



Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda  
A World of Jewish Experience

2023/5784

# CHANUKAH KESHER



# OUR TEAM



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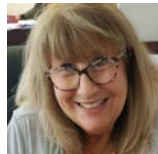
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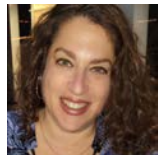
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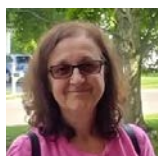
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## CLERGY



### **RABBI HOWARD MORRISON**

Senior Rabbi  
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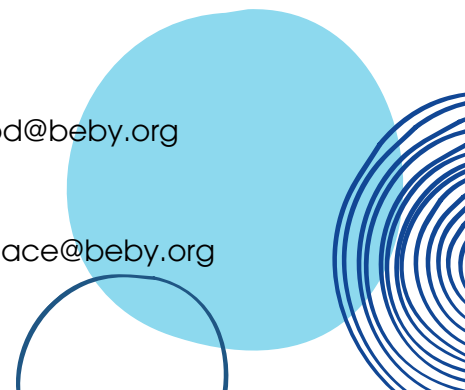
**Shlomo Wanounou**

### BROTHERHOOD

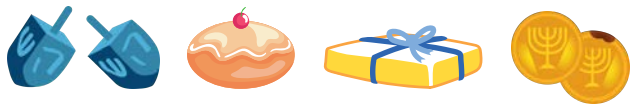
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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Candace Vogel** candace@beby.org







## Chanukah begins on Thursday, December 7 and concludes Friday, December 15.

### Observances & Traditions

The menorah, in many designs and forms, has been used by Jews wherever they have settled. Its light has become a symbol of G-d's presence, of joy, of spirituality, of righteousness. The Chanukah menorah reminds us of a heroic past and sustains faith in the future. In its reflection, adults forget their fears and children hear the tale of the miracles and valour of the heroes who had died for the faith of their people. Its lights are a symbol of liberation and of the inalienable right of human beings to live and worship in freedom.

### Kindling the Menorah

Kindling the lights each night of the chag (festival) is the central religious observance of Chanukah.

The lights are to be lit after sundown, or as soon thereafter as the entire family has gathered. On Friday night, the menorah is lit before the Shabbat candles, even though it is not yet sundown. On Saturday night, the menorah is lit after Havdalah.

The candles must be large enough, or oil sufficient enough, to burn for at least half an hour. The candles are added to the menorah from right to left. On the first night one candle is lit, on the second night two, and so forth on each consecutive night until all eight are lit. The new candle is always lit first, so the candles are lit from left to right. An extra candle, the Shamash, is placed apart from the others. It is used specifically for kindling the other candles.

The lighted menorah should be placed near a window so the burning candles may be seen by all. The light of the Chanukah menorah may not be used for reading, work, or any other purpose. All the candles must be allowed to burn out completely.

We kindle these lights to commemorate the miracles and the miraculous victories wrought through the holy priests for our forefathers in ancient days at this season.

These lights are sacred through all the eight days of Chanukah. We may not put them to ordinary use, but are to look upon them and thus be reminded to thank and praise G-d for the wondrous miracle of our deliverance.

"In the days of the High Priest Mattathias, son of Yohanan of the Hasmonean family, a cruel power rose up against the people of Israel, demanding the abandonment of the Torah and the violation of G-d's commandments. In Your abundant mercy, You stood by Your people in their time of distress. You championed their cause, vindicated their rights, and avenged their suffering. You delivered the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, the corrupt into the hands of the innocent, the wicked into the hands of the just, and the arrogant into the hands of those devoted to Your Torah. Thus, You revealed Your Glory and holiness in the world, while bringing a mighty deliverance to Your people Israel. Then Your children came into Your Temple, purified Your sanctuary, kindled the lights in Your sacred courts, and established these eight days of Chanukah in gratitude and praise."

(From the Siddur)



### Traditions At Chanukah

Game playing is an integral part of the Chanukah tradition. It is said to have originated during the Maccabean struggle as a method of subterfuge. A decree of Antiochus forbade the study of Torah and was enforced by inspections of homes of those suspected of disobedience. Therefore, while studying the Holy Books, cards were dealt out before each student - ready to be played when and if the need arose. The dreidl also provided the excuse of a friendly game of chance in the event of a surprise inspection.

Several types of foods are prepared traditionally to celebrate Chanukah. The tradition of eating cheese delicacies goes back beyond the 14th century. Latkes (pancakes) made with cheese were used which developed into the custom of eating latkes of all kinds. During the Middle Ages, the tradition of eating cheese was associated with the Story of Judith. Fried foods for Chanukah are popular. In addition to potato latkes, which are a favorite food of Jews of an Eastern European background, pancakes, fritters, and fried pastries are also popular. In Israel the favourite food for Chanukah is sufganiyot (donuts).

# RABBI HOWARD MORRISON

SENIOR RABBI

Contact

rabbi@beby.org ✨ x245



## WE ARE ALL MACCABEES!

Dear Congregational Family,

I am writing this message in early November as Israel is fighting for its very survival. In addition, Jews around the world are all directly impacted by Jew-hatred on the streets, on university campuses, and in a variety of other arenas.

Soon, we will celebrate Chanukah. Its message is timely and relevant. The Jewish people were being oppressed physically and spiritually by the Hellenistic Syrian Greek Empire. Antiochus Epiphanes IV prohibited all forms of Jewish practice with the penalty of death. The Temple was desecrated. Sovereignty in our own homeland was at stake. While many Jews responded with prayer and fervent belief, the Maccabees saw that piety alone was insufficient. They also understood that we do not rely on miracles. They knew that, when necessary, physical battle was a prerequisite for Jewish survival. The Jewish people became united under the Maccabean banner. Ultimately, the few overcame the many.

Now, over two thousand years later, Jewish unity is expressed in the most popularly observed holiday in the Jewish calendar. More Jews celebrate the light of the Maccabean victory over any other holiday. While folklore has us celebrate and retell the miracle of the oil, the history books point to the miracle of the Maccabees.

Nowadays, prayer and belief are important. However, if we have learned anything from Jewish history, from Biblical times, to the destruction of our Holy Temple, to the atrocities of the Middle Ages, to the horror of the Shoah, and to now - We the Jewish people; We the nationhood of Israel must see ourselves as modern-day Maccabees. Our Chanukah ancestors saw their battle as one of light over darkness. Light won out during the darkest days of the calendar year. We too understand that our battle is also one of light over darkness.

I encourage us to be vigilant. Two expressions come to mind: "Chazak Ve'Ematz - Be Strong and Courageous" and "Yachad Ne'Natzeach - Together, we will be victorious."

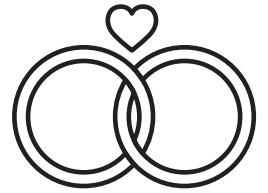
I wish us all a Freliche Chanukah.

Chag Urim V'Sameach - A Joyous Festival of Lights,  
Rabbi Howard Morrison





# RITUAL NEWS FROM RABBI MORRISON



Same sex unions/commitment ceremonies:

During the Fall of 2023, I presented to the ritual committee, Executive, and Board of Directors my permission for officiation of same sex/commitment ceremonies. My decision is based on sanctioned responsa by the Rabbinical Assembly-Committee on Jewish Law and Standards from 2006 and 2012. You can find the supportive literature on the website of Rabbinical Assembly.org. My personal position as a podcast with the full transcript can be found in the October portion of my blogs on the Beth Emeth website.

As with all other rabbinic officiations, both partners must be Jewish, and receptions must be strictly Kosher for all attendees.

The afore-mentioned topic and decision are intended to make our community more inclusive and done so in accordance with Halakha - Jewish Law.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Howard Morrison



If you or someone you know is thinking of Conversion to Judaism  
then consider enrollment in

## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM**

A course offered by the Rabbinical Assembly Ontario Region

**Tuesday nights from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**Beginning January 9, 2024**

Beth Sholom Synagogue - 1445 Eglinton Avenue W.

For details:

Rabbi Wayne Allen - (647) 462-6626 or rabbiallen.is@gmail.com

# WEEKLY STUDY CLASSES

with Rabbi Morrison



**MONDAY**

**7:00 PM**

**ZOOM / FACEBOOK LIVE**

The weekly Torah portion with insights on Israel

**TUESDAY**

**10:00 AM**

**LERMAN CHAPEL/LIVESTREAM**

Pirkei Avot - Ethics of the Sages (chapter 5)

**CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13**

Rabbi Morrison visiting Reena - blowing the shofar and joining in their Sukkot celebration with the explanation and prayers for the Lulav and Etrog.





# STEPHEN WERGER

PAST PRESIDENT



Contact

[past\\_prez@beby.org](mailto:past_prez@beby.org)



Dear fellow congregants,

As we prepare for Chanukah 5784, it is time for me to update you on the life of Beth Emeth. But this year is different. We all know the story of Chanukah, the dedication. In the second century BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Romans, who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Roman culture and beliefs instead of mitzvah observance and belief in G-d. Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Romans from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of G-d.

This year, the enemy may have changed, the power structure may have changed, but, sadly, the goal is the same: the destruction of our homeland! I am hopeful that by the time you read this article, the IDF will have accomplished its goal: destroyed Hamas and returned all the hostages safely home.

Now to update you on the ongoing at Beth Emeth.

We are thrilled once again to have 2 young emissaries from Israel with us this year: Sharon & Omri. It has been a very difficult time for them, but with strong community support they are ok. As in prior years, they provide us with their perspectives on the experience of living and growing up in Israel. These are two very poised and self-possessed young people. You MUST come to shul and listen to them speak of their brethren fighting in Israel. It is truly powerful and heartwarming.

Earlier this year, we welcomed to our synagogue our new Director of Spiritual Engagement, Cantor Ron Donenfeld. Ron brings a renewed joy in tefillah. Ron has also conducted a number of classes on Shabbat.

We also welcomed Avivit Yoffe, our new Family Engagement Director. Avivit is committed to delivering engaging and interactive programming for families and young people of all ages. Avivit serves as the principal of our Aleph Beit Chadash School, will lead our B'nai Mitzvah program and acts as Shinshinim supervisor. Please come to shul and meet Avivit; get your children involved.

Financially we are sound. We continue to operate at a break even or small deficit/profit on an annual basis. Our focus, of course, is on the future. Our building is aging, and while it's mostly in good working order there are always repairs, upgrades and in some cases, replacements of equipment required.

Fundraising must always be a priority, to secure our future. Our Terumah appeal was very successful this year. We raised over \$225,000, thanks to the matching funds provided by the Feldberg family. More importantly, we almost doubled the number of contributors. Thank you!

As my time as president comes to an end, I wish to thank the wonderful staff in the office for all their support, especially our Executive director, Candace Vogel.

I wish to thank my hard-working executive team and the Board for their dedication to BEBY. I can only hope that Miriam Ziegler-Goldberg, our incoming president, will experience the support from all of you that I received.

On behalf of my family,  
Am Israel Chai  
Chag sameach, Happy Chanukah,

Steve Werger

**MIRIAM ZIEGLER-GOLDBERG**

PRESIDENT



Contact  
[president@beby.org](mailto:president@beby.org)



*Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave.*

*-John F. Kennedy*

This is my last Keshet article as Board Chair and Vice President of GAASC; a new Executive and Board will be in place after the November Annual General Meeting. To our outgoing Board, with my greatest respect – thank you; and to our new Board, welcome and I look forward to working with all of you.

In reviewing last year's Chanukah Keshet article, I wrote, "Chanukah is the story of miracles, dedication, community, and faith." Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth and reclaimed and rededicated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Today, the Jewish people are again facing an enemy, one that seems to sleep but then rears its ugly head: anti-Semitism. In my generation, we were told by others that they are not anti-Semitic, they are anti-Zionist. For most Jews, we know there is no difference, and that was proven on October 7, 2023 when, tragically Hamas carried out their horrific terrorist attack on innocent Israeli civilians and then later urged attacks on Jews everywhere.



Jewish communities are still processing their shock, grief, anxiety, disillusionment, anger, and hope. We pray that the hostages will be freed and that the war in Israel will end and that Israel (the land of miracles) will have peace. For others, my self included, our synagogue has been a source of comfort in these times. We truly are a community within the larger Jewish community. With the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Morrison, we have supported each other, shared our grief, our hopes, and our prayers.

On October 16th and 17th, I attended the CIJA, Anti-Semitism: Face It, Fight It conference in Ottawa. The conference reviewed some key phrases and concepts that every pro-Israel advocate should have in their toolkit. After the conference CIJA provided the following information: "complicated issues cannot be reduced into neat little packages. When we engage in discussion about Israel and anti-Semitism several concepts and phrases merit challenge. Here are responses to ten commonly used concepts you can reference."

As you may be aware BEBY has upgraded its security. Health, Safety and Security is one of the committees under GAASC. GAASC is comprised of the following committees: Constitution, Legal, Israel and Kelman Funds, Catering, Cemetery, Societies, Health Safety and Security, House, Strategic Planning, and Nominations. As Vice President of GAASC, I want to thank all the committee chairs and their committee members for their hard work and dedication to ensuring BEBY meets its governance and administrative responsibilities and always working to improve their areas of responsibilities.

It has truly been a pleasure and a wonderful experience being the Board Chair and working with such talented and skilled Board members. In previous Keshet articles I have written about the Board's accomplishments and next steps, so I will not reiterate them now. I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the support I received from my fellow executive team members, Stephen Werger, Rick Goldberg, Uri Carnat, Eleanor Minuk, Gail Bergman, and Malcolm Weinstein. Thank you to Candace Vogel and Rabbi Morrison for their commitment to our synagogue and their support and guidance.

On behalf of my husband Brian Goldberg and our family, I would like to wish you a Happy Chanukah.

עם ישראל חי

Miriam Ziegler-Goldberg  
Outgoing Board Chair and VP of GAASC

**HONOUR YOUR LOVED ONES AND  
FAMILY MILESTONES WITH A  
BREAKFAST OR KIDDUSH  
SPONSORSHIP AT BETH EMETH.  
VISIT [BEBY.ORG/SPONSORSHIPS](http://BEBY.ORG/SPONSORSHIPS)**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024 BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE

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### BOARD CHAIR:

Steven Greenwood

### VICE PRESIDENTS:

Sharon Eidelman

Eleanor Minuk

Jason Rubinoff

### TREASURER:

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### SECRETARY:

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### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

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David Esser

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Ella Jacobs

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Allan Snow

Jimmy Srebrolow

Barry Stork

Marlene White

Joshua Yarmus

Max Zive

## VA'AD REPRESENTATIVES

Larry Ross

Sheldon Serota

# ELEANOR MINUK

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



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## THE YEAR OF YOU!

The three pillars of Judaism are Torah study, avoda (work) and chesed (acts of loving kindness). Similarly, it can be said that there are three pillars of synagogue life – ritual, programming and YOU. Ritual practice guides us in our daily Jewish lives and helps us to navigate our days in a godly fashion.



Your synagogue volunteers have curated numerous programs on a huge range of topics to encourage new members to see our shul as a community hub and to remind members of long standing that we continue to be a vibrant and informative venue. The third pillar – our members – are the reason we do what we do. Every Monday you receive an e-blast outlining upcoming programs. I encourage you to review the list and see what interests you. More importantly, let me know what you want that you don't see and we will do our best to build a program for you. Feel free to reach out to me at MDSC@beby.org with any questions or comments.

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve as your Vice President of Membership Development for the coming term and want to increase the profile of our shul in the lives of our members. However, it is a two-way street. Over the years as I have become more involved in shul life I have felt more connected to it. Stronger bonds lead to more involvement. We all lead very busy lives; time is precious and we all want to make the most of it. Let us know how our events fit in with what you need and want.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you throughout the year.

Wishing you and your families a very happy Channukah.

Eleanor

## CANDACE VOGEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*"Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all the darkness"* – Desmond Tutu

The Jewish people are no strangers to darkness. We have a long history of expulsions, persecutions and displacement. Our temples were destroyed, we have been enslaved and massacred throughout history, and sadly, even today. Anti-Semitism is as virulent, ugly and prevalent now as it has ever been.

We couldn't be blamed if we were bitter. Or if we eschewed joy and celebration.

Of course, the opposite is true. We have seen photos and videos of weddings, birthdays and other celebrations taking place since October 7th on army bases, kibbutzim and various other places where attacks took place. In the midst of some of our darkest days, Jewish people found joy...and light.

It's likely that for years to come we will all remember where we were when we heard the news of October 7th. I was in Paris - the city of lights. My children gifted me the trip in honour of my special birthday. It was my first time there and an extraordinary experience in every way imaginable. Every detail of our trip had been carefully planned (by my kids!) and all I had to do was show up and take it all in. Seeing my daughters moving through the world with such grace, poise and curiosity was pure pleasure. Their energy, enthusiasm and style was breathtaking. Paris was incredibly beautiful, too. More than once, I felt overwhelmed by my good fortune; there were (many) happy tears. Each day's adventures seemed impossible to top and yet, somehow, we managed to do just that the following day. The sparkling Eiffel Tower was the perfect metaphor for my happiness during the trip.

Once we heard the news on Saturday, it became increasingly difficult to hold on to the happiness - to the light. The more information we got, the darker it became. I began to feel increasingly anxious about being away from home (and work). I found myself in the midst of a typically Jewish dilemma: how to balance happiness with fear, sadness and anger. In other words, how to balance light and darkness?

For better or worse, we have lots of practice with that particular balancing act. In many ways, it is quintessentially Jewish to look for the silver lining. To find joy through tears: to laugh till we cry and sometimes cry till we laugh is a typically Jewish experience.

I could not allow the attack in Israel to ruin my incredibly special trip. I knew that I had to hold on to the moment for as long as I could because it would fade soon enough and reality would encroach on the magic of those days.

Since returning home, it feels like worklife has been an endless loop of security briefings, bad news and readjusting expectations. So many dark and scary days. I could have never imagined that I'd get to know so many police officers by name, that the shul's neighbourhood would be regularly surveilled by helicopter or that we could experience the current level of fear and anxiety here in Canada. But, in the face of so much evil we have seen extraordinary acts of kindness, compassion and community solidarity. We choose to take action and channel our energies into positive pursuits in support of our community and our homeland, Israel. In response to the darkness, we seek out the light.

As we kindle our Chanukah candles this year, let's celebrate the glow, the joy. Let's embrace our gifts and good fortunes; count our blessings and feel peace in knowing that we will always move towards the light.

Chag Sameach,  
Candace Vogel



Membership payments and donations received by December 31 will be eligible for inclusion on your 2023 tax receipt, to be issued Feb 2024. Call the office to make arrangements or visit our website



# RON DONENFELD

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL  
ENGAGEMENT

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## Publicize the Miracle

To Our Cherished BEBY Kehillah,

As your Director of Spiritual Engagement, and as your spiritual guide, I have had the great merit of leading our voices in prayer, celebrating our most joyous moments, as well as standing together during times of adversity. Chanukah fast approaches, and as we prepare to welcome the Festival of Lights this year, I feel compelled to share my feelings with you, not just as your spiritual engagement director, but as another member of our holy kehillah, that has endured so much over the years. Chanukah is our time to shine, literally and figuratively, to publicize the miracle of the rededication of our Holy Beit HaMikdash, after it was defiled by the Syrian Greeks, and the Hellenists.

"Hellenism" was a populist movement, in which the Greeks, the great empire of the day, ran most of the known world. Unlike many others who have tried to physically destroy us, such as Haman during the Purim story, the Greeks quite literally loved us Jews too much! They wanted to completely assimilate us, until we were exactly like them. The Greeks wanted to adopt many of our traditions, i.e. translating our Torah traditions into Greek, and adopting Moses as another great Greek "philosopher" and "lawgiver", to be included in the Pantheon of many other Greek "greats"....and all that the Greeks wanted in return from us...was EVERYTHING! We Jews were forbidden from studying Torah, we were forbidden to circumcise our children, we were forbidden to keep Shabbat, we were forbidden to follow our Jewish calendar (and celebrate our Jewish holidays) as dictated by the Torah. Jews were commanded to bow down to Greek idols in public, before our fellow Jews and fellow non-Jews. The Greeks publicly commanded us to eat pork. Our Holy Temple was defiled, with pigs and other non-kosher animals being openly sacrificed to Greek idols, for all to see! Jews felt powerless, as it seemed the world was completely against us. We watched so many of our fellow Jews give in, joining the Greek movement either out of admiration, or out of fear. Only the Maccabees were brazen enough to unite the Jews together, and to recommit us towards our faith and observance in G-d and His Torah. After the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple, it was so defiled, that they could only find one small vial of ritually pure oil to light the menorah in the Temple. Miraculously, it lasted for eight days.

**Pirumei Nisa - Publicizing the Miracle:** The Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat 21b) teaches us about the importance of "Pirumei Nisah," the publicizing of the Chanukkah miracle. In the Midrash, our Sages discuss how our public celebration of Chanukkah serves as a sign of our enduring faith as Jews, and the miracles Hashem has performed for us.

Our Sages teach us that every candle that is lit in our Chanukiah is both a symbol of the miracle, and a declaration of our heritage as the People of Israel. We do not cower; we do not hide, but rather, the Sages teach us to place the Chanukiah by the window, so that all passersby will publicly see our testament of the Chanukah miracle.

Friends, it's no secret that we are again facing trying times. Only a few blocks from our synagogue, anti-Semites tore down mezuzot from peoples' homes. Jews are increasingly being targeted for violence, and the silence from so many in the world is deafening. We must think of our Chanukiot as more than mere candles and flames: they are a very public statement of Jewishness, of hope, resilience against tyranny, and our shared covenant as Jews. This Chanukah, just like our ancestors, we openly show the world that we stand together as a united people, undeterred and unashamed of our identity.

We have all witnessed the spiritual strength of our community when united. It is an inspiration for all of us, and it continues to be my honour to serve you as your Shliach Tzibbur ("The Emissary of the Congregation" through song and prayer). The many traditional melodies we have sung and continue to sing together, the prayers we have shared and will continue to share, are not just musical notes and lip service. Our prayers together are the united expressions of our collective soul. We are one.

I pledge to continue to be a voice for our united traditions, a spiritual guide for our holy beliefs, and a protector of our spiritual journey together. Friends, let us light our candles this Chanukah as a testament to our enduring spirit. May these lights reflect the love, the courage, and the solidarity that define us.


I am humbled and grateful to be part of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda's continuing extraordinary family. As we stand together united as a people in the glow of our Chanukiah lights, may we take a moment to recall that each flame is a link in our chain as a people, and a promise for the future.

May Chanukah this year be an act of faith, and a declaration of our unbreakable bond as a community. Friends, let us move forward together with courage, with hope, and with an unending love and commitment to our faith.

Be strong, with the help of Heaven! Publicize the many miracles that G-d has done for us, continues to do for us, and be proud to openly be Jews. Chanukah Sameach!

With Blessing,  
Ron Donenfeld

Bring your  
friends! Join us  
for Mahjong on  
**Wednesday  
afternoons!**

**GAMES**   
**12:30 - 3:00 PM**  
**\$2**

Coffee,  
tea, and  
cookies  
served





**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda**  
A World of Jewish Experience

# PRE CHANUKAH PARTY

**Sunday December 3, 4:30pm**

**latkes & snacks**

**magician**

**arts & crafts**

**songs**

**games**

**sufganiyah decorating**

**members/school families – no charge**

**BEBY Bubby – \$10 (any grandparent  
member with family (5 people)**

**non members – \$18 family**

**register here: [beby.org/event/chanukah2023](https://beby.org/event/chanukah2023)**



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## DID YOU KNOW?

A little-known benefit of membership at Beth Emeth is the variety of scholarships available to children of members in good standing. These scholarships are available to assist in funding a variety of programs and educational opportunities. You are encouraged to explore.



Available scholarships fall into four categories:

### THE RABBI KELMAN FUND

Offers scholarships for children attending approved Jewish overnight camps such as Camp Ramah, Camp Solelim, etc. Research shows definitively that attendance at Jewish overnight camp is a key factor in fostering Jewish identity among children.



### THE ANISMAN ISRAEL FUND

Provides scholarships for those studying at recognized academic institutions or other immersive programs in Israel, such as USY Pilgrimage. These experiences often form the basis of a lifelong love of and commitment to Israel.



### JOSEPH SMITH SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Joseph Smith Sports Achievement Scholarship provides financial assistance to the younger members of our congregation who either wish to begin or continue their involvement in sports. The scholarship was established in memory of Joseph Smith z"l, an avid participant, fan and supporter of sports and athletics.



### KAROL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR LIMUDAI TORAH

The Karol Family Scholarship Fund for Limudai Torah was established by the Karol Family in honour of Oren Shmuel Karol. This scholarship assists in funding students (or adults) wishing to pursue their goals and aspirations for higher learning in advanced Torah Study.



**Applications can be found on our website at [www.bebey.org/scholarships](http://www.bebey.org/scholarships)**



Beth Emeth is proud to be able to support our members of all ages through our various scholarship funds. Our four scholarship funds last year supported over 25 youth and young adults in their various endeavors from studying Limudai Torah, to Jewish summer camps, to Israel gap year programs, to high level sporting activities.

Over the years, our four scholarship funds— the Karol Family Scholarship for Limudai Torah, the Joseph Smith Sports Achievement Award, the Rabbi Kelman Endowment Fund and the David and Sandra Anisman Israel Fund—have assisted 100s of Beth Emeth members. We have supported future Rabbis, community leaders, teachers and more.

We continue to encourage all members to apply to our scholarship funds. Full descriptions of the funds and applications are available online at [beby.org/scholarships](http://beby.org/scholarships)

Please remember, the sustainability of these funds is dependent on your support. When contributing to the Synagogue, please consider donating to one of these funds to allow the Synagogue to award scholarships to more of our deserving members.



## The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles, Toronto



Bigdei HaCohen, made by members of the Pomegranate Guild for the 25th anniversary

Are you interested in textile art and needlework. Do you enjoy being inspired by what others do? Would you like to produce items that have more of a Jewish theme? And would you like to be part of a group of like minded people who love to learn and practice the skills discussed during friendly zoom sessions? Or even a combination of in person and zoom sessions when available.

We are the **Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles**, Toronto and our in person sessions are held at Beth Emeth Synagogue (BEBY).

We are fortunate to have many enthusiastic members from beginners to advanced skills and from far and wide. Zoom has opened our world to amazing get togethers from people around the globe. Be part of our lunch and schmooze on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Take a moment and check out our web site.  
**<https://pomegranateguild.ca>**



## JOSEPH SMITH SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ben and Jacob Carnat were recipients of the Joseph Smith sports scholarship this past year. They addressed our Congregation during the second day of Sukkot, October 1.

Chag Sameach

My name is Ben Carnat and I would like to thank the Smith Family and the Beth Emeth community for the sports scholarship I received.

You might have immediately looked at me and thought basketball, but you'd be wrong. I play Hockey with the Avenue Road Ducks.

Hockey has taught me valuable lessons over the years. I've improved my hockey skills and I have also improved my understanding of teamwork.

Like the congregation of a synagogue, every player is important. We work together and support one another. We win together and suffer losses together. And what you put in is what you get out.

Playing hockey has also helped me develop friendships, leadership skills, and sportsmanship. One example of leadership skills extending outside the rink is that I now sit on the local BBYO Magen Chapter Board.

I've also gotten to travel as part of my hockey career. Some of those tournaments have been in Montreal, Buffalo, and Pittsburgh. In fact, when we were in Pittsburg, it was the week after the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue. Along with my teammates, we went to Shabbat services with members of that community and my father and I got to speak with the Rabbi and pass on condolences and support from Beth Emeth

For all of our tournaments, and for all of our games, we don't play on Shabbat. And so, when not away on tournaments, this has allowed me to come to shul regularly with my family.

Once again, thank you to the Smith family, the Scholarship Committee, and to my teammates in the Beth Emeth community.

P.S. Although the Leafs season is just starting, they will inevitably break your heart. So, if you are tired of watching the Leafs lose, might as well come watch the U17 Avenue Road Ducks. Chag Sameach

*Ben Carnat*







Chag Sameach from me too.

My name is Jacob Carnat and I would also like to thank the Smith Family and the scholarship committee . Also no basketball player. I received the sports scholarship for my Jiu Jitsu.

For those who don't know, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a martial art that involves grappling and submissions.

As we know, the "People of Israel", means "the people who wrestle with Gd". Like Jacob in the Bible, I also love wrestling. I may look sweet, but I really like to fight.

I train 3-5 days a week, after school, at the Gracie Barra gym. And, if If you'd ever like to join me, it's located on Bridgeland Avenue, just across from Yorkdale

I'm currently on my grey stripe belt, and I'm about to get my solid grey this month. That represents about 3 years of training

Besides the daily training and sparring, I compete in regular tournaments. Among the tournaments, I've competed in the Ontario Opens and the Canadian Nationals

Jiu Jitsu had taught me the value of commitment, of community, and of ongoing humility which is the basis of learning. And of course, fighting through adversity.

With humility and learning comes confidence. I'm not the biggest kid, but I'm the wrestling champion of my section at camp. And I also tapped out many of my staff. I've gotten close with my dad. Not yet, but it's coming.

Because my teachers are from Brazil and many classmates are from Brazil and Portugal, I've also been learning Portuguese.

In some ways, Jiu Jitsu is an individual sport. But more importantly, my gym and the Jiu Jitsu community in general is an extended family. You need the support of your teammates, and training means fighting your friends, and staying friends at the same time. Maybe some echoes of shul life.

Once again, thank you to the Smith family and to everyone in the Beth Emeth community wrestling with Hashem.

Chag Sameach.

*Jacob Carnat*



# NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS



Mazel Tov to Joshua & Barbara Nightingale on the birth of their daughter, GWYNETH LILLIAN (*Zipporah Miriam*) on July 8, 2023. Proud grandparents are Charna & Howard Nightingale and Kelly & Linda Kaye.

Mazel Tov to Jonathan York & Kasey Peters on the birth of their daughter, MARLOWE SOFIE (*Freyda*). Proud grandparents are Carol & Saul York and Lynda & Jeff Peters. Great-granddaughter of Molly Hellen, Marg Honest and Merle Peters. Lovingly remembered at this time are great-grandparents Fay ל"י and Alex York ל"י, Harry Hellen ל"י, Sid Honest ל"י and Max Peters ל"י

Mazel Tov to Gabriella Fischer & Adam Kruger on the birth of their daughter, MADELYN LYLA. Proud grandparents are Shaindy & Larry Fischer and Marilyn & Lorne Kruger. Great-granddaughter of Sandi Silverman. Lovingly remembered at this time are great-grandparents Lionel Silverman ל"י, Madeleine ל"י and David Fischer ל"י



Mazel Tov to Sharon & Gary Drukmaler on the engagement of their daughter, Gillian Drukmaler to Josh Robins, son of Anita & Andy Robins. Delighted grandparents are Leo Drukmaler, Helaine & Lionel Robins. Lovingly remembered at this time are Gert Segall ל"י, Harold Segall ל"י, Hanna Drukmaler ל"י, Tica Levy ל"י, and Joseph Levy ל"י

Mazel tov to Dr. Ari Cuperfain, son of Joel Cuperfain and Susan Cuperfain, and to Melanie Simon, daughter of Jackie and Norman Kahn, on their engagement. Grandson of Reni and David Cuperfain, and Dr. Jerry and Evie Stein, nephew of Michele Cuperfain and Ronnie and Elise Cuperfain, granddaughter of Ruth and the late Dr. Phil Simon, and the late Bernie and Vera Waldman.



Mazel Tov to Faye Bielak White & Marvin White on the marriage of their son, Zachary Leslie White to Nicole Tara Waissglass. The wedding took place in February 2023.

Mazel Tov to Norine Goodman and David Golberg on the marriage of their daughter, Melissa to Shaun, son of Alana and Joe McGeough. The wedding took place on October 15, 2023.





Mazel Tov to Adam Cockburn on his graduation from The University of Western Ontario Ivey Business School and Law School, son of Susan and Matt Cockburn, grandson of Shulamit Besser and Bill & Evelyn Cockburn.

Mazel Tov to Megan Cockburn on her graduation from The University of Western Ontario in Engineering. Daughter of Susan and Matt Cockburn, granddaughter of Shulamit Besser and Bill & Evelyn Cockburn.

Mazel Tov to Milton & Helen Goodman celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on November 1, 2023. With love from your family.

Mazel Tov to Hy & Suzanne Agasee on their 65th wedding anniversary in November. With love from your family.

## BEREAVEMENTS

We extend condolences on the loss of

**Marjorie Swartz** ל"ד, sister of Elaine Rubinoff

**Marsha Bielak** ל"ד, mother of Marilyn Gold, Robert Bielak, Sylvia Bielak, Faye White

**Phyllis Rosenthal** ל"ד, sister of Dorice Silverman

**Harold Cohen** ל"ד, father of Brian Cohen

**Madelaine Niloff** ל"ד, mother of Susan Weisz

**Lionel Silverman** ל"ד, father of Shaindy Fischer

**Ellen Sandler** ל"ד, sister of Stephen Snow

**Emma Jenah** ל"ד, mother of Martine Pacht

**Allen Rosenberg** ל"ד, husband of Pauline Rosenberg, father of Joel Rosenberg, brother of Betty Borovoy

**Barbara Klein** ל"ד, mother of Alicia Harris

**Tamara Erlich** ל"ד, wife of Srul Erlich

**Manny Langer** ל"ד, husband of Natalie Langer, father of Darlene Wronzberg

**Joan Shanker** ל"ד, mother of Jay Shanker

**Alex Kronovic** ל"ד

**Hyman Sherman** ל"ד

**Esther Bergman** ל"ד, mother of Howard Bergman, Mitchel Bergman

**Adeline Steinbaum** ל"ד

**Michael Indech** ל"ד, husband of Hana Indech

**Al Rain** ל"ד, brother of Martin Rain

**Florence Beube** ל"ד

**Jean Sugar** ל"ד, mother of Renee Henry, Elliot Sugar

**Bryna Zaidman** ל"ד, mother of Jayne Naiman

*May their memories be for a blessing*

# Remembering Rosalie

My dear, sweet friend, Rosalie Shadlyn z'l, passed away a few months ago and with her passing, she has left behind many broken hearts and a large gap in each of our lives. Rosalie was a ball of fire. She lit up the room when she entered, bringing with her the energy, love, and warmth that we associate with the burning flames of passion.



Rosalie was one of the most passionate people I know - utterly enthusiastic about everything in her life. She always spoke of her deep abiding love for her husband Harry z'l (who predeceased her by many years) and her love for and pride in all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was profoundly passionate about her deep-rooted Jewish values and Yiddishkeit. These extended back to her family's origins in Minsk, and carried forward to their new home in Canada, in the early 1900s, on a farm in Alberta where her parents and grandparents were leaders in their community. Rosalie was a renaissance Jewish woman, who from childhood immersed herself in learning and then higher learning in a range of fields that interested her ranging from Judaism including studying in Yiddish and Hebrew, to special education, psychology (more specifically sex therapy). She was a poet, an actress, a singer and dancer and a leader within the Jewish community. She was "Gigi" to her grandchildren, a friend, mentor and an eishet chayil in every sense.

Rosalie did not hold back. If she had something to say, she said it directly and unequivocally. She always had your interest at heart, and her honesty was immersed in integrity which made her a highly sought-after advisor, teacher, friend, and confidante. I loved this about Rosalie. I loved our two-hour telephone conversations. I loved listening to her insights about everything in life. She was a deeply treasured friend whom I miss terribly. I know many others in the Beth Emeth and broader Jewish communities of Toronto and Edmonton miss her as well.

May her memory always be for a blessing to her family, friends and Klal Yisrael and may her soul be bound up in the bonds of everlasting life.

In friendship and affection,  
Pearl Grundland



# KOREN SACKS MACHZOR DEDICATIONS

We were delighted to be able to use our beautiful Koren Sacks machzor once again this past year and will do so again for the upcoming yamim noraim.

Now you have the opportunity to dedicate individual copies of the machzor in honour or memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion.

- Individual dedications - \$72 each
- Up to six (same) dedications - \$65 each
- Seven or more (same) dedications - \$60 each



**CALL THE OFFICE TO DEDICATE YOURS TODAY!**

## *Women's Minyan Service*

Under the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Morrison, women of Beth Emeth are coming together to form a Women's Minyan during a special Shabbat Mincha service. **All women in the shul are welcome.** It is a safe space to learn, to daven and to connect. Please join us.

**Next session:**  
**Saturday, December 16**  
**4:15 PM - Lerman Chapel**

# Are you ke<sup>ש</sup>red?

**Kesher.** Hebrew for *link, connection, bond*.

The High Holy Days have passed. During those sacred weeks, we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** with our family and friends at festive dinner tables, we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** with our shul community sitting together, praying together and singing together. We learned together, fasted together, and listened to the sound of the shofar together. We sat in the sukkah together and rejoiced with our Torah together.

We were even charitable to our shul together, and charitable to Israel together. We remembered our loved ones and those that perished in the Holocaust together. We proudly read together from our Czech Torah—the 300 + year old Torah, hidden from the Nazis during the Shoah which we lovingly restored and adorned with two new mantles (right).



**B**ut suddenly, heinously, that all changed.

**O**n Shemini Atzeret, when we learned of the atrocious, villainous and barbaric attacks on Israel—on her soldiers and on her civilians, by Hamas terrorists, we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** with our shul community in horror. We were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** in our tears, we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** in our anger; we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** in our fright and we were **ke<sup>ש</sup>red** in our worry for our brethren in Israel, for our families and for our shul's families who are in Israel.

They attack us because we are



because we are





This is why we were **keʿvred** when we stood with thousands of voices showing and shouting our solidarity with Israel at the UJA Emergency Rally on October 9, the Bring Them Back Rally for the hostages on November 1, the Christie Pits Rally on November 12 and at other rallies.

We were **keʿvred** standing proudly with the Jewish community

because we are

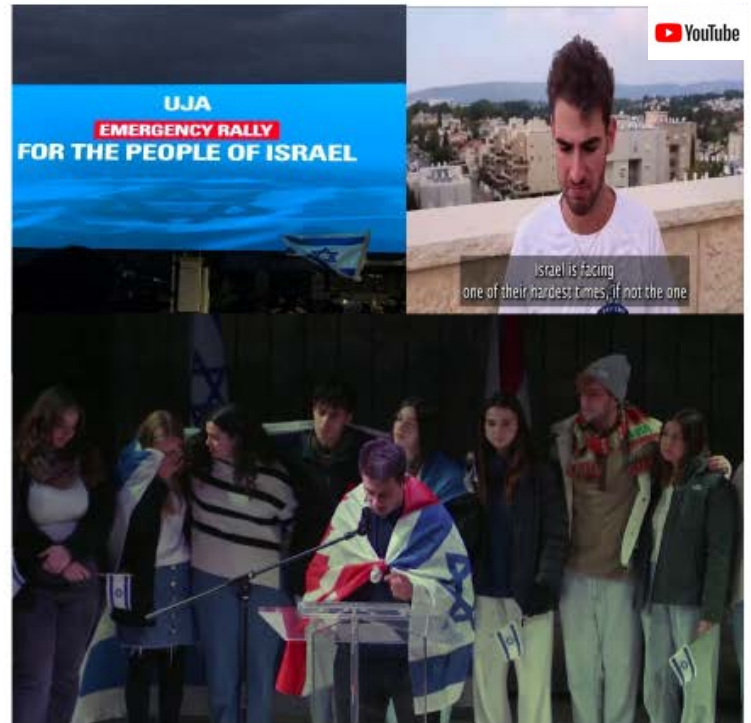
Jews

because we are



And as this obscene attack continues to outrage and aggrieve us, our Jewish life cycle takes us to the darkest chapter in our history—the Shoah, where we are **keʿvred** in our sombre, solemn commemoration of Holocaust Education and Remembrance in the month of November.

Yet, in December, our Jewish life cycle moves to Chanukah—our beloved Festival of Lights. For eight days we are **keʿvred** in celebration of our history where we—a united people, fought against the mighty Greeks, drove them out from our land and reclaimed our Holy Temple.



As the cycle of Jewish life unfolds throughout the year, we must continue to stay **keʿvred** to each other, to our shul, to our community and to Israel. We must also continue to stay **keʿvred** to enhancing our Jewish identity for ourselves, our families and for our children.



What will you do to maintain your **keʿv'r**?

all photographs & text  
(except the YouTube clip & the shinshinim) by s. zelsman

# BEBY BOOMERS

The BEBY Boomer's have been providing our members with hybrid programming. Our agenda included, The Life of James Bond, The 10 Ways for a Happy Life, Common Sense is Not Common. We have also provided everyone interested in a one hour free exercise program called Fall Prevention on Mondays and Wednesdays. It has been so successful that we host two classes on each day. Our ultimate goal is to create programs which reflect wellness, finances, nostalgic icons, travel and much more.

Join us on **Sunday, January 21 at 10:30 AM** for Celebrating World Festivals with Susan Brown, travel lecturer. Watch for our next program: Dolly Parton - Beyond the Rhinestones- Journey into the life and legacy of the country singer.

In planning, we always have in mind that our presentations be innovative, as well as the presenters be creative, knowledgeable and insightful.

This year, May the lights of Chanukah usher in a better world for all our Synagogue families and all over the world. From our committee to all of you and families wishing you all a Happy Chanukah Celebration.

Co-Chairs

Marlene White & Ruth Gilbert



# CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Hello Beth Emeth Families, I am excited to announce the launch of my 19th Annual Chanukah Toy Drive in memory of my dear parents. I'm reaching out to you all with a special request.

This year, we're making it easier than ever to participate and make a meaningful impact. We're using an online donation platform, which allows you to contribute with just a few clicks. Your generosity has been a driving force behind the success of this initiative in the past, and I'm hopeful that together, we can continue to bring joy to many children during this Chanukah season.

To donate, simply click on the attached link: <https://www.beb.org/Chanukah-Toy-Drive>. Every donation, no matter the amount, will go a long way in making this Chanukah brighter for the children. Your support means the world to me, and I'm incredibly grateful for your ongoing dedication support to Chai Lifeline Canada.

Chag Chanukkah Sameach!

Wishing you and your family warmth and light this Chanukkah season!

Rochelle Kerzner and Family







BETH EMETH SYNAGOGUE  
AND CHAI LIFELINE PRESENT



the 19th  
annual

# CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

Dedicated in loving memory of  
Barbara Frances & Norton Lorne Grimson<sup>ל"ה</sup>

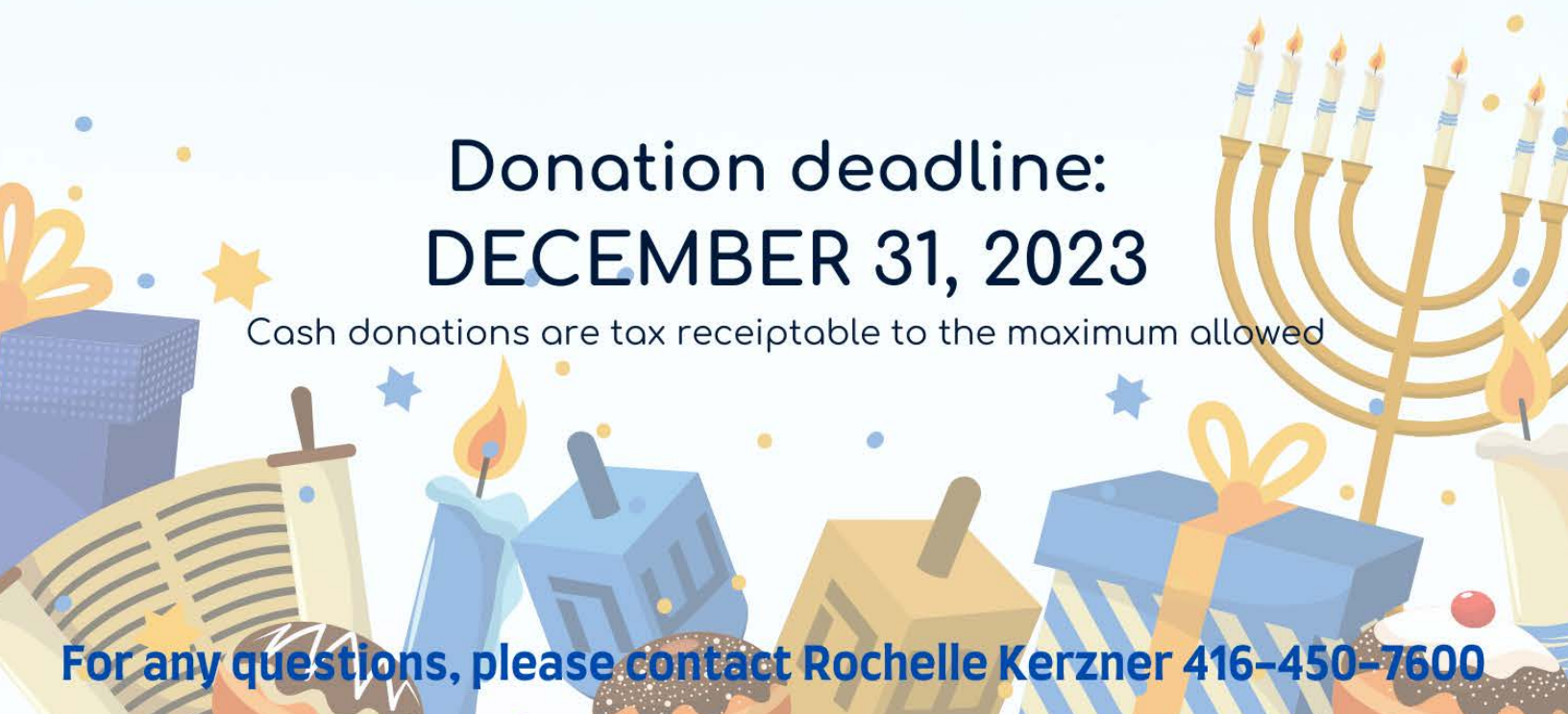
TO DONATE VISIT  
[BEBY.ORG/CHANUKAH-TOY-DRIVE](https://BEBY.ORG/CHANUKAH-TOY-DRIVE)

All cash donations collected will go towards purchasing gift items from the Chai Lifeline Wish List for the children.

Donation deadline:  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Cash donations are tax receiptable to the maximum allowed

For any questions, please contact Rochelle Kerzner 416-450-7600







# FAMILY CHALLAH ★ BAKE

(EVERYONE WELCOME!)

*with Omri & Sharon* ★

6:00 PM -  
pizza supper

6:30 PM -  
let the  
baking begin!

Wednesday

6

December

Members/School families - \$18

Non Members - \$36  
(per challah)

Registration required by Friday, Dec 1  
[beby.org/event/challahbake](http://beby.org/event/challahbake)

★ A portion of the proceeds will be  
donated to United Hatzalah Canada







On September 26 we held our first adult Sukkah decorating. Our beautiful artwork adorned the walls of Sukkah this year.





# MARTY KESHEN CHESD

## *Helping Shul Members and the Community*

We have a group of dedicated volunteers who are available to provide much needed support to our members at all ages and stages of life.

Please contact the shul if you would like a member of the Chesed Committee to contact you:

- In times of illness
- In times of bereavement
- In times of loneliness
- Who need emotional and social assistance

You can call the shul office or email us at [chesed@beby.org](mailto:chesed@beby.org)

The Chesed Committee, on behalf of Beth Emeth, also acknowledges individual birthdays and anniversaries with a personal phone call.

At this time of year, you may wish to support the 19th Annual Chanukah Toy Drive in memory of Rochelle Kerzner's dear parents Norton & Barbara Grimson z'l. Beth Emeth Synagogue is again partnering with Chai Lifeline Canada.

You may donate by calling the shul office or through the website: [www.beby.org/chanukah-toy-drive](http://www.beby.org/chanukah-toy-drive)

Given the needs in the community, please, if you are able, consider making a donation of food or funds to a local food bank.

If you are interested in supporting members of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, please contact us at the Chesed Committee to volunteer. We are also looking for a committee co-chair.

May you and your family have a Happy Chanukah.

Marty Keshen Chesed Committee Chair:  
Helen Katz





# CHESED KNITTERS

The weather is getting colder and the demand for our handmade knitted items is growing. We sent two boxes of scarves, hats and blankets up to the high school in Mishkeegogamang, in the far north of Ontario. We are continuing to knit hats for the IDF, which are sorely needed by the many troops that are defending our homeland at this time. In addition, we have been asked to knit cancer caps for cancer survivors, and we are still producing blankets for children in hospitals and shelters through the Linus project.

We would love to have you join us every Monday morning from 10:00 AM to 11:30 in the library. We will show you how to knit or crochet, and gladly supply you with yarn, needles and patterns.

We accept acrylic only yarn donations and monetary donations that help us to purchase the yarn we need. Call the synagogue office to make a donation.

We are open to members of BEBY as well as non-members and are proud to include people of different faiths as our knitting partners.

Wishing everyone a very happy Channukah on behalf of the Chesed Knitters of BEBY.

Eleanor Minuk



**These are some of the hats that were sent by various groups, including our Chesed Knitters, to the IDF this month.**



# MUSIC

Greetings from the Music Committee!



This past year, the committee focused on the Remembrance Concert which was presented on November 16th. This was the first Concert in over 3 years – BC – before Covid. It was a classical concert with a brilliant program and was immensely enjoyed by all in attendance. Net proceeds will be donated to Israel.

In addition, we planned a 3 part series on Opera with Guy Mannheim. Unfortunately, the registration for this was very poor and the decision was made to cancel.

We have asked in the past for input regarding the types of events that would appeal to our members. Please bear in mind that there is a cost involved with every program and every presenter deserves an interested audience. So we ask once again – please reach out and let us know your interests so that we can plan accordingly. In addition, let us know if you would like to join our Committee.

This year we welcomed Shoshana Telner and Jerry Lotterman to the Committee. We wish to thank them together with Eric Goldberg, Andrea and David Kirshenblatt and Ron Donenfeld for their assistance and cooperation.

We wish you and your families the best as we look forward to celebrating Chanukah. Stay well, stay safe.

On behalf of the Music Committee,  
Bernice Levine and Ilene Kuchinsky





# CONTINUING EDUCATION

The festival of Chanukah is quickly approaching and you can tell this because the weather is changing. Candles will be lit as the days grow darker earlier. We will gather to relate the stories of the Maccabees who rose up in small numbers to defeat the enemy. At this time the State of Israel has risen up from the massacre set upon us by Hamas on October 7 and we will defeat the enemy and ensure they never bother us again.

History does repeat itself because people do not learn from the past or take the time to educate themselves about the way the world has evolved over time. Education can help us to understand the world around us in small ways and big ways. If you make the effort to learn then hope will bring the problems around us into perspective and therefore make the issues of the day more clear. Through programs designed to inform, educate and entertain we are looking towards growth in both perspective and understanding to help the issues of the day easier to comprehend and follow.

Some of the recent programs from Continuing Education have taken us back in time as you have heard about Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Winston Churchill. The Wierzbniaker Society, through their annual Haskara, took us back to 1942 Poland to learn about and pay tribute to a small community that suffered immensely yet is still strong in the hearts and minds of its descendants.

Just a reminder that Reel and Spiel continues monthly as an afternoon program. Each month a new movie will entertain you and take you back to another place and time in the world. Come and join those who regularly attend these films and enjoy the time to go somewhere else and be a moviegoer. Starting in January we will be presenting Lockdown University programs about famous people via Zoom. Get ready to learn more about Art Garfunkel and then Edith Piaf as their worlds will come to life. The list gets longer each month so watch for further information as we get closer.

We need your help in entertaining our members during a night of fun and laughter. When was the last time you told jokes to friends and family and they suggested you do that in front of a crowd? Haven't you had the urge to be Rodney Dangerfield and make people laugh out loud? If these thoughts are boiling up in you then we should talk. Continuing Education is planning an Open Mic Comedy Night and we want you to give us your best jokes. Everyone loves the spotlight and we want to give you a big opportunity to make us laugh. If this is your secret desire then now is the time to contact us so we can add your name to the list of performing comics at the Open Mic Comedy Night. Call the synagogue office and tell them you want to make us laugh. We will contact you and work out the details. Start writing down those classic belly busters and get ready for your big shot. Thanks for helping to make us all feel better during these trying times. Laughter does make the world go around.

From Marlene and I and our families we wish all of you a Happy Chanukah! Dust off your dreidels and start working on those latkes. May your candles shine bright and the smiles on the children's faces bring hope and happiness to your homes.

Perry Davis and Marlene White  
Co-Chairs of Continuing Education

## SAVE THE DATE

- ▶ **Sunday, Jan 21 - 10:30 AM** IN PERSON  
In celebrations of World Festivals with Susan Brown
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan 24 - 7:30 PM** ZOOM  
Harlots of the Bible with Hana Werner

### LOCKDOWN UNIVERSITY (ZOOM)

- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan 17**  
Art Garfunkel
- ▶ **Wednesday, Feb 21**  
Edith Piaf

## GREENING

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, stated, "Israel is the country whose national anthem, Hatikvah means hope. Israel is the home of hope." Who could have imagined the horrors that would have occurred on October 7th and the antisemitism activities that are spreading world-wide? We are truly grateful for the Beth Emeth and broader community and our wonderful, supportive leadership. With hope and optimism, we reach back in time to our traditions, teachings and successes prior to October 7th to guide and direct us during this darkest of times into the future.

Parsha Chaya Sarah brings us to remembering the life of our matriarch Sarah and inspiring the traditions of Chaim, life. On many joyous and festive occasions, we say L'Chaim. L'Chaim to the preciousness and value of life adhering to our traditions and teachings which advocate for treating each life with respect since we are all created in Hashem's image. During this very dark time for Israel and for our people, we cannot allow Hamas to win victory and therefore we stand strong and resilient as we continue to educate the secular world that we are Hashem's chosen people who stand for goodness and stewards of our faith and our planet. We brightly acknowledge, during Chanukkah, that we are a light unto the world that illuminates the darkness with hope and triumph against all odds. Hashem hears our prayers and is on our side battling along with us against evil. Therefore, I share and enlighten you about environmental work begun and continuing over the next few months.



Over the past few years, faith-based organizations, meeting regularly, have demonstrated clear commitment and leadership in coming together to address global challenges including environmental justice. Preparing for and prior to the upcoming United National Climate Change Conference (COP28) from November 30th to December 12th, President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber addressed the Global Faith Leaders' Summit in Abu Dhabi and after months of collaboration, received a signed Interfaith Statement on climate change and climate ambitions from various faith leaders which he promised to carry forward to COP28. A single message of our shared humanity and commitment to act to protect our fragile world and unite around climate action was signed by twenty eight religious leaders, academics and environmental experts who had participated. They expressed shared concerns about the escalating climate impacts imperiling our cherished planet.

Dr. Al Jaber stated that COP28 was "a moment of truth for the world to align around ambitious negotiated outcomes for every nation, every faith, every community, every family and every single person living on this planet." Included in signing the statement were:

- Rabbi Moshe Lewin, Vice President of the Conference Of European Rabbis
- Chief Rabbi David Rosen, International President of Religions For Peace

During COP28, the Faith Pavilion, will be dedicated to the engagement of faith communities and will showcase 'the Abu Dhabi Interfaith Statement for COP28'.

The Faith Pavilion will host panels with religious leaders, scientists, and political leaders, as well as encouraging intergenerational engaging dialogue with young faith leaders and indigenous representatives.

COP 28: The United National Climate Change Conference will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirate from November 30th to December 13th. There will be Canadian representation that will be advocating for climate actions including decreasing the use of fossil fuels. If we succeed in doing so, we will be less dependent on Arab nations for their oil.

Additionally, the world-wide Earth Day Committee has selected as its 2024 theme: Planet vs Plastic. Since every single person can contribute to decreasing plastic use; there are already activities taking place with this theme.

I am currently working with a psychiatrist to create a transformative program that promotes wellness and healing within safe spaces.

Mel and I wish you a Happy Chanukkah. Stay safe, support Israel as you and your family light your candles and dispel the darkness that we are currently feeling.

Hilda Swirsky  
RN, BScN, MEd



# LIBRARY

## New Books

The title of Martin Bodek's book, *Zaidy's War – Four Armies, Three Continents, Two Brothers – One Man's Impossible Story of Endurance* encapsulates the details of the author's grandfather's experiences in the Holocaust. As with every Holocaust recounting, there are significant experiences that no one else shares and there are those that befell many survivors. Bodek and his mother had the opportunity to interview his grandfather and pull together the facts about how he endured the horrific experiences he faced. Remarkable are the artifacts and pictures that Bodek is able to provide about several generations back.

*I Say my Name* by Reva Stern starts off with a moral conundrum: What would you do if you found a hungry and very dirty child in the back of your car late one evening? Thus begins the slippery slide that Michael Coleman and his wife Claire find themselves on as they recruit a support team to help uncover the identity and circumstances that the child has faced.

James McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* centers on the rescue of a young, deaf, Black boy who has been placed in an institution against his will (and the will of the community) in Pennsylvania in the 1930s. Blacks and Jews live side by side, both experiencing racism, and not always understanding or fully accepting each other, but still conspire to cooperate to extricate Dodo. With a bit of magical realism thrown in for good measure, McBride's intention is to address diversity and inclusion. As much as things change, the more they stay the same.

*Y Vonne Beck?* is a trilogy by Toronto author L. R. Gerstein. In the soap opera genre, the reader is drawn into quite improbable situations while developing strong empathy for the characters. Set in Toronto and Thornhill, *Y. Vonne Beck?* follows the life of a young Jewish single mom who is a wonderful parent and is determined to provide the best life for her son. P.S. And in the end, she does.

## Book Events

We are well into our Lunch and Literature and Books and Bagels series. Many thanks to the Weinstein Family fund for sponsoring *Wan*, by Dawn Promislow, on **October 12**. We had an outstanding crowd – 94 participants – at our **October 22** event, led by Ruth Markel about her book *The Unveiling*, and gratefully acknowledge VIVA Thornhill Woods for their generous support. We had successful book reviews of *House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon on **Thursday, Nov. 9**, sponsored by Sagecare 147 Elder Street, and *The Crate* by Deborah Levison on **Nov. 19**, sponsored by Baycrest and 2 Neptune. On **Sunday, Dec. 3** Allan Rosenfeld will be discussing his book *Holocaust Lumber*. This event is sponsored by Forestview Retirement Residence. **December 14** will see Alina Adams talk about her new book *My Mother's Secret*, sponsored by Four Elms, and on **Jan. 18** we will review *The Postcard* by Anne Berest, sponsored by Chartwell Constantia.



We deeply appreciate all of our sponsors, whose generosity allow us to provide these programs for you. Please register well in advance of each session so we can be sure to have enough food ordered, and invite your friends to join us! Members and non-members are welcome. There are flyers on the carousel outside of the main sanctuary which outline all of our events for the remainder of the year.

The gift shop sells many of the books that we featured last year and several of this year's books. They make wonderful Chanukah gifts.


Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah and wishing for one of the best Chanukah gifts, lasting peace in Israel.

Submitted by Eleanor Minuk on behalf of the Library Committee






**BOOKS AND BAGELS**  
**SESSION 3**  
*Sunday, December 3, 10AM IN PERSON*  
**REGISTER – [BEBY.ORG/EVENT/BOOKSDEC3](https://beby.org/event/booksdec3)**  
**MEMBERS – \$5/ NON MEMBERS – \$10**

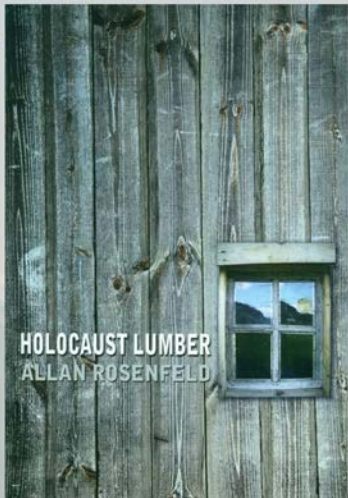
A presentation by the author  
Allan Rosenfeld



**PRESENTED BY :**



**SESSION 4  
MARCH 3**



**HOLOCAUST LUMBER**  
ALLAN ROSENFELD

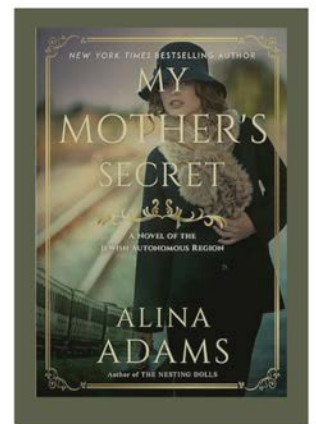


**THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 | 1PM, \$25**

### **My Mother's Secret**

**Discussed by  
the author:  
Alina Adams**

**Sponsored by:**



**IN PERSON, REGISTER HERE:  
[BEBY.ORG/EVENT/LITDEC14](https://beby.org/event/litdec14)**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR SESSION 4 - JAN 18**



upcoming

2023/2024

# BOOK EVENTS



## BOOKS & BAGELS

Members \$5 / Non Members \$10

**Sun, Dec 3 - 10 AM**

**Holocaust Lumber** - Allan Rosenfeld

*Sponsored by Forestview*

**Sun, March 3 - 10 AM**

**The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton** - Andrew Porwancher

*Sponsored by Forestview*

**Sun, April 14 - 10 AM**

**There was a Time for Everything**

Judith Friedland

*Sponsored by Aspira Retirement Living*

## LUNCH & LITERATURE

\$25 per session / Light lunch served

**Thurs, Dec 14 - 1 PM**

**My Mother's Secret** - Alina Adams

*Sponsored by Four Elms*

**Thurs, Jan 18 - 1 PM**

**The Postcard** - Anne Berest

*Sponsored by Chartwell Constantia*

**Thurs, Feb 15 - 1 PM**

**Home Safe** - Mitch Consky

*Sponsored by Mosaic Home Care*

**Thurs, April 4 - 1 PM**

**Signal Fires** - Dani Shapiro

*Sponsored by Baycrest & 2 Neptune*

Thank you!  
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LIBRARY COMMITTEE  
Register at [beby.org](http://beby.org) or call 416-633-3838





**NEW**

**FOR 2023/24**



**SUNDAYS**  
**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**PJ Program**  
**1.5 – 3**  
**years old**

**JK/SK CLASS**  
**OCTOBER**  
**THRU MAY**

**JK – 6**  
**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program**

Experiential Curriculum ● Tefilot/Torah ● Hebrew reading  
Holidays ● Shinshinim engagement



Beth Emeth Synagogue



Contact us for registration or information  
416-633-3838/schooldirector@beby.org

[www.beby.org/abcschool](http://www.beby.org/abcschool)

# ALEPH BEIT CHADASH

"Me La'donai I Elay נִי לְאֲדוֹנֵי אֱלֹהִי – Whoever believes in G-d come to me"

That is what Judah the Maccabee shouted before getting ready for the fight of his life to survive as a Jew. The power of this small group was that they were united as one. To be accepted to this group you needed to be Jew. And just like them, we find ourselves over and over needing to be united in our identity; to fight back and to win.

At school we are learning about Chanukah, from the basic story about Judah and Beit Hamikdash, to the understanding of the glory of the people that fought back.

Our students are really enjoying regular opportunities with the Shinshinim learning about Israel. They are learning to love the land of Israel, the history of the country and its people.

Our teachers deliver a dynamic and upgraded curriculum. The Shinshinim have joined our school with a separate experiential, hands-on curriculum devoted to the study of Israel. Our Family Day activities, in collaboration with Beth David, are now open to all members of the synagogue with school aged children.

Our on-line learning continues as an enrichment vehicle and our plan is to include more lessons around Hebrew reading practice. We now offer a new class with PJ Library for children 18 months to 3 years. The next semester will start in January. To register please follow the link. Grades 4-7 visit the sanctuary on Sundays to learn about their connection to the synagogue.

In our ongoing effort to bring school to shul, this year we've added more programs such as the "Shabbat Box" program. We've had a number of successful events. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next exciting program!

I invite you and your family to join our pre-Chanukah party **Sunday, December 3 at 4:30 PM** that will include magic, sufganyiot and much more.

Starting January 2024 we will be offering a new Shabbat program for families combining the sanctuary service with a family activity, Shinshinim engagement and a hot lunch. Watch our e-blasts and website (Youth & Family> Upcoming events) for details.

Our power is in our unity, we need to stay together as Jews, as a community!  
In Ivrit we say: *Yachd Nenatzeach יַחַד נִנְצָח* (together we will win)

Hope to see you soon,

Avivit Yoffe  
Family Engagement Director  
Principal Aleph Beit Chadash Hebrew School



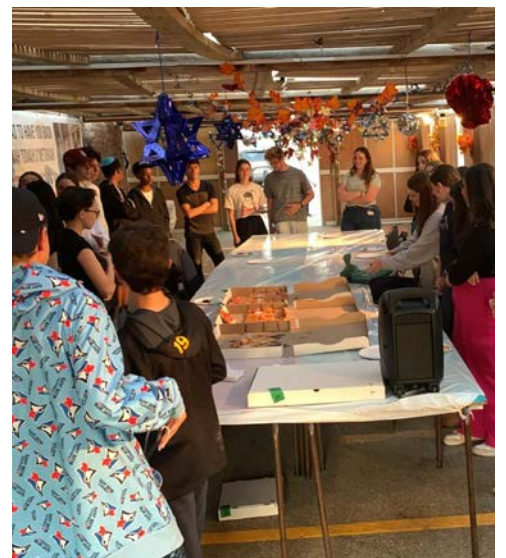
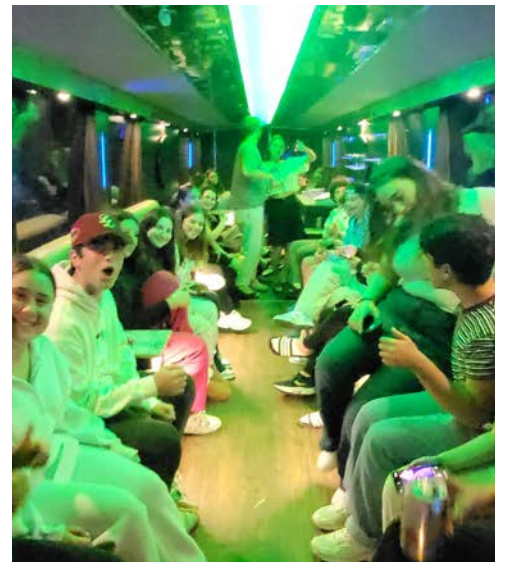






# TEEN SUKKAH HOP

On Tuesday, October 3 many teens from Beth Emeth, Adath Israel, Beth Tikvah and Beth David joined with the Shinshinim for a limo Sukkah hop. There was dinner, activities and lots of fun! We look forward to having more teens join us in the future!







# **NEW!** FAMILY shabbat

Start with a taste of the sanctuary  
followed by a family friendly activity  
with our Shinshinim  
and then a hot lunch!

Saturday January 20th 10:30am - family scavenger hunt

Saturday February 24th 10:30am - tbd

Saturday April 13th 10:30am - tbd

register here: 

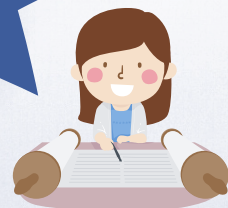
[beby.org/event/shabbatfamily](http://beby.org/event/shabbatfamily)





# Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

2024/5784



## MY JEWISH CONNECTION

Our program will address our individual connection to Jewish history, traditions, community and Israel.

Students will meet Tuesdays at 6:30PM for a light dinner and a discussion group.

Various guests will join us throughout the sessions.

**TUESDAYS 6:30PM - 8:30PM**  
**JANUARY 16 - MARCH 5 2024**



MAZEL  
TOV!

**register here:**

[beby.org/form/bnaimitzvahprogram.html](https://beby.org/form/bnaimitzvahprogram.html)



# SHABBAT BOX FAMILY PROGRAM

We held the young families Shabbat box program on Sunday, November 19. Families went around to different stations to create a Shabbat box with all the various staples for Shabbat - Kiddush cup, challah cover, candle stick holders. Fun was had by all! We look forward to seeing you at our next family event!





# ROSH HASHANAH RECAP

On Sunday, September 10 we hosted many members (and non members!) for an exciting Welcoming Rosh Hashanah event. Rabbi Yonah Vilenkin from the Interactive Jewish Education Centre, joined us and brought the bees! A great time was had by all.





TO OUR FRIENDS  
AT BETH EMETH

Happy  
Chanukah  
CHAG SAMEACH!



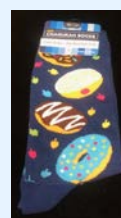
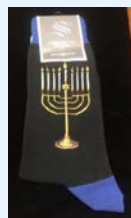
*The Wierzbniaker Society*



*The Farband of  
Lithuania Society*

To make an  
appointment  
call Ilene  
647-884-7974

## BEBY GIFT SHOP



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GIFTS!





**HAPPY**  
*Hanukkah*

**Michael Kerzner**  
MPP - York Centre

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🌐 [www.michaelkerznermpp.ca](http://www.michaelkerznermpp.ca)




**purim/pesach  
kesher**

**WE'D LOVE TO SHARE YOUR NEWS!**

If any members would like to share recent births, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, nachas announcements - please email Sari at [sari@beby.org](mailto:sari@beby.org)

**Deadline to submit:**  
**Thursday, February 29**




## Save 25% off your next event at Beth Emeth

Book your event between December and March and save 25% off food & beverages. Apex Kosher Catering is a COR-certified full-service caterer, offering the best gourmet menu items, and years of event planning experience.

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416-901-5044 ext. 1

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue  
100 Elder St, North York, Ontario, M3H5G7





# HAPPY CHANUKAH

A blue dreidel with Hebrew letters is tilted diagonally across the frame. Several gold coins, some embossed with a menorah, are scattered around it on a light-colored surface.

**416-901-5044 x1**  
**info@apexkoshercatering.com**

**APEX**  
KOSHER CATERING

# BROTHERHOOD SEFER HAFTARAH

## PLEDGE FORM

Beth Emeth is fortunate to have a beautiful Haftorah scroll. Haftorah readers may elect to read from this scroll on Shabbat or holidays. Consider dedicating a Haftorah in honour or memory of a loved one.

### **REMAINING HAFTARAH**

#### **SHEMOT**

- Mishpatim
- Vayekhel (Ashkenazic)
- Vayekhel (Sephardic)
- Pikudei

#### **BAMIDBAR**

- Bamidbar
- Pinchas
- Mattot

#### **HOLIDAYS**

- Yom Kippur morning
- Sukkot Day 1
- Sukkot Day 2
- Shabbat Chol Hamoed Sukkot
- Zachor
- Ha Chodesh
- Pesach Day 1
- Pesach Day 2
- Chol Hamoed Pesach
- Pesach Day 7
- Pesach Day 8
- Shavuot Day 2
- Tisha B'Av morning
- Fast Days (afternoon)

#### **VAYIKRA**

- Tzav
- Metzora
- Acharei Mot

#### **DEVARIM**

- Devarim
- Reeh
- Ki Tavo

#### **Dedications might include the following:**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah • The anniversary of a past Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
Birth of a child/grandchild • Wedding anniversary  
Graduation • Yahrzeit or other memorial dedication  
Public service honour • Other significant milestones

### **The cost of a haftarah dedication is \$1000**

Please fill out the pledge form below and return to the synagogue office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque Enclosed

Visa/MasterCard/AMEX

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Haftarah selection: \_\_\_\_\_

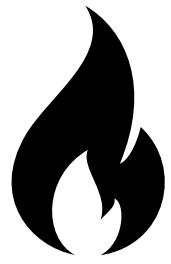
Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



# YIZKOR BOOK



This year's Yizkor Book will be published for Pesach 2024. Take this opportunity to remember your loved ones by having their names inscribed in our Yizkor Book. Please return this form to the Synagogue office.

**The deadline to submit is January 31, 2024.**

Please include the names of my loved ones in the Beth Emeth Yizkor book.

**List names as they are to appear.**

Remembered by:

---

---

---

---

In Loving Memory of:

---

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---

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**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque Enclosed

☐ Visa/MasterCard/AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Prices:**

Name Listing - \$18

1/4 page - \$90

Half page - \$180

Full page - \$360

