de TBDJ

Edouard Sabbah & Jessica Benmergui

Dear TBDJ family,

This has been a year of growth for the greater TBDJ family and as well for our close-knit & friendly Émet LeYaakov family. Led by our dedicated spiritual leader, **Raphy Benisti** and our talented Baal Korei **Vidal Gabizon**, our shabbat services are warm and lively.

Baruch Hashem we had a wonderful turnout for our annual activities: the Simchat Torah dinner was intimate and delicious---a lovely way to close the yamim norayim. Our casino-themed Purim Mishte, our biggest ever, was fun for young and young-at-heart; wowed by the magician, bellies filled with delicious food, we partied in costumes to the beats of our DJ for hours.

Notre minyan à grandit cette année avec plus de six nouvelles familles, et nous anticipons IYH une année avec encore plus de programmation, dont des shiurim, des Melave Malka et une hilloula.

Shanna tova ve'khatima tova.

Eddie & Jessica,

Le comité organisateur du minyane Sépharade
Emet LeYaakov de TBDJ





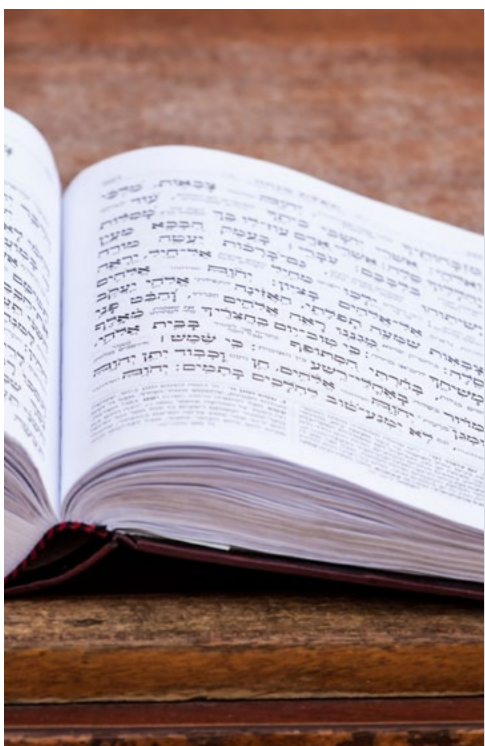
Lunch with the Rabbi

Did you know that Rabbi Freundlich sits down to eat lunch with our members on a weekly basis?

Would you and your family like to join Rabbi Freundlich and connect with him at the table?

Please email office@tbdj.org and set a time that works for you.

If lunch is not possible but dinner an option - let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate.



Tefillah with the Rabbi

Would you like to improve your tefillah experience?

Whether it's learning the basic structure and components of our daily and Shabbat prayers, or diving deeper into their significance and meaning...

Rabbi Freundlich looks forward to sitting with you in a private 1-to-1 setting, and working with you towards these goals.

Please email rabbi@tbdj.org and together with the Rabbi set your goals and arrange your own personal sessions.



Marla & Richard Zipper

"TBDJ has been a central address for our family for four generations. Together with TBDJ clergy and friends, we have celebrated Bar Mitzvahs, our wedding, the births of our children, their graduations, and many other milestones. Our daughter attended TBDJ Nursery School many years ago. In addition to being our spiritual home, a place for tefillah where our family continues to come together on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and other Chaggim, we have participated in learning of many kinds at TBDJ, including shiurim, women's lectures, cooking lessons and Hebrew classes. We appreciate the efforts that go into programming which bring in prominent speakers on a variety of topics including Jewish values, Israel advocacy and social justice. One of the highlights we remember was the year TBDJ members celebrated a community Simchat Torah, dancing with Torah Scrolls outside of our shul together with members from many other community area synagogues, regardless of their denomination. Going forward we would like to see TBDJ continue to work together with other synagogues of all denominations to continue to engage all members of our community and make living Judaism relevant for generations to come."



Executive Director's Desk

Joyce Reinblatt

I can't believe that another year has passed and I have now reached my third article for the Annual Report of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem! As Rosh Hashanah is always a time of reflection on the year that is coming to a close, it is the perfect opportunity for me to express my appreciation for the people that make TBDJ the wonderful community it is.

Let me start off with special thanks to our outgoing President **Judah Aspler**. Without his guidance and help over the last few years, we could not have accomplished as much as we did - most importantly upgrading, improving and repairing all aspects of the synagogue and the life of its community. We wish him all the best as he takes a well-deserved break from the long volunteer hours he has put in. We also look forward to his continued involvement in advising and consulting TBDJ's leadership, clergy and staff, whenever he is able to help out, for many years to come.

On Rosh Hashanah 5778, TBDJ will mark the completion of our first full year led by our amazing new Rabbi. **Rabbi Freundlich**, his wonderful wife **Rifki**, and their beautiful children have enhanced the life of our synagogue in so many ways, that it is very difficult to put into words how grateful we are for the decision they made last year to join us here - north of the border - in Montreal. The Freundlichs have really brought new life, joy and wisdom to TBDJ - invaluable contributions that have also helped make our daily tasks in the office that much more enjoyable. Thank you Rabbi "Y" and Rifki!

Along with Rabbi Freundlich, we are also very fortunate to have **Amiel Bender** leading the community as our Chazan Sheini. His energy, sense of humour, knowledge and devotion to Jewish life is now a central "pillar" upon which we all depend - for everything from daily davening to caring for our Sifrei Kodesh, from teaching our children to guiding our families in times of joy and in times of grief.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation for the team we have here in the TBDJ Office. I cannot say enough good things about **Brian, Tatyana**, and **Yakov** - three colleagues who are integral to supporting me as we do our best to serve the community. Our goal is to provide a positive, caring and constructive experience for every person who approaches us, whether it is a member arranging a simcha, a guest inquiring about High Holiday

seats, or a senior needing information about davening times. So much of the office's success is due to the skills, creative thinking and hard work of the staff we have built here at TBDJ. The kind words and compliments we all have received from members over the past year are truly appreciated, and your support helps encourage us to do even better in year to come.

Last, but not least, my reflection on the past year would not be complete without an important salute to our synagogue's wonderful membership. For those of you who I have not yet met, I encourage you to come by the office - even just to say hi and enjoy a chocolate bar from the bowl on my desk! At the end of the day, it is the members - young and old, male and female, quiet and loud - that make this shul as special as it is. I truly enjoy every interaction I have with all of you, and this is why I love my job here at Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem. It is our members that make every Shabbat and holiday special. It is our members that make every educational program and social event successful. And it is our members that make this shul a welcoming place for everyone. You are the heart and soul of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, and I look forward to continuing to support and assist all of you throughout the coming year.

On behalf of myself and the office staff, I wish you and your families and very Healthy and Happy New Year!



David Steinlauf

"My personal highlight at TBDJ is attending Rabbi F's 6:15 am. Wednesday morning Gemarah Shiur. The Rabbi delivers a clear, concise and well organized presentation of the Talmud. He also has the ability to show how what we are learning is relevant to our daily lives of today. He usually ends the shiur with a bit of a cliffhanger so that you are always looking forward to the flowing weeks' shiur. On many occasions my sons join me as well and they too enjoy the shiur."



Chesed Committee

Yair Meyers

There are so many phrases that come to mind when thinking about the fundamental reason behind Chesed. What always comes to my mind is what Rabbi Akiva taught us:

וְאַהֲבַת לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ, זֶה כָּלֵל גָּדוֹל בַּתוֹרָה

***Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18);
This is an essential principle of the Torah.***

We as a Shul have a unique and privileged ability and responsibility to help those that are less fortunate or just need a helping hand. There are many ways we can open our arms for these people.

Therefore, with the help of many of you we are going to make this year an amazing and remarkable Chesed orientated year. We will be focusing on being there for others in times of need and in times of joy, in health and sickness. To highlight a few of the items that we will be focusing on:

Helping new mothers or experienced mothers - Newborns cry, eat and cry again, and not exactly in that order every time. It is tiring for the father, all the more so how tiring and exhausting it is for the mother. We as a Shul are there for the family with any needs they might have. Sending a meal or a meal train is a huge help to the family.

Visitation and phone calls to those in need - Life brings its challenges and difficulties and we are there for anyone and everyone. Visiting people in the hospital and at home, or making a phone call, means the world to them. On a personal note, I try every Thursday to visit patients at the Jewish General Hospital. My stay with the patients is very brief but extremely rewarding. 95% of the time I do not know the person I am visiting, but when they see an unfamiliar face visiting them it means even that much more-- that a stranger took time out of their day to visit. I truly feel like Patch Adams when I go through the hospital. I read a saying about charity and it applies here: Charity benefits the giver more than the receiver. If you'd like to join our team of visitors and receive updates on people needing some care, please email chesed@tbdj.org.

Shiva - Over the past number of years we as a shul and community lost many members and relatives. We all came together for each other and more importantly, for the family. That is what makes our community so special. From providing support to the family during and after shiva, to making sure all the necessary supplies are taken care of for shiva, we are there for you.

Hospitality - We have been lucky enough over the year to receive emails from out of towners wanting to join our community for Shabbat, and with the help of many of you we were able to host them in our shul and at our tables, and in the process make them feel right at home. We have additional people within our shul who we'd like to connect with others in the community. If you can host a meal or a guest, please email hospitality@tbdj.org.

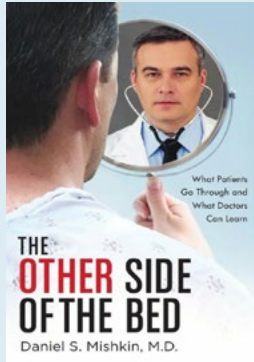


Inclusiveness - The shul had the opportunity to host a young group from the tri-states, consisting of teenagers with various disabilities. The outpouring of love and support from the hosts, and members of our Shul, only strengthens what Rabbi Akiva taught. Over the coming year we will be working closely with various organizations in Montreal to open our eyes even more to helping others...

...As part of those efforts, we'll host a **Shabbat of Inclusion**. If anyone wants to be on the committee for this Shabbaton, please speak to me directly or email chesed@tbdj.org.

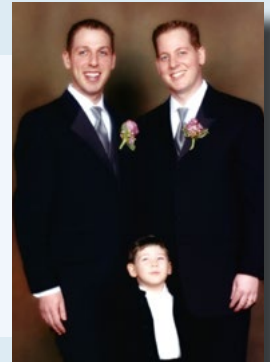
If we all live our lives under this principle, we as a shul and community can make a huge impact on everyone around us. **One act of kindness can change the world!**

Please join us for a very special Shabbat with



DR. DANIEL MISHKIN

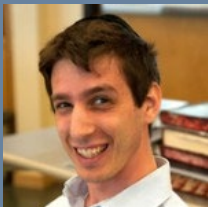
WHO WILL PRESENT HIS NEW BOOK
"THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED"
WRITTEN IN MEMORY OF HIS BROTHER
DR. BARRY MISHKIN ז"ל



Shabbat Parshat Vayishlach December 2, 2017

The Other Side of the Bed chronicles Daniel's experience at his brother Barry's bedside and the lessons he learned there. The book is essential reading for caretakers seeking support and solace from someone who has truly been there. From giving a difficult diagnosis to confronting institutional hierarchy to facing death with dignity, Daniel's story offers insight into the human relationships at the heart of medicine.

Visit www.theothersideofthebed.com



A Shabbat of Awareness with

Rabbi Joshua Sturm

Director of Outreach
"Renewal"

Renewal is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting people suffering from various forms of kidney disease. Renewal is a multi-faceted team dedicated to saving lives through kidney donation.

Renewal's ultimate goal is that no one in need of a kidney transplant should wait longer than six months to find a donor.

- COMING SPRING 2018 -



Robin Schiller

"TBDJ is a place for us to stay connected to our community. We feel a tremendous obligation to honour our own parents and carry on their legacy by creating a long-lasting relationship with a synagogue and we hope to be able to do that through our involvement with TBDJ. Our personal highlight has to do with the exceptionally warm welcome we received from the clergy and administration when we joined a few years ago. We were accepted into the TBDJ family as if we had always belonged. Our ardent desire is for TBDJ to be a place where our children can feel connected to their community as well. We hope TBDJ will continue its outreach to its youth in order to ensure that the leaders of tomorrow understand the importance of belonging to a Synagogue and participating in its events."



Youth Committee

Keren Ludvig & Andrea Szlamkowicz

Shana Tova TBDJ members!

We are finishing a year of exciting changes in our community, and we look forward to another successful year. We are the new co-chairs of TBDJ Youth, and our first order of business is to thank **Josh Orzech** for taking time from his busy life to dedicate time and effort to the kids of TBDJ over the past years.

This past year's highlights included completely sold out Purim and Shavuot programs. There were scores of children throughout the building having the time of their lives, schvitzing it up in the bouncy castles, dancing the night away to fabulous music, hula hooping their hearts out and learning to limbo like it's 1955!

Our holiday celebrations have certainly kept TBDJ on the map, and members and non-members gather from far and wide to take part in our great parties. Our priority for this year is to make a similar name for ourselves through the quality of our Shabbat morning programming. Recognizing that the youth of TBDJ come from diverse backgrounds and have very different levels of comfort in a Shabbat morning setting, we intend to design a weekly program that will make kids feel welcome and confident as part of the TBDJ community. If we can make them comfortable in shul as kids, they are more likely to feel confident in synagogue settings throughout their lives.

We are excited to welcome back Camp Ilan and its Director, **Zack Isakow**, for another year, and have confidence that Zack and his team of excellent staff will help us design and deliver an inclusive, meaningful and FUN Shabbat morning program. Engaging Jewish-themed activities and stories will be paired with accessible and musical tefillah time. When we add on great snacks and great prizes, we will have a winning Shabbat morning formula!

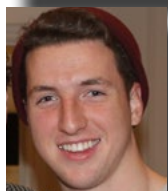
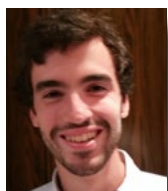
Parents of school-aged children can contact us anytime at youth@tbdj.org with feedback and suggestions for programs at the shul. We don't promise that we can do it all, but we will continue to develop and evolve our youth programs here at TBDJ, and we promise that the needs of our diverse stakeholders are our primary concern.

* * *

Co-chair Keren Ludvig has lived in Montreal for 12 years, and has since been a volunteer and Jewish community professional in several organizations. She has four young children.

Co-chair Andrea Szlamkowicz has been a member of TBDJ since childhood. She has worked for Federation CJA for over 12 years, has volunteered for the Jewish community throughout her life, and has three children in elementary school.

THANK YOU to our outgoing Youth Directors



For the last 3 years, TBDJ has been lucky to have two of its own lead the Youth department and oversee *Camp Ilan @ TBDJ* 'on the ground'. Both **Jacob Shapiro** and **Zach Steinlauf** grew up at TBDJ and were a part of our youth department, from being young enthusiastic participants, to serving as counselors and group leaders. They both took on the role of Youth Director in the fall of 2014 and did a masterful job of leading our youth on a week to week - and often day to day - basis. Their vision helped us plan each year and improve our services continuously, and their care for our members and our youth allowed those goals to be achieved. **We thank them for all their efforts and look forward to their continued involvement and leadership both at TBDJ and across the community.**



Camp Ilan @ TBDJ

Zack Isakow



Camp Ilan is so excited to be joining TBDJ once again to run our amazing Camp Ilan @ TBDJ program!

We are especially excited as we are welcoming our two new Camp Ilan @ TBDJ Directors, **Ariella Eisenberg** and **Ariele Bensoussan** ('A and A').

This year we are planning some amazing programs which include trips, holiday carnivals, and an amazing Oneg Shabbat with our very own Rabbi Freundlich.

Please have a look at the calendar on the next page. Maybe even hang it on your fridge!

Camp Ilan is here to provide TBDJ children with a unique and engaging Jewish program. We have a loving and caring staff who will ensure that your children make the most of their time at TBDJ.



Planning for the upcoming year: Ariele and Ariella together with Camp Ilan Director Zack Isakow

Our New Youth Directors Ariele Bensoussan & Ariella Eisenberg



My name is **Ariele Bensoussan** and I am super excited to be joining TBDJ as one of the Youth Directors of the amazing Camp Ilan @ TBDJ youth program!

I've worked at Camp Ilan as the art director for two years and I've absolutely loved hanging out with so many fun and amazing kids!

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with many of the youth I've already come to know at camp during the year, and I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you!

Ariella and myself have many exciting programs planned, and we're both looking forward to having an incredible time with all of you!



My name is **Ariella Eisenberg** and I'm 19 years old. I recently started school at McGill.

I've been working at TBDJ since 2013, and am very excited to be one of the new Directors. I love working at Camp Ilan each and every week, and look forward to hanging out with all the kids who

join us- those who have been there before and those who attend for the first time.

There are lots of exciting things that Ariele and I have planned for this year, and we hope that, together with your help, it will be a great success!

Camp Ilan @ TBDJ Calendar

September 9

Shabbat
Parshat Ki-Tavo

Cheskie's & Chumash



September 16

Shabbat Parshat
Nitzavim/Vayelech

**Prized Shabbat &
Special Kiddush**

Monday, October 9

Chol Hamoed Sukkot
& Thanksgiving

**Mad Science
in the Sukkah**



Thursday, October 12th

Shmini Atzeret

Junior Hakafot

October 21st

Shabbat Parshat Noach
& Rosh Chodesh

**Prized Shabbat &
Special Kiddush**

1st edition of
Camp Ilan @ TBDJ Newsletter

November 3

Erev Shabbat
Parshat Vayera

**Youth & Parents
Oneg Shabbat at the
Rabbi's house**

November 11

Shabbat Parshat
Chayei Sara

**Special
Remembrance Day
speaker and program**



November 18

Shabbat Parshat
Toldot

**Prized Shabbat &
Special Kiddush**

2nd edition of
Camp Ilan @ TBDJ Newsletter

Sunday, Nov. 19

**SPECIAL
FIELD TRIP**



December 9

Shabbat Parshat
Vayeshev

**Prized Shabbat
and Special Kiddush**

Sunday, Dec. 10

**Chanukah
Carnival &
Celebration**



December 16

Shabbat Parshat
Miketz & Chanukah

**Chanukah Themed
Shabbat**

3rd edition of
Camp Ilan @ TBDJ Newsletter

...and then after Winter Break

Sunday, Jan 28

TU B'SHVAT PROGRAM



Wednesday, Feb 28

PURIM!!!



Wednesday, Mar.21

Pre-Pesach “There’s no school today!” Program





NCSY Montreal

Mindy Zobin



Dear TBDJ members,

Here in Montreal, we are so fortunate to have a community that cares about many important wonderful causes. We are grateful to have supporters who think ahead and invest in Jewish futures. And we are thrilled to have Rabbis who make time and lay leaders who offer help at every turn. NCSY Montreal is proud of our partnership with TBDJ.

NCSY is the youth movement of the Orthodox Union. Our programs focus on Jewish teens in public school with limited Jewish affiliation, as well as teens who want to further their Torah growth. NCSY connects with teens through innovative social and recreational programs to develop a positive Jewish identity. NCSY inspires teens through informal Jewish education, shabbatons and summer programs. NCSY empowers teens through leadership development and guidance to become passionately committed leaders of the Jewish community.

We build relationships with Jewish teens, teach teens about their heritage and traditions and help them establish lifelong connections to the Jewish people and Israel. Each encounter is used as an opportunity to expand the teen's relationship with G-d, strengthen the teen's self esteem, and start them on the road to becoming the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

Olivia Bensimon is one of our star advisors who over the past year has established a terrific shul chapter following. She is passionate about her activities and study sessions, and looks forward to every program with gusto, letting the teens know when the next event will be. We welcome your teen's involvement, whatever background they may come from.

Wish best wishes for a blessed year, shana tova!

Mindy Zobin,
NCSY Montreal City Director



Eitan Levy

"Since I was a young boy, I always attended TBDJ with my family. I had the opportunity to meet many role models and learn the importance the shul plays in my community. My personal highlight at TBDJ is attending the youth minyan every week. Being a gabbai at the youth minyan, it is great to see the bright future TBDJ's youth has to offer. From kids volunteering to lain, to leading a beautiful davening, TBDJ's youth minyan is the place to be on a Shabbat morning!! The youth minyan helps grow Jewish leaders in our community."



NCSY Baily Chapter

Olivia Bensimon

My name is **Olivia Bensimon** and I'm the new Coordinator of NCSY's Baily Chapter.

I am a Hebrew Academy graduate. I was always involved in Kiruv growing up and knew it was my goal to help students have a greater appreciation and love for Judaism.

I joined NCSY a year ago, as an advisor, and shortly after became the coordinator for the NCSY Baily Chapter. My goal this year is to get students to unite in a Jewish environment, and see the beauty of Judaism in a fun and educational way. I will do this by running activities at TBDJ whose mission is to develop a warm, fun, and educational environment for the youth of our synagogue.

TBDJ strives to provide meaningful and positive Jewish experiences for all of the children in our community through weekly NCSY programming. In addition, youth programs will be led and organized by trained and dynamic NCSY Advisors who act as positive Jewish role models for the future leaders of our community.

This upcoming year we have multiple inspiring opportunities for high school students to get more involved with Torah and the community. These opportunities include our **Learn n' Earn** program, which consists of coming to learn with a parent, and building a deeper spiritual relationship with one another. There will also be several other programs such as challah baking, bowling, movies, shabbatonim and much more.

In order to give back to the community, we will also be going to MADA to help prepare meals for those in need. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with Rabbi Freundlich throughout the year and have him partake in our activities. By attending social programs and shabbatonim, the students will have the possibility to make new connections and long lasting friendships.

By having an active NCSY Baily Chapter in Montreal, the present Jewish community will be able to build an inspiring foundation for future generations.

I wish you all a Shana Tova and look forward to our upcoming year together.



Upcoming NCSY @ TBDJ Events

Sunday/Monday Oct. 1 / 2	Sukkot activities for Grades 7-8 / 9-11
Sunday, October 22 / 25	Learn & Earn for Grades 7-8 / 9-11
Shabbat November 3-5	NCSY REGIONAL SHABBATON
Shabbat November 11 / 18	Seudah Shleesheet for Gr 7-8 / 9-11
Sunday, November 19 / 26	Movie Night for Grades 7-8 / 9-11
Thursday, December 14	Channukah Party for Grades 7-8
Sunday, December 17	Channukah Party for Grades 9-11
December 20 / 24	Learn & Earn for Grades 7-8 / 9-11
December 27-31	Yarchei Kallah
Thursday, January 11	Girls Challah Baking Night
Sunday, January 14	Boys Bowling Night
Monday/Tuesday Jan. 11 / 14	Tu B'Shvat Seder Party for Gr 7-8 / 9-11



Adult Education

Scott Garber

As we look ahead to our Fall 2017 / 5777 adult education semester, we would like to highlight and review many of the programs that took place last year.

We started out with wonderful Elul learning opportunities and High Holiday programming which included Rabbi Freundlich's text based Machzor classes, the very popular and lively Shabbaton and musical Selichot with the Traveling Chassidim, and the successful launch of our new monthly Rosh Chodesh Program for Women, to name just a few.

Immediately after the chagim, TBDJ hosted the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) panel discussion on "The 2016 U.S. Elections". Shortly thereafter, and in partnership with Mizrachi Canada, we welcomed **Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis**, Chief Rabbi of United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, on his inaugural visit to Canada.

In December, **Judge Dan Butler**, of the Municipal Court of Pittsburgh, captivated us with his life story, and made us both laugh and cry together with him.

Over the course of the winter we welcomed multiple visiting rabbis from the United States and Israel, including **Rabbi Gidon Rothstein**, **Rabbi Rami Sadan** and **Rabbi Yair Shachor**.

Just prior to Pesach, we participated in the JEMS (Jewish Experience Montreal Sisterhood) shabbaton at TBDJ,



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis at TBDJ

where **Rav Gav Friedman** inspired our members as only Rav Gav can, with his unique ability to present Torah concepts in intriguing yet entertaining fashion.

After Pesach, we welcomed **Jay Feinberg**, Founder and CEO of Gift of Life. Who could forget, when Jay along with our members **Dean Mendel**, **Matthew Pekofsky**, **Judah Aspler** and **Dr. Seymour Mishkin**, all shared their personal stories and experiences with the Gift of Life organization. (Special thank-you to **Gavi Aspler**, who hosted and further introduced our shul to Gift of Life through his Bar Mitzvah donor drive on Purim Night, which preceded Jay's visit!)

We were also privileged to hear from **Lisette Shashoua**, a Baghdadi-born Jew who recounted her own family's story as well as the enlightening story of many Iraqi Jews who fled their homeland. Our own **Michele Shemie Cale** moderated the evening, and shared her own experiences as a 1st generation Canadian born to Iraqi parents.

Our final scholar in residence for the year was **Yair Rosenberg**, a senior writer at Tablet magazine, and the editor of the English-language blog of the Israeli National Archives. Yair provided fresh, and much needed insight into the current political environment in the US and Israel.

As special as all our scholar in residences and visitors were, it's our weekly learning offerings that not only provide something for everyone but also serve as the backbone of our Adult Education offering.

Our weekly learning series included Rabbi Freundlich's Monday evening Great Controversies in Jewish History series. Part 1 focused on the years 1400 - 1700, Part 2 on the 'Turbulent and Changing World' of 1700-1900, and Part 3 on 'Issues Related to The State of Israel'. Seats were all filled for this lecture series, which inspired discussion both during and after each fascinating and lively session.

Each week on Wednesdays, Rabbi Freundlich hosted Lunch & Learn, for a gathering of people looking to learn portions of the upcoming Parsha in a relaxed setting.

On Wednesday evenings, we introduced Hebrew Language classes by **Elana Cohen** for all those looking to brush up on their Hebrew. And on Thursday nights, we continued

the Thursday Night Learning Program, featuring Rabbi Freundlich's Gemara Shiur on selected topics. Due to popular demand, a second edition of this Gemara shiur is now held on Wednesday mornings at 6:15am, for those who find mornings more convenient.

Finally, each Shabbat brings with it learning opportunities in our shul, and perhaps the hidden gems of adult education at TBDJ. On Shabbat morning prior to Shacharit, Rabbi Freundlich shares 20-minutes of fascinating insight into the weekly Parsha, with a large gathering each week. Then, 20- minutes prior to Mincha in the afternoon, the Rabbi dives into various interesting and relevant topics throughout the year.

The coming year

As we head into 5778, there is already a lot on tap. A series of Elul classes with Rabbi Freundlich is scheduled, including diving into both the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur machzors and services, as well exploration of Tales of Teshuva in the Gemarah.

Rabbi Freundlich will also be resuming his Great Controversies in Jewish History series after the holidays, with additional focus on hot-topic issues related to the State of Israel. All our Shabbat classes are continuing into the new year as well, as are the weekly Gemarah shiraim, Lunch & Learn, and Hebrew classes.

In December we'll be visited by **Dr. Daniel Mishkin**, who will present his new book to us in what will no doubt be a special, emotional and moving Shabbat. We'll also hear from **Rabbi Joshua Sturm** from Renewal, who will speak about kidney disease and transplant awareness.

Our monthly Rosh Chodesh Program for Women will resume, and promises to be even more exciting and popular than last year!

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for other programs we can host, and welcome all volunteers. You can reach us at programming@tbdj.org.

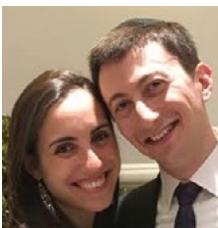


Judge Dan Butler with Rabbi Freundlich



Peter Veres

"I have been davening at TBDJ for close to 40 years. It's the place where I began my adult life, met my bashert Marla, raised a beautiful family and created for my family and me -a community of friends and formed relationships that have tested the time and distance. TBDJ propelled my family and I towards a better life and I expect only more from this shul going forward. TBDJ's commitment to Torah learning and Chesed projects will only be strengthened in the future with Rabbi and Rifki Freundlich at the helm."



Ariella & Tovi Berk

"Moving to a new city was an overwhelming experience. We had both lived in Toronto our whole lives and were leaving many friends and both our families behind. Our first week in Montreal was a big adjustment, walking around Cavendish Mall, not knowing anyone, not bumping into any familiar faces - something we were so used to in Toronto. But then we went to TBDJ for our first Shabbos all that changed. We were overwhelmed by the incredible amount of greetings and warm welcomes we received from total strangers and lost count of the number of invitations for meals we were given. We have looked forward to coming to shul ever since, and it has felt so easy and natural integrating into the TBDJ community. It doesn't matter what age group you belong to or whether you've been there one year or 30, people are interested in you and people care - and this is something we truly appreciate."

Special Classes & Programs



HonestReporting
Defending Israel From Media Bias

Joe Hyams, CEO of HonestReporting.com, joins us to tackle critical topics such as why the BDS movement thrives on more than anti-Semitism, cash and ill-will; the Status of Jerusalem; and Iran, A Clear and Present Danger.

Thursday Night, October 26, 2017

Monday nights at 8:00pm

Great Controversies in Jewish History

Join Rabbi Freundlich for a deeper look at momentous episodes and issues in Jewish History.

Part III: Controversies Regarding The State of Israel



Defining the Religious Nature of the Land: Rav Kook & Rav Sonnenfeld



Haggaanah, Irgun & Lechi: How to Fight for the Land



The Holocaust remembered in Israel: How to Commemorate Tragedy



The Controversy Surrounding the Prayer for the State of Israel

The Kaddish Circle

The "Kaddish Circle" is designed for people who are within their year of mourning the loss of a loved one.

This group meets once a month with Rabbi Freundlich to study a short but relevant Torah teaching about mourning and grieving, and to allow people to share their experience in a constructive, meaningful and comforting way.

Our first meetings will take place on:

Sunday September 17th at 10:00am

&

Sunday October 22nd at 10:00am

Please email rabbifreundlich@tbdj.org with any questions or to discuss the program.



For Young Families



Young Family Melava Malka

Join Rabbi and Rifki Freundlich for a series of winter-month Saturday Night melava malkas at various homes. Join in for a fun evening of good food, schmoozing, and an interactive program focused on:

Parenting Can be a Pleasure

No one ever promised that parenting would be easy – but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy it!

Practical strategies and tools from *Love and Logic*, *Faber and Mazlish*, as well as Torah based values and principles, to lighten the stress from this delicious age bracket.

November 11th | December 9th | January 20th | February 10th

New with our Partners



THE ISRAEL CORNER פינת ישראל

We are excited to introduce, in partnership with Kollel Torah Mitzion, a new program to connect TBDJ to everything Israel. Once a month, one of the members of KTM will present, in English, a 15-20 minute talk about various topics of interest regarding life in Israel.

- * The group will meet in the main shul *
- * 20 minutes after Kiddush starts *



Alex Halpern

"TBDJ is the place where our children feel at home. Every week, they can count on a special morning seeing the Torah, doing tefillah, playing with their friends, giving a high-five to the Rabbi and Yakov, and enjoying a nice kiddush. A highlight was this year's Yom Yerushalayim event, which gave our children an enjoyable taste of Israel's music and food in a place where they feel at home. We look forward to watching our children continue to grow and develop a continued and deeper love for Torah and mitzvahs at TBDJ, in a nurturing and comfortable family environment."

Learning Opportunities with Rabbi Freundlich



Rabbi Freundlich's Weekly Gemara Shiur

During Elul, the shiur will study a topic in Masechet Rosh Hashanah related to the High Holidays, and following Sukkot will begin the 19th perek in Masechet Shabbat.

The shiur is given twice:

Wednesdays at 6:15am and again **Thursdays at 8:00pm**



Mincha-Maariv Learning: The 613 Mitzvot

Following the 13th Century work *Sefer HaChinuch*, each night we will focus on a different mitzvah- studying its relevant details, applications and some suggested philosophical underpinnings behind them.

Weeknights between Mincha & Maariv



Parsha & Coffee with The Rabbi

Each Shabbat morning we get together to truly understand an element of the weekly parsha, and uncover deep meaning through commentary from Rashi, Ramban, Maharal, Rav Shimshon Rafael Hirsch, and others.

Shabbat mornings at 8:40am



Contemporary Halacha

Explore various relevant topics in Halacha as they apply to our everyday lives.

**Shabbat afternoons
20 minutes before Mincha**



Lunch & Learn

Lunch is served at noon, followed by Parsha class at 12:30pm. Reservations each week can be made with the TBDJ office or by emailing programming@tbdj.org. Nominal fee for lunch.

Wednesdays at 12:00pm

Ongoing Classes & Learning Opportunities



Daf Yomi - Talmud Study

Weekdays at 6:15am and following Shacharit;
Sundays at 7:15am; Shabbat afternoon according to schedule.

Led by Rabbi Dovid Rothschild, Rabbi Cheski Buchinger,
and members of the Daf Yomi learning group.



Coming this Fall!

Siyum HaShas

Celebrate the Daf Yomi group's
completion of Shas.

Details to follow.



ROSH CHODESH PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

Each month we host a special program for women
focused on learning and sharing, together with some fun.



Hosted by
Rifki Freundlich

CHESHVAN
OCTOBER 18
AT THE HOME OF
ESTEE
ROSSDEUTSCHER

KISLEV
NOVEMBER 19
AT THE HOME OF
ESTHER
ROZENK

TEVET
JANUARY 14
AT THE HOME OF
ADELE
FRIEDMAN

Welcome to our New Members

On behalf of TBDJ's Membership Committee, its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, staff and clergy, we welcome all our new members who joined the TBDJ family this past year!

It is because of people like you that TBDJ is able to offer so much to the community, and we hope you will merit in both receiving from the community and giving to it.

Congregation TBDJ is proud to serve its 550+ member units. Membership is an important part of a synagogue's vitality. So many wonderful programs, be it social or religious, have come directly from our members, and delivered to our members. With each new member comes innovative and fresh ideas, passion and energy.

The year 5777 saw us usher in new leadership, in welcoming Rabbi Freundlich, together with Rifki and their incredible family, and by appointing our new President and his Executive team. Work and dedication to the shul is 24/7 and our future is very bright.

We are stronger together, each of us contributing in our own unique way to the betterment of our community. Bruchim Habayim and Shana Tova!



Fred
Arshoff



Gabrielle, Isaac, Moshe & Mila
Bendayan



Uri
Bender



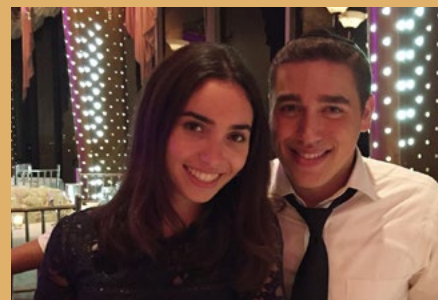
Suzaanne
Benlolo



Ariella & Tovi
Berk



Ilana, Steve, Emma, Noah
& Mila Haupt



Tehila & Aryeh
Isaacs

In the Year 5777 we welcomed 30 new members to TBDJ, including:

Fred ARSHOFF

Gabrielle, Isaac, Moshe & Mila BENDAYAN

Uri BENDER

Suzanne BENLOLO

Yolande & Maurice BENSOUSSAN

Ariella & Tovi BERK

Joel BUDOVITCH

Haim CORCOS

Sheldon FRIED

Andrea & Stuart FRIED

Lyndia, Quentin, Amelie, Ethan & Naomi GOBERT

Rachel, Michel, Daniel & Audrey HARROCH

Ilana, Steve, Emma, Noah & Mila HAUPT

Linda HONIGWACHS

Tehilla & Aryeh ISAACS

Joanne, Robert, Kevin, Daniel & Jonathan LIBMAN

Noah MATARASSO

Daisy & Charles MILLMAN

Jacqueline MYARA

Estee, Eric, Yonatan, Elie & Daniella ROSSDEUTCHER

Gina RUBINSKY

Rebecca & Maurice SABBAH

Sarah, Robert & Emily SCHWARTZ

Karine, Laurent, Moshe, Hila & Eden TORDJMAN

Shari, Mason, Warren & Rose WEISER



Estee, Eric, Yonatan,
Elie & Daniella
Rossdeutcher



Joanne, Robert, Kevin,
Daniel & Jonathan Libman



Joel Budovitch
with father
Jack Budovitch ז"ל



Daisy & Charles
Millman



Gina
Rubinsky



Noah
Matarasso



Sheldon
Fried



Sarah, Robert & Emily
Schwartz



Karine, Laurent, Moshe, Hila
& Eden Tordjman



Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle

The Leadership, Clergy, and Members of Congregation TBDJ sincerely thank our Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle members, and welcome those who joined the group last year.

Thanks in large part to the generosity of our Amudei HaBayit members, Congregation TBDJ is able to be a place of connection and is able to offer important services to our community. Our synagogue is a true community, one that we are all proud of. In the last handful of years, we have welcomed over 125 new families, and more importantly, we have received everyone who has entered the door from near and far with a warm TBDJ welcome.

We have an exceptional array of programs. Programs that include Torah study, prayer and social action. Our synagogue is filled with exciting inspiration and is a pillar of the spiritual life of the Montreal Jewish Community. But our synagogue needs pillars as well. Our programming and initiatives, which make such an enormous impact, come at an increasing cost, and we need more help.

It is for this reason that we recently introduced the Amudei HaBayit membership level. Amudei HaBayit means “the Pillars of the House”, because every strong house needs a strong foundation. This new tier is a voluntary commitment for members who want to help us continue to offer the highest possible level of educational, religious, social and youth programming. We are fortunate to have a growing number of members in our community who give above and beyond, year after year, and the Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle allows these individuals to support our synagogue and community in a significant and structured manner.

The Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle consists of an annual membership of \$5,000. Members of the group receive two High Holiday seats along with their membership, as well as recognition for an annual \$1,800 Kol Nidre Appeal donation.

Adrienne & Shlomo Drazin
Aviva & Ami Drazin
Malca & Louis Drazin
Karen & Lionel Dubrofsky
Lisa & Jason Farber
Edie & Phil Friedman

Adele & Ruby Friedman
Brenda & Samuel Gewurz
Chaya & Lorne Lieberman
Renée & Marty Lieberman
Barbara & David Zukor

Special Dedications

High Holiday Machzorim

TBDJ is grateful to the **Hasen Family** for their generous donation of 1,100 sets of machzors for use on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

This donation was made in memory of **Jack Hasen's** beloved parents, **Dora and Moritz Hasen** ז"ל. These machzors are the popular Artscroll edition. TBDJ had been using the Birnbaum edition machzors since the founding of our shul. We are pleased to announce they will be ready for use this year, and will be available for use in our Main Sanctuary, Parallel Service, and Hashkama Minyan.

Menorah

A special Chanukah Menorah made from the metal in rockets that were fired into Israel from Gaza has been generously donated to TBDJ by **Jeff and Adria Mandel**

This nine branch Menorah turns terror into beauty in a very literal sense! We will light this Menorah on Chanukah, and display it in our shul throughout the year, as a symbol of peace and light resulting from hate and destruction.

TBDJ is very fortunate to have one of only 50 such pieces, created by 'Rockets into Roses', that were manufactured. 'Rockets into Roses' products are unique, hand-sculpted works of art, fashioned by metal sculptor Yaron Bob, from actual rockets that landed in Israel. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind, hand-made, limited edition collector's item. They are true pieces of history - living proof that Israel has endured thousands of missile attacks for so long. The artist has literally transformed instruments of death, weapons of war, into objects of great beauty and meaning, representing love, growth, and great hope for a peaceful future. He has created modern day versions of "swords beaten into plowshares."



Some of the proceeds from each purchase are being directed to protect the people of Israel from future rocket attacks via the construction of above-ground, portable bomb shelters in southern Israel.

Jeff has been a member of TBDJ for more than 40 years. "TBDJ did not have a proper menorah for Chanukah and when I came across this one there seemed to be a beautiful message in taking the remnants of weapons and turning it into something beautiful that can be used to fulfill a mitzvah."

Jeff and Adria have two children. Eliana is 37, married with three children and lives in Ottawa. Ariella is 31, married and lives in Toronto.

Installation of Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich

By Mike Cohen

The formal Installation Ceremony of Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich on June 11 was a splendid affair, attended by more than 500 people.

Chaired by Adele & Ruby Friedman, Maxine & Stephen Jacobson and Yael & Josh Orzech, the event was meant to confirm what every member already knew: the choice of Rabbi “Y” to lead this synagogue was the right one. Having the ceremony almost 10 months after he arrived with his wife Rifki and their seven children turned this event into a well deserved celebration.

Rabbi Freundlich succeeded Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, who stepped down nearly two years ago, after 19 years at the pulpit, to accept a position in New York.

Rabbi Freundlich and his family arrived here via Atlanta. Since 2007, he had served as the Associate Rabbi of Congregation Beth Jacob in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, he became Head of School at Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael High School in 2014. He received his *semicha* (Rabbinic ordination) in 2005 from Baltimore’s Ner Israel Rabbinical College, where he also earned a Masters of Talmudic Law. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland. He and his wife are parents to seven children: Racheli, Binyamin, Ephraim, Shlomo, Rena, Shai, and Shayna.



Ruby Friedman and Josh Orzech, decked out in tuxedos, welcomed everyone to the TBDJ. Ruby provided a little history about the shul and like a

scene out of *Wheel of Fortune*, he asked several *Vanna White*’s to come on stage and help display how “TBDJ” got its name by holding up big letters.



After the singing of O Canada, Mount Royal Liberal Member of Parliament Anthony Housefather was invited to share a few words. He noted that TBDJ is known around the world. While in New York City, he said that somebody came up to talk to him. The topic of TBDJ came up and the person stated: “TBDJ is where our rabbi came from,” alluding to Rabbi Steinmetz of course.



Mr. Housefather recalled how he met Rabbi “Y” when he first arrived in town and he made a really good impression, wanting to collect as much information as possible on how federal politics worked in Canada. “I knew right then he was a good match,” said our Member of Parliament.

Ziv Nevo Kulman, Israel’s Consul General for Quebec & Atlantic Provinces, joked that he had never been to such an installation. “I know what a pipe installation is,” he remarked. “Do they instill you in the bima?”

Sunday June 11, 2017

17 Sivan 5777

He went on to note that TBDJ's ties to Israel and all related causes has always been very strong, and will remain so with Rabbi Freundlich at its helm.

Michelle Hasen made a special presentation to the Freundlich family and spoke of what a wonderful addition to synagogue life Rifki Freundlich has become. "She continues to inspire me," she said. "My husband I are impressed by her upbeat personality."



In accepting the gifts, Rifki Freundlich extended her sincere appreciation. "We have been overwhelmed," she said. "The move was a pretty significant undertaking. You have eased the transition and we look forward to many years to come."

"Upon Rabbi Y and Rifki's arrival, I discussed with my husband that I wanted to become more involved in our shul that, G-d willing, our children will grow up in," Michelle said. "I was interested in learning more about Torah and Judaism and Rifki willfully and eagerly offered to teach a weekly shiur at my house. Rifki continues to inspire me with her words of Torah and her love, devotion and understanding of what it means

to be a Jewish mother. Similarly, my husband and I are always impressed by Rabbi Freundlich's positive and upbeat attitude, his sense of humour and moving speeches in shul. Rabbi & Rebbetzin Freundlich have proven to be an inspiration to us all and I'm sure many of you who have had the opportunity to get to know them can agree that we are very fortunate to have two dynamic, learned and kind people to help guide our community."



In a video message, Rabbi Steinmetz stated how TBDJ is place where everyone feels part of the community. "When we had a snow storm it motivated even more people to come to shul," he said. "Rabbi Y deserves a mazel tov for finding such a wonderful community. We have become fast friends. He is the perfect choice to lead and he will galvanize young members and bring everybody together."

A very special guest for the evening was Rabbi Ilan D. Feldman, the Senior Rabbi at Beth Jacob Congregation in Atlanta. It was his pleasure to come congratulate his former assistant, Rabbi Y, in person. Rabbi Feldman began his service to Beth Jacob as its Assistant Rabbi in 1980, and became its senior rabbi in 1991. Having had the unique privilege of serving in the community in which he was raised, and succeeding his father, Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, who held this position for 39 years, Rabbi Ilan's leadership provides a level of continuity and stability which typifies our shul. Rabbi Feldman was ordained at Ner Israel Rabbinical College and is a disciple of his father in-law, and Ner Israel's Dean, Rabbi Shmuel Yaakov





Weinberg, OBM. He has a degree in Counseling Psychology from Loyola University, and is known for his skills as a counselor, combining religious guidance with practical stratagems to guide young and old.

Rabbi Feldman quipped that when he heard Rabbi Y was coming to Montreal the first thing he thought about were the Expos. He went on to laud the Freundlichs for the love they show every person who comes into their path.

TBDJ President Judah Aspler, who played a leading role in selecting Rabbi Y, was full of praise. "Nine months ago you laid out a beautiful vision," he said. "You have made it clear what our journey to greatness is, and how you will lead us on it."

In his acceptance speech, Rabbi Y noted that in some ways it feels as if he has already been here for a long time. He thanked Rabbi Steinmetz for his guidance and assistance and credited Mr. Aspler for being his "go to guy."

Rabbi Y sent a message to all of the congregants. "This is your shul," he said. "Your ideas will drive it. Together we will build; together we will create."



Following Rabbi Y's address, he and Rifki were invited to the bima by incoming president Jonathan Gal for a brief Q&A. Adina and Dr. Emmanuel Moss made the final presentation of the night, sharing with the audience that he and his wife got to know Rabbi Y and

his family when they lived in Atlanta for three years.

Adina and Manny presented Rabbi Y with a beautifully large framed photo of the Freundlich family in front of the synagogue building.



Following the singing of Hatikvah, guests were invited to a reception and buffet dinner complete with music and dancing.



Many thanks to committee members Marcelle Alt, Adele Altmann, Judah Aspler, Michele Cale, Adrienne Drazin, Edie & Phil Friedman, Jonathan Gal, Scott Garber, Monica Gauze, Meir Israel, Yakov Lev, Iris Levitt, Chaya Lieberman, Sari Newman, Rochelle & Jeffrey Rein, Stephanie Steinman, Carolyn Steinman, Howard Steinberg, and of course, Joyce Reinblatt and Brian Torobin. Sponsors for the evening included All Affair Party Rentals, Boutique Jacques, Judi Major - Narcissus II, the Lieberman Family, and Tenue De Soiree.





Rabbi Freundlich's Installation Address

We have reprinted below an edited transcript of my speech from the Installation evening on June 11th, 2017. The first half of my remarks included a number of "thank you"s; the transcript begins after that.

* * *

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you. To do so, though, I would like to segue into the second half of my remarks, and that's "Looking Forward." When I first arrived, many of you asked me, "What are your goals for the shul? What is your vision? What do you see the shul doing or accomplishing?"

I have to say that in my first few months here I was a little uncomfortable addressing these important questions, so I would deflect them by answering with lines like "I hope to bring the Expos back" or "I just want to learn everyone's name." But as time has gone by, and we celebrate here tonight together, I feel it is an appropriate occasion to share an answer to that question.

A few weeks ago I stood at the Kotel in Yerushalayim together with 900 fellow Montreal participants in the Federation's Mega Mission. At the conclusion of the evening's program I had a few moments to myself at the Wall, which, as many of you have experienced, is a special time. It's an opportunity to quietly reflect to oneself and pray. And so I offered my prayers at that Holy spot, the same exact place where Jews have offered their prayers for the last 2,000 years since the Temple's destruction. I prayed for myself, I prayed for my wife, and I prayed for my family. And after I finished, my attention turned to the shul. And here I was left with a question: What does a rabbi daven for when he davens for his shul?

For me, the words that naturally flowed out of my mouth at that moment were very familiar ones. They were words that I say every single Friday night, seven times.

I'd like to share a little secret with you tonight. Every Friday night when I bless my children, I add a little something. After the traditional blessing that you'll find in the siddur that many of you say, "yesimcha Elokim ke'Efrayim veke'Menashe, keSarah, Rivkah, Rachel ve'Leah, yevarechecha Hashem ve'yishmerecha...", I add a few words that represent the innermost expression of a father's yearning, hopes, and aspirations for his children.

And so every Friday night, I bless them with three things: Firstly, I bless them that they should be baalei midos tovos, that they should grow to be people with exceptional character traits. That they should be nice, they should be kind, they should be caring, they should be sensitive to the needs of others. They should love their fellow Jews, they should love each other. They

(continued on next page)

should be good people, exemplary citizens and Jews.

Second, I pray that they should be yarei shamayim, that they should live with the Fear of Heaven, that they should see Hashem in their daily lives. That they should know when they daven they are talking to the Creator of the world, and He's listening to every precious word they say. And that they should live with the awareness that G-d is watching everything they do, and desires nothing more than a loving relationship with them.

And thirdly I daven that they should be lomdei Torah, that they should learn Torah and that they should love learning Torah. That they should know that the greatest gift that we as Jews have is the Torah that Hashem gave us. And they should desire to learn it and to know it.

It is my hope that they should live their lives with these three traits, and that by doing so they will give nachas to avinu she'bashamayim, pleasure and pride to our Father in Heaven.

As I stood at the Kotel, my attention turned to this holy congregation, a kehilla that Rifki and I are so blessed, and privileged, and honoured to lead. And my yearnings for the shul, my dreams for what I hope we can accomplish together, naturally flowed out of my mouth in the same expression and as naturally as my yearnings for my own children.

It's my hope that together we continue to grow to be baalei midot tovot, to be a community of exemplary qualities and character traits. To be warm and to be kind, to be sensitive to others, to be giving and considerate of others – both to the needs of those who are already members, and to those who enter these walls as guests to see that they are greeted, welcomed, and made to feel at home.

I pray that we together develop and continue to develop our yirat shamayim, a Fear of Heaven, a recognition that we live seeing G-d in our lives. That when we daven in this holy space, we recognize that the Creator of the world is listening to every single precious word, not only the words we offer to Him, but even the ones we share with our friends sitting next to us as well.

And that we should continue to be lomdei Torah, to those who study the precious gift that Hashem gave us and that the shul should be filled with classes and shiurim and that the sound of Torah study reverberates throughout the halls.

It is critically important to note that there is a common thread that runs through all three of these goals: There is no end or completion to any of them. It's a life-long journey we are on together - a journey to greatness. To constantly strive towards greater interpersonal sensitivities and more acts of kindness. To become sensitive, kind, caring, husbands and wives, fathers and children and siblings, and members of the community. To constantly be developing an awareness that G-d is in our lives, and to constantly be learning Torah.

How are we going to make this happen?

First, we are going to create an environment here in shul – one that is already well on its way – that we are a family. The Baily family. Every single person who is a member of this shul is part of that family. We will create a community which is warm and loving of every single Jew. An environment in which it is safe to try something new, and where together we can grow as individuals.

I want to share with you something a member told me just the other week. He had walked into shul on Shabbos morning to tell me that he had an elderly parent who was unfortunately very ill. The family knew that it was the end. And he was despondent. He briefly filled me in on the relevant details, and then went to take his seat. I spoke to him later at the end of davening at Kiddush. He told me, "Rabbi, I don't know what happened. I feel completely different. The situation hasn't changed, and I know how dire it is and what is in store for me when I get home, but I'm uplifted. I feel supported. I am not alone."

I smiled. I explained to him that this is what it means to be part of a community. You walked in this morning as an individual going through a difficult time. But you spent the last two hours together with us, part of your extended family. And that's the power a community has. Of course we can't impact the actual trauma of the situation, but we can make it a whole lot easier for the individual to experience by supporting him or her through it.

Someone asked me at a shiva recently if they could say Kaddish by themselves at their house during the year without going to shul. I'm sorry, I said, but Kaddish requires a minyan and can never be said as an individual. To be consoled, you have to be part of a community. It's not something you can do by yourself. Similarly when we celebrate, we do so as part of a community. We have to be surrounded by friends who share in our joy. Together we will build that community, together we will build that nurturing environment, and together we will see great things grow out of the feeling of unity and shared experiences.

(continued on next page)

We together are going to create that environment. It will happen through every program that we run, whether it be educational, social, in support of Israel, for the young, for the older, for the children, and everything in between. Everything that we do creates the environment where every single one of you feels – this is my shul. And that is my message to you. This is your shul. Your ideas are going to drive it. Your vision is going to create the programming, both educational and social.

Which leads to the last question: What do I want from each of you?

The answer to that is: Just one more thing.

None of us are at the same point on this journey. But each of us, wherever we are, can always do just one more thing. For some us, the focus can be on interpersonal acts of kindness. One more visit to a shiva home or a hospital than we otherwise would have made. Host one more Shabbos meal for someone who could use a friendly invitation. Say hello to one more new face in shul or maybe even to someone you have seen around for years but don't actually know their name.

For others, maybe it's one more thing in the area of yirat shamaim and spiritual growth. Attend just one more minyan than you did before. Or arrive to shul on Shabbos just 5 minutes earlier than usual. Or refrain from talking during one kaddish per tefilla. Or maybe choose 5 minutes a day to be conscious not to speak lashon hara.

And for others, the focus can be Torah learning. Attend one more class, be it Shabbos morning or Shabbos afternoon, Wednesday at lunch or Monday nights or Thursday nights. Set up a lunch and learn with Rifki or myself. Listen on line to the Mishna podcast for just 5 minutes a day. Make Torah study just a little more a part of your day than it was before.

Taken together, when we create an environment that is both warm and friendly and pulsates with individuals involved in growth, something very special begins to take hold. And people want to be a part of it. They want to get involved. Because the shul is energized. The building is alive.

And that is my vision and my goal. And I invite you all to join me on this journey.

It is a very special privilege, as I have mentioned, for Rifki and I to be here with you on that journey. It is an overwhelming feeling for us to be here tonight. It is overwhelming for us to have heard all the things that we have already heard. Our nine or ten months here have been an indescribable experience of warmth, and we thank you for sharing yourselves with us. You have opened up your hearts to us, you have welcomed us, you have befriended us, and we are so excited to continue this journey with you together.

We thank you for everything that you have already done for us, and everything that you will do in the future. Thank you. I bless us all together that we should continue to see tremendous success, growth, happiness, warmth, and love, together. To share our lives, and to continue seeing great things from each other in this wonderful Baily community that we have joined.



The Installation Commemorative Journal, complete with transcripts of all speeches, photos, and member greetings, can be downloaded at <http://TBDJ.org/installation>







Community & Connect

Natalie Hadida Gal & Josh Orzech

A few years ago **TBDJ Connect** was born and aimed to launch synagogue life into the 21st century for many in our community. The idea was built on the desire to bring young professionals, singles, couples & families together to share in meaningful and creative TBDJ experiences. From intimate Shabbat dinners to inspirational lectures to fun social events, TBDJ Connect has built the framework for exceptional ongoing programming.

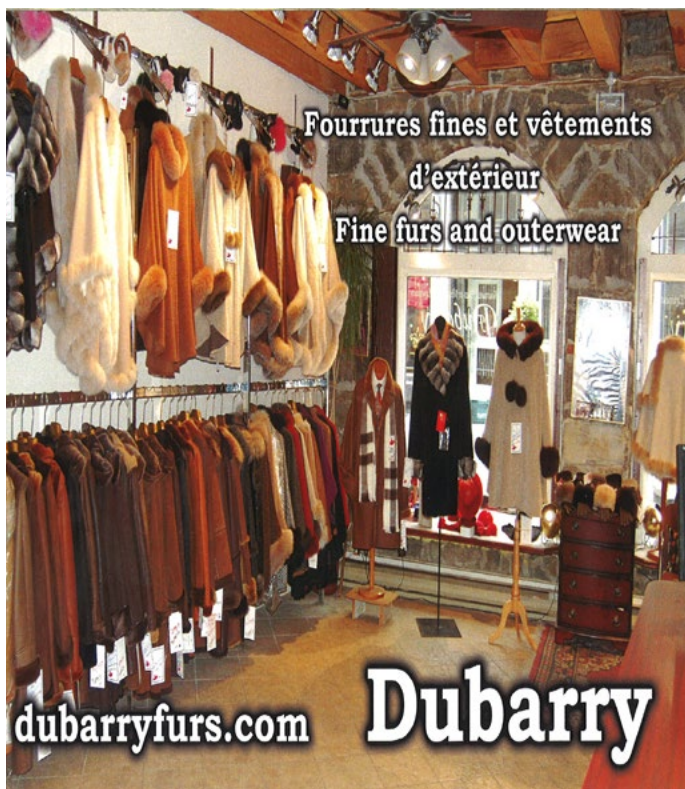
This year, we will be co-chairing TBDJ Connect, and we'll work with a dynamic and enthusiastic team of young professionals.

The brand will be re-launched with a **TBDJ Shabbat Experience** in the Fall, a **TBDJ Scavenger Hunt** event at the end of November, followed by **TBDJ After Dark** – a series of events in various informal settings around the city.

Whether you have participated in a Connect event to date or not; whether you are a regular shul-goer or simply looking to be a part of the occasional social Jewish experience; we look forward to welcoming you to our TBDJ family this coming year!

Please share your thoughts with us at connect@tbdj.org. We also welcome your assistance in planning for these and other Connect programs.

Shana Tova to you all!



Hayden Bernstein

"Our family has been members of TBDJ for close to 45 years. We are extremely proud of our affiliation with the shul and consider it a second home. TBDJ is a place for growth. It's a place where one can explore and re-explore many Jewish journeys. It's a place to hang your hat. As a family, we are blessed to be able to partake in the wonderful opportunity to help grow the community, to help continue to make TBDJ the welcoming, non-judgmental, nerve-center of Jewish life in Montreal, and a model for how a modern-Orthodox Synagogue can not only survive, but flourish. The future is bright for TBDJ. As members, we have much to be proud of. But there is still so much more that we can do."

TBDJ Connect!

For Young Professionals, Couples & Families



High Holiday 40 for 40

We know. Davening on the High Holidays is long and difficult to understand.

Here's the good news: This year, **you're invited to join Rabbi and Rifki Freundlich** for an informal interactive discussion aimed at infusing more meaning and significance into the High Holidays.

It's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in less than 40 minutes, for anyone under 40 years of age.

We will meet on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and again on Yom Kippur - immediately following the *mussaf kedusha* - in the downstairs Youth function room.

Hope you'll join us!

The TBDJ Shabbat Experience

An intimate Friday night dinner (think *The Shabbat Project*), an invitation to join us at shul on Shabbat morning for discussion and kiddush, followed by lunch at Select TBDJ member homes.



TBDJ Connect Scavenger Hunt

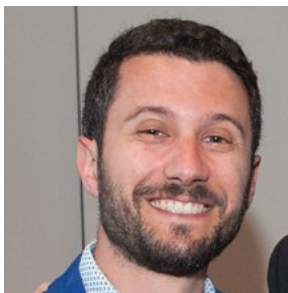
Teams will meet at TBDJ to receive their first clue, then head out to fulfill various activities. The final clue will lead them back to the building for cocktails & desserts!



TBDJ After Dark

Social events, discussion groups, and thought-provoking lectures together with Rabbi Y and Rifki. Hosted at homes and comfortable venues around our community.





Social Programming

Michael Hollander

Our programming was once again strong, eclectic and engaging this past year. We held our 4th annual Scotch Tasting last December, which featured stunning new décor provided by **Luxe Rentals** and an ultra-rare collection of scotches not available anywhere near our shores. During the evening we also raffled off a trip to Scotland-congratulations to new TBDJ member **Eric Rossdeutscher** on winning the prize! We raised a significant amount of money to help us fund other TBDJ programs (such as our annual Jr. Tikkun Leil Shavuot that saw over 50 kids enjoy a fun Shavuot dinner followed by Torah learning activities with our Rabbi, Amiel, and youth staff), and had a blast doing it. We can hardly wait to do it again.

On that note, our 5th annual Scotch Tasting will be held on November 23rd, and registration will open up right after the holidays at <http://TBDJ.org>. VIP packages will include a pre-event scotch tasting experience never seen before, and will be available in limited supply. Don't miss it!

We continued our traditional Simchat Torah and Chanukah celebrations, and our Purim program was bustling with music, games, dancing, and lots and lots of candy. Over 700 people joined us for Purim this year- most with costumes, and all with a great experience!

Our 4th annual "Baily Road Diner" luncheon on the 2nd day of Shavuot answered the question of what our social hall can look like with nearly a thousand people in it. With complete throwback décor, diner-style food, and yes- root beer floats, this event is one of the highlights of the year for us and for many in the broader community who mark

it in their calendars each year. Thank you to **Natalie and Jonathan Gal** for continuing to organize such a special event, and to our many volunteers, including the **Hadida Family**, who help us run it with their tireless energy.

We were honoured this past June to formally 'install' Rabbi Freundlich and his family at TBDJ and celebrate the newest chapter in the history of our shul. That evening will go down as one of the most incredible, powerful, and memorable moments in TBDJ history! You can read all about it, see the photos and videos, and download the commemorative even journal at <http://TBDJ.org/installation>.

Just like the last two years, we once again welcomed **The Traveling Chassidim** just prior to the publishing of this Report. Three years in a row now, they graced us with their presence for an authentically heimishe Shabbat experience which was enjoyed by all, and a spiritual Selichot service to officially kick off the High Holidays at TBDJ.

We have many more fun and new events planned for 2017-2018, which we hope you will join us for. Our **Tastes of the World** dinner series will be returning this year, and first up will be a Mexican-themed dinner prepared in our very own shul by 3 Amigos (see our advertisement for **Maximo** – with a date to be announced shortly).

If you would like to get involved with our programming committee, or if you have an idea for a great event and would like to head up the efforts for it, please do not hesitate to contact us at programming@tbdj.org.

Shana Tova!



Michael Bybelezer

"TBDJ provides our family with a sense of community. Not only is it our center for spiritual and religious needs, but we are thankful to have made many friends who we enjoy spending time with in and out of Shul. Our Shabbos routine, which includes TBDJ, is something each one in our family looks forward to, and the TBDJ community has made us feel welcome and comfortable. My highlight so far has been the time I have been able to spend with my children at Shul and watch them engage in their Yiddishkeit. The Kiddush club is pretty good too! We look forward to continuing to meet new young families and seeing the TBDJ community grow, as well as sharing in each other's simchas."

THE TBDJ'S 5TH ANNUAL WHISKY SOCIETY SCOTCH TASTING

NOVEMBER 23

2017



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FULL BUFFET!
TICKETS
AVAILABLE
AT
TBDJ.ORG

TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

TBDJ'S "TASTES OF THE WORLD" DINNER SERIES RETURNS!



MAXIMO

FINE MEXICAN FOOD WITH AN ATTITUDE
COMING THIS FALL!

Online registration available

Want to be a table captain and sit with friends?
Email programming@tbdj.org

FEATURING



PURIM AT TBDJ







איתנו דאסעל
THE TRAVELING CHASSID
SEPT 16, 2017



Treasurer's Report

Alain Matarasso

We are pleased to report that the financial health of the synagogue continued to improve during the 2016/2017 year. Revenues for the year ended November 30, 2016 amounted to approximately **\$1.6 million** and are tracking well for the current year.

We have managed to maintain revenue, in large measure, due to the tremendous efforts of the Board and clergy who continue to come up with innovative fundraising initiatives, such as the "Scribe with The Tribe" Megillah project, which was so successfully run by **Amiel Bender**. Continuing to grow our membership base is also an important component of our fiscal health.

We would like to recognize the Sisterhood who, once again, has contributed the proceeds of their weekly duplicate bridge program to help fund our very successful youth programs.

Collections continue to be a challenge in the unique synagogue sphere. With the help of our Executive Director, **Joyce Reinblatt**, and our bookkeeper, **Tatyana**

Brovarnik, we are continuing to improve collections. Despite these efforts, we are not always successful. We continuously review the synagogue's accounts receivable and are pleased to report that our current provision for noncollectable pledges remains steady at under 5%.

Most of our funds are collected immediately prior to the High Holidays and during the month of December. This puts pressure on the finances of the synagogue during the quiet spring and summer months. **More timely payments by members would be helpful, including setting up automated monthly installment plans early in the year.**

Concurrent with the introduction of the Shulcloud database program in 2015, we committed to streamlining the synagogue's accounting and banking procedures. We are pleased to report that, with the help of Tatyana, our system continues to provide us with more timely and accurate information.

Wishing you a Shana Tova.

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Yom Hashoah Commemoration

With the presence of Mayor Denis Coderre

By Mike Cohen

"I think that the emotional mood was provided by the mayor, and after that everything else followed. We must give Mayor Coderre the credit for the success of the event."

-Sidney Zoltak

It is very safe to say that 72 years after the Allies beat back the last great Nazi offensive, Holocaust Remembrance Day has never been more visible in Montreal.

In Montreal last April, there were two very high profile Yom Hashoah ceremonies: the community-wide commemoration at TBDJ and the B'nai Brith Canada-inspired program at Montreal City Hall.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre has built an exceptionally close bond with the local Jewish community. Two of his senior executive committee members on council are Jewish, Russell Copeman and Lionel Perez. Montreal city council also has opposition members Marvin Rotrand and Mindy Pollak from the Jewish community. One of Coderre's top advisor, Howard Liebman, is an active member of the Montreal Jewish Community. Last fall, Coderre joined Toronto Mayor John Tory on an unprecedented mission to Israel. It is evident that this trip affected him deeply.

Last Sunday night, Coderre became the first Montreal mayor to attend and speak at a community-wide Yom Hashoah ceremony. Even though everyone was asked to hold their applause, many of the estimated 1,500 people on hand could simply not hold back their appreciation for the charismatic former federal cabinet minister.

"Shalom, Erev Tov," the mayor began his remarks at the shul, wishing everyone a good evening. "It is an honour to become the first Montreal mayor to participate in Yom Hashoah. It is our community obligation to remember the Shoah."

Mayor Coderre told the audience that he has zero tolerance for hate crimes and praised the Holocaust survivors for their resilience. "You are a source of inspiration for me," he said, then announcing that in the coming months he will formally recognize the enormous contributions of survivors at a special event."

The format adopted by the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre for Yom Hashoah remains consistent each year. The Bialik and JPPS choirs open proceedings with the song Undzer Shtetl Brent (Our Village is Burning), a Yiddish poem-song written in 1936 by Mordechai Gebirtig in response to the pogrom of Przytyk, which had occurred on March 9, 1936. Co-Chairs Doris Steg and Judith Nemes Black give opening remarks, followed by the Consul General of Israel and the lighting of six candles by survivors and members of their respective families. As they are called to the stage, their recorded testimonies are played on large screens. You can see everyone gasp as we hear the horrors they endured. How lucky we are to have them with us. I must say, no matter how many years I attend these events and having worked professionally in the Jewish community and traveled to Poland with survivors, I still find it difficult to accept that such an extermination of six million people because they were Jewish really did occur.

Bravo to the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and these courageous survivors for providing us with an important event like this, well covered by the media, which continues to remind anyone who believes the Holocaust deniers of this world that this tragedy is not exaggerated. It is a traditional 90 minute ceremony from start to finish.

Turning to the Montreal City Hall program the following morning, come back with me just a few years. B'nai Brith Canada's Quebec office initiated such an event on the steps of City Hall. It was well organized and appreciated, but targeted to a small audience and usually held in cold temperatures.

Last year Mayor Coderre, no doubt influenced by his ever so valuable advisor Liebman, moved the event to the Hall of Honour. More media attend and on this occasion students from Jewish, public and private schools attended and participate in the candle lighting ceremony. Coderre, Perez, Copeman and another executive committee member Jim



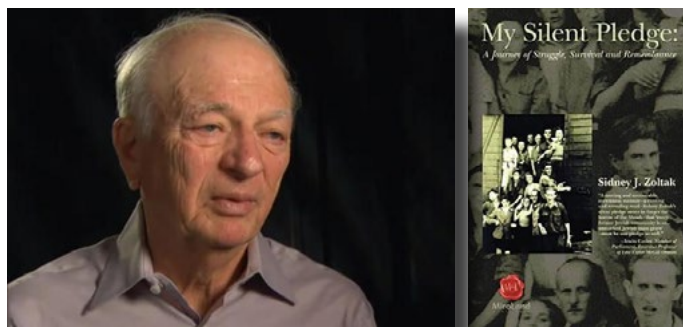
Beis (responsible for communities of diverse origins) spoke as did Israel Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman and survivor Sidney Zoltak.

Zoltak, a long-time TBDJ member, was born in Poland. He was eight at the outbreak of World War II, but thanks to the bravery and kindness of a family of strangers who hid them in their barn, his family survived to the end of the War. Following two years in a Displaced Persons Camp in Cremona, Italy, he and his mother (his father had died at the Camp at the age of 42) came to Montreal where he finished school and began to exercise his natural inclination as an entrepreneur, becoming an insurance agent in 1965.

“This was the first time in five years that I was in Montreal during the Yom Hashoah commemoration period,” Zoltak told me. “The other five years I was with the March of the Living. As I remember, five years ago, on Yom Hashoah many of us would go to Ottawa to participate in a Parliamentary organized day of remembrance. This year, all the activities were held in the city, and some commemorations or testimony was delivered before Yom Hashoah.

I must say that the commemoration at the synagogue on Sunday night was emotional respectful and well done, and the commemoration at City Hall was exceptional. I think that the emotional mood was provided by the mayor, and after that everything else followed. We must give Mayor Coderre the credit for the success of the event.”

The 2018 Yom Hashoah commemoration will take place on Wednesday, April 11 at TBDJ.



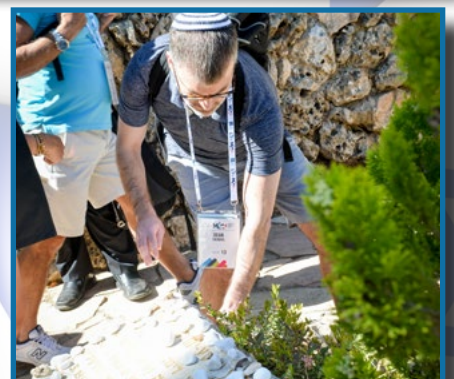


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2017



CENTENNIAL EDITION

MAY 10-19 | 2017



Facts & Figures

A different look at your friendly neighbourhood synagogue

In the last year, we served...



4160 pounds of cholent

460 litres of kiddush wine & grape juice

260 pounds of sponge cake

205 jars of coffee



343 people currently use the TBDJ app



Our website receives an avg of **1052** visits per month

Last year's email campaigns saw...



412 messages go out via email

34,000 emails delivered per month

53% of email messages opened & read

950 Shabbat bulletins sent out each week

60% of Shabbat bulletins opened & read

16% of our members pay their dues using the automatic monthly installment options on our website



Over **300** pounds of geniza were brought to the shul - or dumped on us - for burial last year (...posing a slight problem)

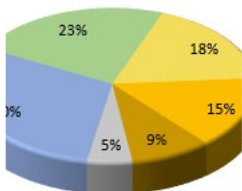


Over **2500** tableclothes were washed in the shul last year



The shul underwent **38** building inspections last year, including water, fire, elevator, gas, HVAC and more...

Of our 550+ active member units...



59% are full family members

16% are single members

8% are in a young member category



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