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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

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### SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

### **THURSDAY, MAY 25**

8:28 PM - Candle Lighting

8:30 PM - Mincha/Maariv

9:45 PM - Tikkun Leil Shavuot

### FRIDAY, MAY 26

9:00 AM - Morning services

7:00 PM - Evening services

8:29 PM - Candle Lighting (lit from a pre-existing flame)

### **SATURDAY, MAY 27**

9:00 AM - Morning services (yizkor recited)

8:15 PM - Mincha/Seudah Shlishit/Maariv

9:36 PM - Havdalah



### **TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**

Thursday, May 25 - 9:45 PM

Services - 8:30 PM followed by a light seudah

Topic - Jews by Choice: From Mount Sinai to Ruth to the stories of contemporary Jews by choice in our community

### SENIOR RABBI RABBI HOWARD MORRISON

rabbi@beby.org

### FROM SINAI TO THE PROMISED LAND

Dear Congregational Family,

The festival of Shavuot commemorates more than one theme. Many of us identify Shavuot with God's revelation at Mount Sinai. Our Sages instruct us to count the days from Passover to Shavuot, seven weeks in total, in order to connect the Exodus from Egypt to the theophany at Sinai. On the six Shabbatot between the two holidays, we traditionally study the six chapter compilation of Pirkei Avot - The teachings of the Sages, which begins with "Moses received Torah at Sinai."

Shavuot also contains an historical agricultural theme, the dedication of the Bikurim - first fruits, in ancient times. When the Tabernacle and Holy Temple existed, our ancestors were commanded to bring their first fruits in baskets to the Kohanim as part of a gratitude ceremony to God.

The origin of the first fruits ceremony appears in the book of Deuteronomy, as one of the very first rituals observed upon entering the land of Israel. A recitation of Jewish history appears which connects us to our people's earliest days, "My father was a wandering Aramean," to the moment of entering the Promised Land.

It is noteworthy that the contemporary celebrations of Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim take place as we count the days toward Shavuot. This year, we celebrate modern Israel's 75th anniversary.

In recent months, the citizens of Israel and many Diaspora Jews have demonstrated over proposed judicial reform in Israel. While some have seen these events as polarization, others have seen these events as democracy in action. Peaceful protest has won the day leading, God willing, to a Jewish unity which recognizes Ahavat Yisrael, the love for Israel, and Klal Yisrael, the totality of the Jewish people.

Every day, our shul recites the Prayer for the State of Israel, which was composed in the 1960's. It is as relevant today as it was when it was first written. It is for all Jews to celebrate, support, and cherish the State of Israel, not particular governmental ideologies.

This coming Fall, in the aftermath of modern Israel turning 75, Beth Emeth will visit our homeland for a two-week educational and spiritual tour. We will visit new and familiar sites. It is not too late to join the over twenty people who have already registered. The itinerary and registration material can be found on the Beth Emeth website.

During the Pesach-Omer-Shavuot season, I encourage US all to deepen our commitment to our heritage, which was revealed to us during this Spring season. I further encourage us to deepen our commitment to the People, State, and Land of Israel. We understand the perils of history when we have not been sovereign in our homeland. We must never take Israel for aranted, and we must show to ourselves and the world around us our love for our ancestral home.

I wish us all Chag Sameach in anticipation of Shavuot.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Howard Morrison

## PRESIDENT STEPHEN WERGER



president@beby.org

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It seems as just yesterday that I wrote my Passover article. Well, Shavuot is now upon us.

Shavuout celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai as well as the grain harvest for the summer. In biblical times, Shavuot was one of three pilgrimage festivals in which all the Jews would go to Jerusalem and bring their first fruits as offerings to God. Today we celebrate Shavuout by studying throughout the night, or for some of us, until we fall asleep, around 11 PM.

In this article I will follow up as best I can from my previous comments. We are focused on finding a Spiritual Engagement Director. By the time you read this, we will have had a second candidate at BEBY. We are hopeful that our search will be successful.

On a very positive note, we have hired a Director of Family Engagement, Avivit Yoffe, who will bring tremendous energy, knowledge and enthusiasm to BEBY.

When members reach out to me, they have two issues/concerns: quality/quantity of Kiddush and the need for a chazzan. Over the past few months, we have welcomed Cantor Adam Frei, yet many of you are not attending Shabbat services as we had hoped.

As for Kiddush, we continue to make changes and adjustments to our offering. Please join us on Shabbat. Please sponsor a Kiddush to honour a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just because.

Our Shinshinim will be arriving soon. I encourage you to meet Omri and Sharon while they are here. This is certainly another sign Beth Emeth is back to normal. Our Shinshinim have always enlightened us with their views of Israel. If you are interested in hosting one of them please let me know.

Our strategic plan has been completed. We are currently working on an implementation plan. I am sure when you read Board Chair Miriam Ziegler-Goldberg's article, she will provide more detail. Currently we are planning on a townhall meeting to inform our members what we are hoping to achieve and how the plan will be implemented. Details will be announced shortly.

Our first Women's Minyan mincha service in several years was extremely successful with over 20 participants. A great job by all those participated. I wish I could say I look forward to the next service, but they won't let me in! Watch the weekly e-blasts for future dates.

We continue to have daily minyanim, although we NEED your help with afternoon/evening services. Please make a pleage to yourself to try and attend a minyan. People are saying kaddish and our attendance is a small mitzvah we can perform.

We are in the process of putting into place a major campaign to raise funds. So, if you would like to get an early start and make a major donation - or a minor one, please contact Candace or myself!

The days of Shavuout are traditionally celebrated by studying Torah all night (or late into the night), eating dairy products, attending synagogue, reading the Book of Ruth, and abstaining from work. As we approach the day of receiving Torah, please join us at BEBY and help us rejoice in celebrating. A schedule of Shavuot services can be found in this issue of the Kesher and on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, as always, feel free to contact me.

On behalf of my family, Chag Shavuout Sameach

Steve Werger President@beby.org

### BOARD CHAIR MIRIAM ZIEGLER -GOLDBERG

chair@beby.org

I was reviewing past Kesher articles and noticed that in the 2022 Kesher article I wrote that the Board was in the middle of its Strategic Planning Process. I am please to inform you that the Strategic Plan is complete. We are targeting June 15, 2023, for a Town Hall meeting to share the plan with our members. This plan will provide the roadmap for a detailed implementation plan. I want to thank our members once again for their participation in surveys, interviews and focus groups. Your input is reflected throughout the Strategic Plan.

The Town Hall meeting will go into greater detail about the Strategic Plan and next steps; however, I would like to share with you the five overarching goals that have been identified:

- 1. Vibrant and welcoming shul.
- 2. Strong leadership and governance.
- 3. Relevant programming.
- 4. Expanded reach.
- 5. Sustainable funding.

With respect to goal #2 - Strong leadership enable and governance, to strona leadership the Board has been actively engaged in leadership development and team building. Additionally, as mentioned in previous Kesher articles, governance is a key of the new Constitution component currently under development. A general meeting is targeted for Spring 2024 to allow members to vote on the new Constitution. One of the key governance items that will be articulated in the new Constitution will be the roles and responsibilities of the Board.

In this Kesher you will find the Board Nomination Form. The most common question is, as a Board Director what are my roles and responsibilities? The overall mandate of the Board is to set strategic direction and provide oversight of the Synagogue. Board Directors have the following responsibilities:

- Determine the Synagogue's vision, mission, and purpose. It is the Board's responsibility to create and review a statement of vision, mission and purpose that articulates the Synagogue's goals, means, and primary stakeholders served.
- Select the Executive Director and ensure succession planning.

- Support and evaluate the Executive Director. Ensure that the Executive Director has the moral and professional support he or she needs to further the goals of the Synagogue
- Ensure effective Synagogue planning. Actively participate in an overall strategic planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring the plan's goals.
- Establish Synagogue policy, including, matters relating to core Synagogue religious, social, cultural values and objectives.
- Determine which programs are consistent with the Synagogue's mission and monitor their effectiveness.
- Ensure adequate financial resources for the Synagogue to fulfill its mission. Board members participate in fundraising and contribute financially to the Synagogue to the best of their ability.
- Protect assets and provide financial fiscal oversight. Assist in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.
- Build a competent Board. Articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate its own performance.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity. The Board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
- Enhance the Synagogue's public standing. As a Board member you are an ambassador for the Synagogue.
- Speak with one voice and maintain confidentiality. As a Board member you are required to participate in the decision-making process, but once a decision is made, regardless of your opinion, the Board speaks with one voice.

- Now that you have reviewed the responsibilities you may be asking yourself, "So what's in it for me (WIFM)?" Here is just a sampling of the benefits of being a Board Director:
- Make an impact in your Synagogue. You already know there are many ways to give back to your Synagogue, but joining the Board maximizes your impact and supports a cause whose mission aligns with your beliefs.
- You will have an experience that enriches your resume. You will learn new skills.
- You will meet interesting people who will add to your sphere of influence. People who join boards are people who have chosen to get off the bench and onto the field. You will be enriched by being in their company.
- You will stretch your intellectual and emotional muscles. Board service allows you to bring your full self to the table. Your emotional connection to the work, your commitment to the Synagogue, your life experience, skills, and good judgement.
- Your will learn how to ask for money through training and fundraising.
- You will learn patience and enrich your emotional intelligence. Board members are smart and passionate people. They make observations, some brilliant, some not so much. You will learn patience as you wade through it.
- You will part of group that is trying to ensure that the Synagogue has value to offer the next generation I'dor v'dor.

If you want additional information, please feel free to reach out to myself, any Board member, and/or our Nomination Chair - Malcolm Weinstein. If you feel you are not ready to join the Board, consider joining, chairing or starting a committee.

I would like to thank our dedicated Board and Committee members for their commitment, dedication, and hard work, as always it is an honour and pleasure to work with all of you.

On behalf of my husband Brian and my family I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Shavout.

Miriam Ziegler-Goldberg

The most dangerous phrase in the language is, "We've always done it this way" - Admiral Grace Hopper

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RICK GOLDBERG

mdsc@beby.org

BEBY is bustling.

Every day of the week, at all times of the day, there is something going on. Flip through the pages of this Kesher, check out our e-blast, scroll through the website, and you'll read about all the amazing programming that we have for everyone. Amazing community Shabbat dinners, guest speakers, scholars in residence, Torah study, educational events, social events, and more. You can say there's something for everyone, but really there are many somethings for everyone.

Envisioning, planning, and executing these events takes enormous time and effort. My heartfelt thanks go out to the amazing volunteers and staff who make all of this possible. But the truth is, there's so much more we want to do.

We want to do more to engage new members. We want to engage university age members. We want to re-engage long time members. We want to bring more people into the building. We want to take some programs out of the building. We want to run joint programs with the broader community. And I'm sure everyone reading this has a long list of programs you would love to see and initiatives you know will help grow our community.

In order to make all those things happen we need YOU!

I know, I know. You'd love to help but you're so busy. I get it, I really do. How can we find time in our week to help build our community?

There is a custom that every Shabbat between Pesach and Rosh Hashana one studies Pirkei Avot - The Ethics of our Sages. One of the bestknown passages is from Hillel (Avot 1:14):

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?

Many have pointed to that middle phrase as the reason to volunteer your time for the community. Granted, there's some good Jewish guilt embedded in there. And hey, Jewish guilt has led many people to do many amazing things. But I'll leave the Jewish guilt to your parents. I prefer to look at that first line:

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?"

When I give my time to BEBY, I'm not giving that time solely for the benefit of others. I'm giving that time to help build the community I want to be a part of. A community that will give back to me in ways I need. By helping to build that, I'm getting far more out than I'm putting in. Volunteering my time is my way of "being for myself".

So maybe (with apologies to Hillel) the way to understand Avot 1:14 is:

If I am not for BEBY, then who will build the community I need?

And if I am only for myself, how can I expect others to build that community?

And if not now, when?

So, let me call you all to action. Don't be shy. Reach out to me. Reach out to anyone on the board. Reach out to the office. Reach out to any committee member.

Offer to come out to one committee meeting. Share one idea. Give one hour of your time to help implement an idea. I know you'll quickly see that you get out much more than you put it.

One hour of your time might not seem like it will make a big difference, but in the words of Pirkei Avot (2:21)

It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to stand aside from it.

On behalf of everyone who contributes to the amazing work of the Membership Development Steering Committee, I wish you all a Chag Shavuot Sameach.

Rick

Honour your loved ones and family milestones with a breakfast or kiddush sponsorship at Beth Emeth.

Visit beby.org/sponsorships

# DIRECTOR CANDACE VOGEL



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"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about"
-Margaret J. Wheatley

In the last edition of the Kesher, I shared my excitement about our then-upcoming partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women as the home of this year's Passover Food Drive. While we were happy to provide the space, we really didn't know what to expect.

Over the course of two and a half weeks, hundreds of volunteers of all ages and religious backgrounds came through our doors and wrapped candles, packed boxes, made greeting cards and ultimately delivered 3000 packages to families in need.

A number of Beth Emeth's groups (or micro-communities as I like to call them) including the Chesed Knitters, Out of the Cold Volunteers and our office staff contributed time to this most worthwhile endeavour. It was truly heart-warming to watch and better still, be part of, this extraordinary initiative- an example of communities working together toward a shared goal.

Since the High Holidays, we have hosted a number of Shabbat dinners, either themed (Empty-Nesters, Young Families, New Members) or to welcome guest scholars or candidates. Many of the same people have attended these dinners, inadvertently creating a new micro-community within our larger Beth Emeth family. If you haven't yet attended one of these dinners, I encourage you to do so. There's always room for more.

Just before Pesach, I had the opportunity to the NAASE (North American travel to Association Synagogue Executives) of Conference for the first time. Talk about community! This was an amazing gathering of 80 EDs from shuls all over the U.S. and four from Canada. It was a fabulous opportunity to connect with colleagues who are deeply committed to synagogue life and growth, sharing our challenges (lots) and successes (less...but still sweet) along with meaningful conversation and exploration of new ideas.

In addition to a variety of interest-driven breakout sessions, we heard several lectures by top-notch presenters. Two speakers of note were Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal (of the USCJ and the Rabbinic Assembly), and Lou Mongello (author, coach, motivational speaker and a Walt Disney Word expert, too). Despite their very different perspectives, both addressed the topic of creating experiences and agreed that these should be positive, engaging and memorable.

Beth Emeth is **your** home, **your** community and our doors are always open to you-whether you're a regular minyan attendee or you come to the occasional program. There are so many different ways to get involved, meet new people and share interests. In the spirit of Shavuot, why not try something new?

I look forward to seeing you at shul.

Wishing you and yours a Chag Shavuot Sameach,
Candace



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS COMING

We will be sending your membership renewal out in the coming weeks by mail.

Keep a look out!

### **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.beby.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

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.

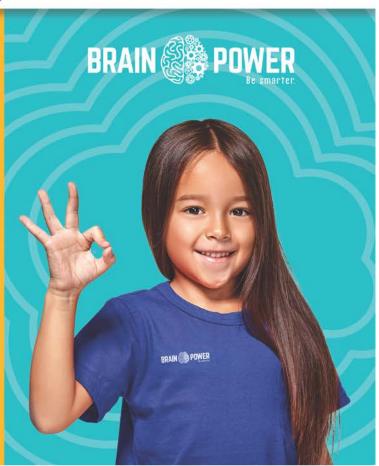
Take a moment and check out our web site.

https://pomegranateguild.ca

### Fun-Filled Summer Programs in 2023 And full-year Programs in 2023/24

60% of bright students underachieve...





### WE CAN CHANGE THIS!

Every day, the potential of bright children goes unnoticed and undeveloped. In fact, 60% of bright students underachieve based on their potential and grow at a slower rate than their peers.

For over 30-years, families have trusted our team of PhDs and experts to provide challenge, stimulation, community, inspiration and fun to high-potential students. Our Language Arts, Public Speaking, and Math & Problem Solving programs are highly engaging! We are thrilled to share that Brain Power Enrichment Programs has a campus at the beautiful Prosserman JCC Campus in North York!

For more information, please email us at info@brainpower.ca





### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS



Mazel Tov to Paige (Yardana) Fletcher, daughter of Jayme & Martine Fletcher, sister to Leah Fletcher, granddaughter of Frances & Jonathan Isaacs.

Mazel Tov to Libby Temin-Beligan, daughter of Noemi Toiber Temin & Mihai Beligan, sister to Orly Temin-Beligan.

Mazel Tov to Eve Budek, daughter of Terri and David ז״ל Budek, sister to Zoe Budek. Granddaughter of Alan & Elaine Frysh. Great-granddaughter of Natie Maister.

Mazel Tov to Jeremy Leinwand, son of Dan & Caren Leinwand, brother to Ezra. Grandson of Joseph & Barbara Leinwand and Alan & Elaine Frysh. Great-grandson of Natie Maister.

Mazel Tov to Hayden Diker, son of Paul & Hailey Diker, brother of Avery Diker, grandson of Anne Diker and Marius Markus and Harry Diker 7", and Ruthe and Mel Morris 7". Great-grandson of Jack 7" and Masha Diker 7", Sam 7" and Mary Awronski 7", Bernard 7" and Freda Morris 7" and Ben 7" and Estelle Axelrod 7".

Mazel Tov to Ryan Feifer, son of Andrew & Michelle Feifer. Grandson of Jerry and Sarah Chizick and Gerry "" and Sherry "" Feifer. Brother to Jack Feifer and Julia Feifer. Greatgrandmother (Safta) of Leah Politzer.

Mazel Tov to Maya Boltiansky, daughter of Nicole & Arie Boltiansky, sister to Ethan and Aaron. Granddaughter of Debbie and Frank Myers and Frida and Michael Boltiansky.

Mazel Tov to Colton Moness, son of Corrin & Mark Moness. Grandson of Irene Lantos and Ethel Landy. Brother to Madelyn and Blake Moness.

Mazel tov to Nathan Tzurkov, son of Albert & Elise Tzurkov, grandson of Les & Rona Priemer and Simon & Luda Tzurkov, great-grandson to Pauline Priemer. Brother to Leya and Owen Tzurkov.

Mazel tov to Matthew Anisman, son of Sharon & Ron Anisman, brother to Rachel, Alexandra and Madison, Grandson of Ann & Sol Goldkind and Sonia 7"7 and Arthur Anisman 7"7.

Mazel Tov to Caia Potash, daughter of Lorne & Sherrie Potash, granddaughter of Elizabeth Potash and Morley Potash 7"7



Mazel Tov to William Zosky on the engagement of his granddaughter, Lauren Zosky, to Shane Gould. Proud parents are Helen & Malcolm Zosky and Janet & Jeff Gould.

Mazel Tov to Debbie & Larry Weinberg on the engagement of their daughter, Ariel, to Shawn Pludwinski, son of Shelly & Irv Pludwinski. Granddaughter of Nellie and Meyer ז״ל Pearl.

Mazel tov to Maytal Cuperfain, daughter of Joel Cuperfain and Susan Belisowski, to Aharon Korobkin son of Rabbi Daniel and Rebbetzin Karen Korobkin on their engagement.

Granddaughter of Reni and David Cuperfain, and Jerry and Evie Stein, niece of Michele Cuperfain and Ronnie and Elise Cuperfain.



Mazel Tov to Michael & Martine Pacht on the wedding of their son Austin Pacht, to Rachel Gerber, daughter of Bryan & Davida Gerber. Grandson of Emma Jenah and Elie Jenah זייל, sam זייל and Rose Pacht זייל and granddaughter of Morris זייל and Grace Freedman זייל and Shirley Gerber זייל.



Mazel Tov to William Zosky on his 97th birthday, with love from his family.

Mazel tov to Larry & Sarah Yarmus on their 50th wedding anniversary May 22nd.

Mazel Tov to Ezra Goldberg, grandson of Gloria & Eric Goldberg, son of Raquel & Jason Goldberg, on placing first in the Canadian Chidon HaTanach Bible Contest and being named Chatan HaTanach. Ezra will compete in the International Bible Contest next Yom Haatzmaut in Israel.

Mazel Tov to Karen & Marty Rice on their daughter Goldie Rice's graduation from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts, in Political Science and Criminal Justice and Public Policy.

Mazel Tov to Noah Springer, who will be graduating from the University of Toronto Law School with Distinction on June 14th. Proud parents are Leslie Lerer & Jeff Springer, grandparents Ellen & Syd Lerer, Sandy Lerer and Henry ז״ל and Shirley ז״ל Springer. He will begin his law career in New York in September.

### BEREAVEMENTS

- Larry Kwinter ז"ל son of Simmie Kwinter
- Raquel Benitah 7"7 mother of Isaac Benitah
- Esther Maicas 7"7 sister of Yvonne Dadoun
- Cele Steinberg ז"ל mother of Ellen Hollend
- Nella Kirby ז"ל
- Mildred "Bubbles" Levin ז"ל mother of Marlon Levin
- Zelda Rosenfeld 7"7
- Wilfred Frysh ז״ל father of Alan Frysh

- Irving Babb ז״ל
- Zel Gutzin ז"ל, father of Wilf Gutzin
- Aubie Himmel ז"ל, brother of Hy Himmel
- Tona Abrams 7"7, sister of Manny Putter
- Stanley Rosen ז״ל, brother of Ian Rosen
- Ronda Minster "7", wife of Abraham Minster
- Michael Feldman '7", husband of Sue Feldman
- Miriam Gangbar ז״ל, wife of Stanley
   Gangbar

May their memories be for a blessing

### **IN MEMORIAM**



**Aubish Himmel** 

Our Beth Emeth community recently lost a past president and devoted volunteer of many, many years. Aubish Himmel "" passed away on April 20. Whether you knew him as Aubish, Aubie, Albert, Al or by any other name, you knew that he was committed to our shul and could be relied upon to take on any task that came his way. In addition to his time as synagogue president (1985 to 1987) as well as the roles he took on as he ascended the presidential ladder (1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), Aubish sat as a member of the Board of Governors and chaired many committees and was an active member of the Chesed Committee where he brought comfort to bereaved families.

Together with his late wife Lorraine ז״ל, a dedicated Beth Emeth volunteer in her own right, Aubish chaired the Catering Committee and prepared breakfast for many Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and other events for many years. Of course, catering and meal preparation came naturally to Aubish and Lorraine, having owned and operated The Murray House, Toronto's largest kosher catering venue.

But there was more to Aubish's dedication than just taking on his various leadership roles. Aubish always understood the need to develop future leaders at Beth Emeth and would take younger and upcoming Board and committee members under his wing and guide them to their own successes and future leadership roles within the shul. That is the legacy of a true leader.

We extend our deepest condolences to Aubish's children, Andi, Cheryl, and Michael, to his grandchildren, TJ, Kelly, and Hunter and to his brother and sister-in-law, Hy and Ebie.

May Aubish's memory be for a blessing.

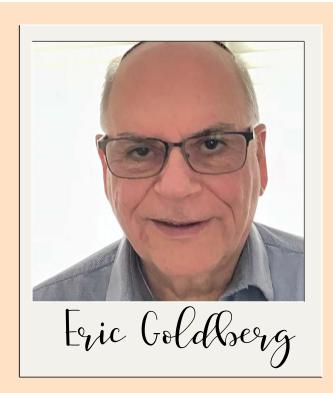
# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Volunteers are a critical to the success of many organizations, and we are no exception. Beth Emeth is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers, who make significant contributions to our shul community.

We are delighted to reintroduce our Volunteer-of-the-Month feature, recognizing the contributions of some of the wonderful people who truly make a different at BEBY.

It is entirely fitting that the first person in this new series be Eric Goldberg.



Eric has served as a volunteer at Beth Emeth for over 50 years! He has served as President and chaired virtually every committee and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Ritual Committee. Eric is a stalwart minyan attendee and can always be counted on to help with the davening.

We are incredibly grateful to Eric for always stepping up. Kol Hakavod!

**MAY 2023** 





Out of the Cold volunteers helping pack candles for the Pesach Food drive for the National Council of Jewish Women.









Our next minyan will take place

Saturday, June 17 - 5:00 PM

# 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!

### BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION – <u>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023</u> INVITATION FOR CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS

Dear Member:

This is an invitation to Members with an interest in becoming a candidate for election as an Officer or Director of the Synagogue to indicate such interest to the Nominations Committee. The following positions will be voted upon: (a) President (b) Three Vice-Presidents; and (c) Seven seats on the Board of Directors.

A nomination form is enclosed. This form requires the signatures of the proposed candidate and seven other synagogue members in good standing. **Deadline for submission of nomination forms to the synagogue office is 2:00 pm Friday, October 6, 2023.** Nomination forms should be returned to the attention of Malcolm Weinstein, Chair-Nominations Committee.

The qualifications for holding office of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue are as follows:

- President: In addition to the qualifications for eligibility to serve on the Board, a
  candidate lection to the office of President shall have served for no less than four years
  as follows: a)Two years as a Director of the synagogue and b) Two years as a member
  of the Executive Committee
- Vice-President: In addition to the qualifications for eligibility to serve on the Board, a candidate for election to the office of Vice-President shall have served no less than two years as a Director of the Synagogue.
- Directors: All directors and officers must be members in good standing, and must have been a member for not less than one year prior to the date of election and otherwise be lawfully entitled to act as director of a corporation.

If you wish to be considered for the role of Treasurer or Secretary (appointed positions) please indicate your interest to myself, at the address below or by calling the office.

If more information or clarification is required, please contact Malcolm Weinstein, Chair-Nomination Committee by e-mail at <a href="mailto:pastprez@beby.org">pastprez@beby.org</a>.

Yours truly,

Malidm Weinstein

Malcolm Weinstein
Chair, Nominations Committee

### BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE - NOMINATION FORM

This document or any facsimile thereof shall be used as a nomination form for Members in good standing of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue ("BEBY") who wish to run for a seat on the Board of Directors or run for the office of President or Vice President of BEBY at the 2023 General Meeting to be held on November 12, 2023. A nomination will require the signatures of the proposed candidate and seven (7) other Members in Good Standing. The deadline for submitting nomination forms to the Nominations Committee (Malcolm Weinstein, Chairman) in respect of a candidate for the elections is 2:00 pm. October 6. 2023

The undersigned Member in Good Standing of BEBY wishes to put his/her name forward as a candidate for the office noted next to his/her name at the upcoming Annual

Date

Name:

X

Date

Name:

X

Name:

Name:

Name:

X

Name:

Date



One of the biggest lessons learned from the past several years is that we all need to adapt and pivot as changes dictate. We can measure our success by our growth, and at Aleph Beit Chadash Hebrew School we have had a very successful year.

We initiated two programs in response to what families said they wanted from Hebrew school as identified through our participation in Federation's research last year. Family engagement has been prioritized through our collaborative Family Day Activity programs with the supplementary Hebrew school at Beth David Synagogue. These programs have included cooking together, creating tzedakah projects to help the homeless, making candles and learning about Israel from games and activities organized by the Shinshinim. We recently launched an online component of learning for our Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah class to provide students the opportunity to explore more deeply areas of study that they had been exposed to through their classwork. Students shared their new learning about the Holocaust, antisemitism, Israel Innovation and the War of Independence. We will continue to build on both of these new activities next year.

While many supplementary Hebrew schools around the city saw a decline in their numbers, we enjoyed a modest increase and fielded inquiries about expanding our program to include Kindergarten-aged children. We are excited to announce that we will be opening a play and arts-based kindergarten program this Fall for children ages 4 and 5. We strive to teach Jewish values by making the stories from our history relevant to students in their daily lives. Students learn to appreciate their heritage and the traditions that are rooted in traditional Judaism, as well as learn prayers and basic vocabulary and read Hebrew.

This year we celebrate Israel's 75th year - what a wonderful milestone! At Aleph Beit Chadash students are inspired to advocate for and support Israel. We believe in building leaders for a strong Jewish community that is rooted in education and commitment to our Jewish Homeland.

The greatest contribution you can make to our Jewish community is giving your child a Jewish education. We are currently experiencing a significant rise in antisemitism globally and right here in our own city. Our children need tools to understand the climate of our communities and to connect to Am Israel so that they can stand tall and proud to be part of the Jewish people. Aleph Beit Chadash is dedicated to connecting children to our history and ensuring a strong, future Jewish generation.

Register your children now to reserve a spot in our exciting, engaging and enriching program.

Chag Sameach! We wish everyone a great summer and we look forward to meeting you and your children or grandchildren early in the fall.



Learning about Israel and water solutions



**Israel Day Tote bags** 





### Introducing...

We are excited to introduce and welcome our new Director of Family Engagement, Avivit Yoffe.

Avivit is an ex-pat Israeli who has lived in the GTA for more than 16 years. She has extensive teaching experience in both Hebrew Day and supplementary schools; as well as curriculum writing, family and youth programming and program development. She has held roles at Associated Hebrew School, Beit Rayim Synagogue and School, Bialik, and Adath Israel.

As a passionate educator and leader, Avivit is committed to delivering engaging and interactive programming for families and young people of all ages. Though she's made Canada her home, Avivit always brings a touch of Israel to her work.

In addition to developing and leading our Family programming, Avivit will serve as Principal of our Aleph Bet Chadash school, lead our Bat/Bar Mitzvah program and act as Shinshinim Supervisor.

Avivit and her husband, Eddie, are parents to three sons.

To connect with Avivit, you can email her at family@beby.org or schooldirector@beby.org

# ALEPH, Beit CHADASH

HEBREW SCHOOL

24 SUNDAYS
OCTOBER
THRU MAY

NEW
FOR 2023/24!
JK/SK
classes!

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

JK - Grade 6

Experiential Curriculum Tefilot/Torah Hebrew reading
Holidays Shinshinim engagement





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

### BEBY BOOMERS



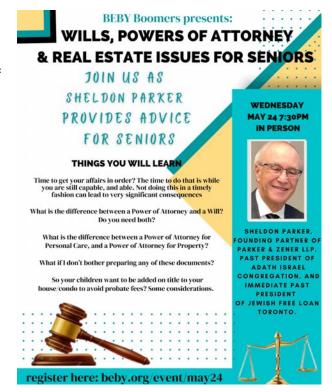
Spring is blooming and for the BEBY Boomer's it means renewal and planning for innovative in person programs for our synagogue members. As the Covid situation is much improved, we are anticipating hosting many programs in person at the synagogue. In the past few years we have tried to provide you with programs that included issues of wellness, fitness, religion, theatre and much more.

We are excited to inform you of our exciting upcoming in person programs which are for your enjoyment and interest:

### Wednesday, May 24 - 7:30 PM

Sheldon Parker, retired lawyer will enlighten us with what we should know about Wills, Power of Attorney, and Real Estate Issues for Seniors.





### Sunday, June 11 - 10:30 AM

Anne Balaban is the acclaimed author of the book "Common Sense is Uncommon", renowned speaker, educator, and an award recipient from the Brilliant Minded Women of Canada. Anne's presentation will comfort, delight and inspire.

Both these programs will be facilitated by individuals of knowledge and expertise. Plan to schedule these two programs on your agenda.

From our committee to all of you and your families, we wish you a Chag Sameach.

Marlene White & Ruth Gilbert Boomers Co-Chairs

### FJMC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Join Your Friends-Bring Your Family

Register Online at www.FJMCconvention.org

or scan QR Code: 回玩法





Questions???

Contact Bruce Martin
(416) 918-7486 | bruce@attitudecommunications.com

or contact: convention@fjmc.org

### CHESED KNITTERS

Where can you calm your thoughts but keep your mind active? Where can you refresh old talents and learn new ones? And where can you sit, have a coffee and solve all the world's problems? Every Monday morning in the library, of course, at 10:00 until 11:30 with our Chesed Knitters! We have grown to be a community based, inter-faith group from across the GTA and beyond. Some who are unable to meet with us in person still continue to send us their beautiful creations, and the remarkable people who make up our group are so productive that we can regularly send large shipments of blankets, hats, and cowls to the Linus project for kids in hospitals and shelters and to a community in the far north of Ontario. Although Hats for Soldiers is no longer operating, we are sending hats to the IDF with the synagogue group that is travelling to Israel in October.

Everyone is welcome to join us regardless of your knitting or crocheting skill level. If you have acrylic yarn (not wool) that you wish to donate, we will gratefully accept it. We continue to meet through the summer every Monday morning in the library. Come check us out!

Happy Shavuot,
Eleanor Minuk
On behalf of the Chesed Knitters

### MARTY KESHEN CHESED COMMITTEE

Helping Shul Members and the Community

If you are interested in volunteering to help support members of Synagogue, please contact us.

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 or email us at chesed@beby.org



### CONTINUING EDUCATION

A busy time of the year for Jewish celebrations and remembrance. As we move from month to month there have been several opportunities and occasions on our calendar for joy and reflection. Coming up soon will be Shavuot. The time for all of us to remember the giving of the Commandments at Sinai. We will remember being there and feeling the power presented before us and the thrill of acceptance of the laws that govern our lives as much today as they did so long ago.

Coming together to receive our laws or bonding as a group in a room to receive knowledge is what governs our quest at Continuing Education. Sometimes our programs are best offered in person and at other times via Zoom. Regardless of the method of presentation, it is imperative among us all to make the effort to be there and get the most you can from those who are teaching and helping us to understand more.

Most recently we offered a lunch program about Dementia which was filled to capacity, followed by a wonderful lunch. Everyone came away with a greater understanding of this terrible condition and the lunch was great as well! Via Zoom in April we had Mark Shimkovitz and Greg Jizmejian explain tax planning for seniors. The message was received and we all benefitted from being there.

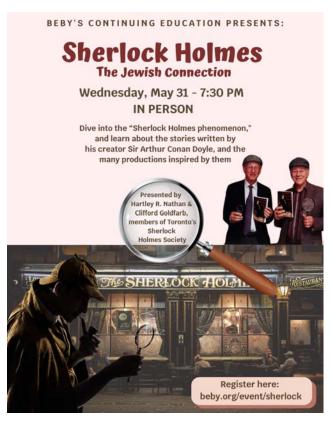
In May we will do the same, only in reverse. A Zoom presentation about the movie An American In Paris will entertain and educate you as never before. At the end of the month an in-person presentation by Hartley Nathan and Clifford Goldfarb will fill us in on Sherlock Holmes and The Jewish Connection. Both presenters belong to the Sherlock Holmes Society in Toronto.

We are planning more of these types of presentations through the coming months. If you can join us in-person we feel the experience will be worth your time. Past experience proves us right. When the program is on Zoom then make sure you are comfortable at home and we will see you on the screen. Either way you should know that being together and learning are our goals and intention. Our Committee continues to work hard for you and we appreciate your time spent with us.

Stay well and watch for updates on all of our programs.

Add us to your calendar and we will see you soon.

Perry Davis and Marlene White Co- Chairs for Continuing Education Committee



### GREENING COMMITTEE

We are so blessed to have so many environmental traditions, holiday customs and our Torah that enable and entrust us to be stewards and protectors of our earth. It is easy to make every day an Earth Day, a Yom Kadar Ha'Aretz. From Genesis 2:15 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" to Jeremiah 29:5 "Build homes and settle down, plant gardens and eat what they produce." Long before this year's Earth Day theme, our Torah gave us the blueprint and direction for environmental stewardship.

For this year's Earth Day program incorporating the world-wide theme of Invest in our Planet, Beth Emeth's Greening Committee partnered with Darchai Noam's Shomrei Adamah's Committee. Therefore, on April 23, at Beth Emeth, our Earth Day program focused on Sustainable Vegetable Gardening, with a diverse program and booklet available. Our program began with a tribute to Rabbi Kelman on the 50th Anniversary of Reena, and a thank you to Pearl Grundland for her support of this program, in loving memory of Gidon, of blessed memory, on this which would have been his 75th birthday. Gloria Boxen also paid tribute to Darchai Noam eco-heros. Pertinent tips about planting our garden, eating healthy and decreasing food waste were provided. We also showed enlightening videos of Reena's Greena's Community Farmland initiative. The highlight of the evening was Joel Troster's enjoyable recipes that began with a delicious 7 species Challah followed by salad recipes. If you missed our program and want to access these excellent tips and recipes; the booklet can be downloaded on our Greening Committee program page immediately above the advertisement for the Earth Day program. With this article is a picture of some of the participants of our program including Joel Troster, sitting in the front row. His 7 species Challah smelled and tasted absolutely delicious, a new recipe to try out and serve during our upcoming holiday of Shavuot.

We are about to roll-out Reena's Greena's Farmland Community Initiative, at both synagogues' Beth Emeth and Darchai Noam, providing our members with the opportunity to contribute to growing and eating home grown vegetables and even giving back to the community. According to Reena's Annual Report 2021-2022 p.20. "The GReena initiative provides leadership and guidance to Reena, and focuses on environmental sustainability, which improves the lives of the individuals, we support and the community they live in...The Vertically integrated Local Food Infrastructure streamlines and improves the process in which locally grown produce is harvested, transported, prepared and packaged for consumption."

On the very same evening as our program, a news report came out about the benefits of gardening for mental, physical and spiritual health. There is also more current research about how beneficial being in green spaces is. Meanwhile, in Israel, widely used in greenhouses are similar hydroponic containers. On the rooftop of the Dizengoff parking lot in Tel Aviv is an urban sustainability school and the greenhouse that grows layers of impressive rows of lettuce and basil and a living roof that collects rainwater.

Stay tuned to learn more about getting involved as we roll-out Reena's Community Farmland Initiative and newly designed containers are available to grow vegetables in for consumption, bartering or giving back to the community.

Mel and I wish you and your families improved, healing days ahead and a joyful Chag Sameach staying safe by being aware of your surroundings.



Participants in our Earth Day program

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We are closing the book on another successful year of Library programs at Beth Emeth. Slowly but surely we are building back our events and are pleased to report that, over the 11 programs we ran this year, we had more than 275 participants join us! Together we explored the impact of Jewish girls and women on many aspects of daily life; several Holocaust books; an account of the Squirrel Hill massacre (which is coming to trial at the time of writing); life inside and outside of the Ontario penal system; a secret Mossad operation to bring Jews to Israel; the healing power of music to link generations; and a tribute to a very special and wise lady. Many, many thanks to our generous sponsors: Amica Thornhill, 247 Elder, Baycrest and 2 Neptune, Chartwell Constantia, VIVA Thornhill Woods, Four Elms, Mosaic Home Care, and Forestview Retirement Home.

Next year we start Lunch and Literature in October with Wan, by Dawn Promislow, which is a beautifully written book about living in South Africa and coming to terms with life during apartheid. In November, Cynthia Goode will be talking about House on Endless Waters, in which a man discovers a pre-war picture of his parents with a child he does not know and searches to resolve the mystery, and in December Alina Adams will be speaking about her newest book, My Mother's Secret, which deals with Russia's attempt to isolate Jews in the Jewish Autonomous Region.

Our first Books and Bagels program will be on Oct. 22 when we welcome Ruth Markel to talk about her book The Unveiling, concerning the vicious murder of her son – the trial is currently moving through the American judicial system – and her experiences with grandparent alienation. In November, Debbie Levison will talk about her book The Crate, which deals with her family's discovery of a body hidden underneath her family cottage and how the event sparked her exploration of her parent's Holocaust experiences.

Our library will reopen in September. We continue to add new books, both those in our programs and others, that we know you will enjoy.

Many people are clearing out their own homes or those of family members and approach us about donating their books to the synagogue library. As much as we appreciate your thinking of us, we are focusing exclusively on building our collection of new books. However, there is an organization called Second Life Books, located not far from the synagogue, that will take used books of all kinds.

If you have a book that you would like reviewed, please contact the synagogue office and we will get back to you. If you are interested in sponsoring an event, we would be happy to arrange that as well.

Wishing everyone all the best for Shavuot and a wonderful and safe summer.

Eleanor Minuk
On behalf of the Library Committee



**Beth Emeth's Music Committee and Continuing Ed presents:** 

### A 3 part series with Mike Daley IN PERSON





### **MUSIC**

Greetings from your Music Committee

We were pleased to present two successful programs over the last month. On Chol Hamoed Pesach, we presented The Toronto Jewish Choir conducted by Cantor Judy Gershon. The program they presented was excellent and not only was it a pleasure hearing them but watching their joy in performing was an extra bonus. We will most certainly have them back! Our own committee members Andrea and David Kirshenblatt are in the Choir.

We celebrated Yom Ha'Atazmaut with another excellent choir – Shir Harmony, with Susan Michaels, formerly of Renanim Children's Choir fame. In lieu of a registration fee we asked that a non perishable item be brought which we then donated to Chasedi Kaduri Jewish Food Bank. Their program was most appropriate for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of beloved Israel. It was especially nice to be back to in person events and welcoming our members as well as the community.

We will be, in conjunction with the Continuing Education Committee, a three part Series with the ever popular Mike Daley. He will be chronicling the lives of Barbra Streisand, Carole King and Louis Armstrong. Stay tuned for the dates and further information and be sure to check you e-mails for updates.

We are excited to welcome our Shoshana Telner to our committee. Other members are Andrea and David Kirshenblatt and Eric Goldberg.

We have been brainstorming some exciting new ideas for the coming year, including a fundraising concert. So stay tuned!

On behalf of our committee, we wish you and your families Chag Sameach as we look forward to celebrating Shavuot.

Bernice Levine and Ilene Kuchinsky Co-Chairs, Music Committee





April 26 - Yom Ha'Atazmaut Shir Harmony choir



**April 10 - Chol Hamoed Pesach with Toronto Jewish Chorus** 

JEWISH MUSIC WEEK PRESENTS

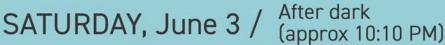
### Community Melaveh Malka

A JMW Tradition - Continuing music and fun after Shabbat!

Special Voices, TanenbaumCHAT Band, Shir Harmony hosted by Aliza Spiro

### Jewish Music Week

May 28 - June 4, 2023













TICKETS	LOCATION
FREE	Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue 100 Elder Street

### B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM













On March 2, the B'nai Mitzvah students and their families joined with Reena residents of both 40 Elway and 165 Elmridge for a Hamentaschen bake.

### B'nai Mitzvah Wrap Up Event JUNE 8 - 6PM

























We had a great turnout of young families on Sunday, March 26 for our matzah making event. The event took place at Chabad Lubavitch.

















# YOUNG FAMILY SELABBATT

with Guy Mannheim



Services at 10:30 AM Lunch to follow

May 20 June 10

Registration requested - beby.org/event/YFShabbat

# PURIM @ BEBY





WOW! What a turnout!

It was great to see over 200 people back in the building to celebrate Purim with us!



















































### **COLD BERRY FRUIT SOUP**

- 1 bag frozen berries. 16 oz
- · 2 cups apple juice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon and nutmeg
- 1 tbsp corn starch
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup sugar or to taste



- 1. Thaw frozen berries and put in saucepan and add apple juice, cinnamon and nutmeg.
- 2. Bring to a boil
- 3. Mix cornstarch in an additional 1/2 cup of apple juice
- 4. Add to berries and boil for 2 minutes.
- 5. Take off stove and add vanilla
- 6. Cool and serve in cups with a little sour cream if desired

This is a nice refreshing soup on a hot day
Chag Sameach
Rene Cuperfain and Family



## high holy day 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 by Friday, August 4.

## **FARBAND OF LITHUANIA**

Our annual Haskarah will take place on

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:00 AM

Bathurst Lawn - Section 45



## WIERZBNIKER SOCIETY

Our annual Haskarah will take place on

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:45 AM

Bathurst Lawn - Section 38



## **WEDNESDAYS**

- 7:30 8:30 PM BEGINNERS
- 8:30 9:30 PM INTERMEDIATE

\$10 cash at the door

Wear comfy shoes!

LOCATION:
BETH EMETH

CONTACT SHOSHI FOR MORE INFO 416-317-2906

## SUPERVISED CHILDCARE

Shabbat mornings starting at 9:30 AM Kids ages 1-6



## BEBY GIFT SHOP

To make an appointment call llene 647-884-7974



#### **MAHJ**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 12:30 - 3:00 PM

\$2

Coffee and tea served



#### THE SHENSHENEM ARE COMENG BACK!

Are you interested in being a HOST FAMILY?



All you need is a spare bedroom, access to a bathroom and a seat at your table

contact Candace if you are interested candace@beby.org

# Join US! ISRAEL TRIP MEETING

**SUNDAY MAY 28 AT 9:30AM** 

BREAKFAST FINAL UPDATES BEFORE SUMMER

## BETH EMETH IS GOING TO ISRAEL!

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 13

Join Rabbi Morrison in celebration of Israel's 75th!

## COMING SOON...



JUNE 23-24



FRIDAY, JUNE 23
Kabbalat Shabbat
and Dinner

SATURDAY, JUNE 24
Shabbat services and discussion class

More details to be announced

A Shabbat group discussion led by Jeff Springer

Saturday, June 17
10:30 AM Tessler Lounge

More details to be announced



# ISRAEL PICNIC

## **FRIDAY JUNE 2**

5:30 PM - KABBALAT SHABBAT

**FALAFEL** 

**ICE CREAM** 

**COTTON CANDY** 

ARTS & CRAFTS

MUSIC

**BINGO** 

**GAMES** 

#### 5:30PM

CASUAL ISRAELI SUPPER & GAMES

> VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT
THE OFFICE



6:45 PM

OPEN AIR
KABBALAT

SHABBAT SERVICE

- MEMBERS FREE
- NON MEMBERS \$10
- NON MEMBER
   FAMILY (UP TO 5
   PEOPLE) \$36

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**