



**January 2018**  
**Tevet-Shevat 5778**



*Tree of Seven Fruits* by Michael Muchnik

**Please join us for a special Tu B'Shevat-themed  
Kiddush and exploration of the holiday with our  
clergy on Shabbat, January 27, 2018.**

# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## Monday January 1st

Office Closed

## Wednesday January 3rd

6:30pm BTZ Board Meeting

*(Members Welcome)*

## Friday January 5th

Candle Lighting: 4:27pm

TORAH: SHEMOT

## Shabbat January 6th

9:00am Shabbat Service

10:45am Tot Shabbat

4:30pm Mincha/Seudah Shlshit

## Monday January 8th

5:00pm Mysticism and Meditation

## Tuesday January 9th

4:00pm B'nai Mitzvah Classes

7:00pm Keruv Class

## Friday January 12th

Candle Lighting: 4:35pm

TORAH: VA'ERA

## Shabbat January 13th

9:00am Shabbat Service

10:00am Minyan Katan

4:30pm Mincha/Seudah Shlshit

## Sunday January 14th

10:00am Shul School

12:00pm Lil Faider Scholar-in-Residence

6:00pm Torat Chaim *(offsite)*

## Monday January 15th

5:00pm Mysticism and Meditation

## Tuesday January 16th

4:00pm B'nai Mitzvah Classes

7:00pm Keruv Class

## Wednesday January 17th

12:00pm Hazak 55+

## Friday January 19th

Candle Lighting: 4:47pm

TORAH: BO

5:30pm Tot Shabbat Eve

## Shabbat January 20th

11:00am Koleinu Minyan

4:30pm Mincha/Seudah Shlshit

6:15pm PJ Library Tot Havdallah

## Sunday January 21st

10:00am Shul School

## Monday January 22nd

5:00pm Mysticism and Meditation

## Tuesday January 23rd

4:00pm B'nai Mitzvah Classes

7:00pm Keruv Class

## Friday January 26th

Candle Lighting: 4:59pm

TORAH: BESHALLAH

## Shabbat January 27th

9:00am Shabbat Service

12:00pm Tu B'Shevat Kiddish

4:30pm Mincha/Seudah Shlshit

## Sunday January 28th

10:00am Shul School

## Monday January 29th

5:00pm Mysticism and Meditation

## Tuesday January 30th

4:00pm B'nai Mitzvah Classes

7:00pm Keruv Class



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# Beth Tzedec Congregation

## *Executive Officers*

David Inhaber	President
Lorne Pearl	Vice President
Leonard Seidman	Vice President
Elliott Steinberg	Vice President
Joshua Switzer	Vice President
Joshua Inhaber	Treasurer
Jeffrey Dworkin	Secretary
Maxine Fischbein	Past President

## *Board of Directors*

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Gregory Davis	Eddy Lang
Heather Lister	Stuart Myron
Deborah Shnay	Deborah Silver
Markham Silver	Helmi Switzer

## *Synagogue Professionals and Staff*

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey	Congregational Rabbi
Cantor Russell Jayne	Cantor
Rabbi Joshua Corber	Director of Congregational Learning
Max Lipsman	Executive Director
Yolanda Cea	Accounting
Teresa Sofocleous	Office Manager/Publications
Jennifer Girvitz	Administration
Karen Emmons	Administration
Bert Glow	Shamash
Bill Barkaie	Operations

**Beth Tzedec gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by major endowment gifts including:**

Steven Blitz Endowment Fund  
Leo & Goldie Sheftel Rabbinical Chair  
Norman & Beulah Martin Cantorial Chair  
Cyngiser Family Jewish Film Festival Fund



## Rabbinic Reflections

### Becoming a Parnas Tov

In the coming secular New Year, we often pause and reflect upon our successes and disappointments in the previous year with the intent of improving our future. One helpful approach is to search for exemplary role models from whom we can learn and emulate. Aside from the most well-known Bible figures, there is one fascinating person whose attributes can serve to inspire us. He is Bezalel, the artisan God selects to build the Tabernacle in the desert and who is described in the Torah as being endowed “with a divine spirit of skill, ability, and knowledge in every kind of craft.”

Our Sages do not regard Bezalel as merely an artistic genius, nor even as the supervisor of a team of lesser geniuses. Rather, they reserve for Bezalel the title of “good leader,” or literally, “good sustainer.” In a most fascinating Talmudic passage in Berachot 55a, they refer to him as the ideal “Parnas Tov,” the person who supports and nourishes the community at large.

In the context of our Beth Tzedec community, a “Parnas Tov” is a person who partners with synagogue clergy, leaders and fellow lay persons to accomplish the many important tasks required to sustain our synagogue as a vibrant center of Jewish life and our city as a place of hope and compassion for all. While we refer to such people as volunteers, I would prefer to designate them as Parnasim Tovim, sustainers and supporters of Beth Tzedec. The word “volunteer” is rather worn and there is an aversion to people responding to calls for volunteers because there is a sense that they are often used for menial tasks for which they are not given proper appreciation. Thus, a volunteer is someone who generally is considered to be retired, unemployed, under-employed or has enough free time that they can willingly give without being paid.

A true “Parnas Tov” is someone who chooses to act in recognition of a need with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for

personal gain. Often, the “Parnas Tov” is one who steps forward before being asked because they understand that we should all exceed our basic obligations to the extent that our time and resources allow.

One of the key factors in attaining profound joy and fulfillment is through the act of improving life around us. I encourage you to consider becoming a “Parnas Tov” in the coming year by participating in **Project 146** and thereby uplifting others through the gift of time, wisdom, experience, and partnership with other similarly devoted members. Each act of performing a mitzvah of tzedakah or gemilut hasadim (loving-kindness), no matter how seemingly small or insignificant, adds to the combined acts of others to create more light and goodness in our world. And, the impact upon you as a “Parnas Tov” can be transformative and redemptive by bringing new perspective to what matters most in your life.

As the rabbis teach, “שכר מצוה, מצוה מצוה”, *The reward for doing a mitzvah is the privilege to perform another.* May your service as a “Parnas Tov” bring you blessing and joy as it does for our synagogue and the wider civic community.

Bobbie joins me in wishing you a Happy New Year - may 2018 be a year of health and happiness.

### **Rabbi Shaul Osadchey**

*Leo & Goldie Sheftel Rabbinical Chair*

#### **Synagogue Decorum on Shabbat and Festivals**

The Ritual Committee seeks to create a sacred setting for worship and thanks you for respecting the following customs:

- Men are expected to wear a *kippah* within the sanctuary while women may choose to do so.
- Both men and women are expected to wear a head covering while on the *bimah*.
- Please refrain from chewing gum, eating, drinking or excessive talking in the sanctuary.
- Photography is prohibited in the Beth Tzedec building on Shabbat and Festivals, as is the use of cell phones and other electronic devices.



## Cantor's Notes



The Twentieth Century was highlighted by great growth and change in almost every area of life. Both technology and art underwent astounding transformations in the last 100 years, and the art of our people, particularly in how it relates to our liturgical experience, was no exception to these transformative influences.

The Jewish musical artists of the previous century, in various ways, expanded what we expect from both our Cantors and our prayer experiences. They also helped introduce our music to the general public, and by doing so, gave us a broader acceptance in society at large. The first of these great lights was the world-famous cantor, recitalist and synagogue composer Yossele Rosenblatt. I am indebted to my colleague Cantor Sam Weiss for his extensive research on Yossele's life and career.

Yossele was born in Belaya-Tserkov, Ukraine on May 9, 1882. To help support his parents and their ten other children, he toured the cities and towns of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as an itinerant boy-wonder cantor between the ages of 8 and 18. In 1901, at the age of 19 he became the Cantor of Pressburg, Bratislava, and five years later he moved westward to Hamburg, whose Orthodox community he served from 1906 to 1912. Here he learned to modify his florid, emotional, East-European style of liturgical singing to suit the more "classical" tastes of his German congregation. In this city, too, he became acquainted with opera, another lifelong influence on his unique compositional and vocal style. Hamburg was also where he made 36 phonograph recordings which marked the beginning of an output which would eventually number 182 pieces, and would help turn him into a world-wide celebrity, a name recognized by Jew and non-Jew alike.

In 1912, in order to support his own growing family as well as his indigent extended family, he sailed to America and accepted a cantorial position with a congregation in Harlem, then an aristocratic New York Jewish neighborhood. It was while serving this congregation that his American concert career began. When the U.S. entered the First World War, war-relief concerts and patriotic rallies greatly multiplied, as did audiences which included substantial numbers of non-Jewish listeners and critics. In order to do his part to aid the American Jewish victims of this war Yossele joined the concert circuit. His concert programs included a great array of international and operatic selections, interspersed with his famed cantorial recitatives. The latter were invariably the favorites, mesmerizing and bringing tears to the eyes of even those who had no connection to the texts or the tradition from which they came.

His concerts from 1917 through 1923 filled not only the 6,000 seat New York Hippodrome, but also Carnegie Hall, as well as halls all over North America. Because of his growing fame and audience pull, the Chicago Opera Company offered him the phenomenal sum of \$1,000 per night to appear as Elazar in its production of *La Juive*.

They made the same offer again in 1922 for \$3,000, both of which he refused because they conflicted with his religious principles. The idealistic reasons for his refusals brought him as much admiration as did the size of the offers.

Throughout his career Rosenblatt kept breaking records for salaries paid to either a cantor or a concert artist, yet he, his wife and eight children enjoyed only a few years in the comfort of wealth. His charitable nature was legendary, and the needy as well as the unscrupulous took advantage of it. In 1923 he was deceived into investing his wealth and reputation in a fraudulent business venture with purported charitable aims. This mistake caused him to declare bankruptcy, yet he refused to abandon his creditors. In an attempt to repay them, he made the painful decision to explore the vaudeville circuit. Even with the limitations of not working on the Jewish Sabbath and of maintaining his dignity by not doing any acting, he was one of the biggest box-office attractions of the 1925 and 1926 seasons. It was not the typical variety-show act: A bearded dark-suited gentleman simply entered the stage holding a small notebook, sang a few songs, and exited—but the crowds clamored for more.

Despite his dire straits, in 1927 he refused a \$100,000 offer to act in the first Hollywood "talking movie," *The Jazz Singer*, but did agree to the use of his off-screen voice in a non-liturgical selection for \$10,000. The new technologies of radio and sound films reduced the demand for live stage performances and cut the sales of his recordings. So in May of 1928 he embarked on a European tour in search of lucrative engagements, appearing over a six-week period in two dozen concerts in nearly all of the major cities with large Jewish populations from France to Latvia. Despite the mixed critical reactions his secular numbers received in some cosmopolitan centers, he was a popular sensation. Halls that seated up to 4,000 people were filled, and police were needed to control the crowds who could not get into the smaller auditoriums. He ended the tour with an appearance in London, returning to America in time to officiate at High Holiday services. While it was an artistic and cultural triumph, the European tour did not turn a substantial profit.

In the gloom of the depression years, 1930–32, his thoughts turned to his lifelong wish to settle in the land of Israel, and in March of 1933 the virtually penniless Rosenblatt, along with his wife and one of his sons, sailed for Tel-Aviv. His spirits were revitalized as he became active in a number of musical and cultural pursuits. Among these was the filming of a Jewish musical "travelogue" built around his singing. In the midst of this project he died of a heart-attack, three months after arriving in his new homeland.

His undisputed Cantorial skills together with his uncanny ability to make our liturgical music accessible to the general public earned Yossele Rosenblatt the title "King of Cantors". It is a title he still holds, undisputed, down to this very day.

The more I think on Yossele's life, the more I always ask myself, "What are you doing to advance Jewish art and music not only amongst this congregation, but also in the wider community?" Stay tuned...it's going to be a fun year!

*Cantor Russell Jayne*

*Norman & Beulah Martin Cantorial Chair*



## Joshua's Jam

### The Light of Torah

The Midrash teaches that Torah is light. It is at this time of year, the days are so short, when we most need the light of Torah to shine into our hearts. Seasonal affective disorder is a real thing and any kind of inspiration we can get from our spiritual heritage will help. The Koleinu Minyan and Mysticism and Meditation provide us with deep insights into how we can fine tune our consciousness to reshape our day to day experiences. The holiness of High Holidays feel distant now; Passover is a long ways away. It takes discipline and persistence to draw holiness into our day at this time of year.

The Shul School and B'nai Mitzvah Programs are an amazing source of "light", not only for the children who are learning their heritage, their culture, and how to live as Jews, but also for their parents. To witness children going up to the Torah at *Minyan Katan* and to sing *Havdalah* with your little one is a heartening experience, one which can lift one from darkness to light. To see the excitement of children running and playing during an Oneg Shabbat just makes us smile.

Our Tzedakah-kiah lit up the social hall during our Hanukkah celebration last month, but it did not only provide physical light. Young children were introduced to the *mitzvah* of donating money to *tzedakah*. Not only did this shine the light of knowledge and wisdom into hearts of the children. The recipients of these donations will also be illuminated.

If you're feeling lonely or depressed at this time of year; come to Beth Tzedec and attend a class; crack open a *Tanakh* and allow the light to flow into your soul.

*Rabbi Joshua Corber*

*Director of Congregational Learning*

# BTZ Gift Shop

The BTZ Gift Shop is now open  
during office hours (8:30am-4:00pm).  
We will be closed on Stat Holidays.

Please call the office at 403-255-8688 for  
more information.

## ***Yad Club - Torah Reading Initiative***

Beth Tzedec Congregation encourages congregants to become active Torah readers for our congregation. Learning to read Torah requires dedication and discipline to master the melodies and techniques for reading directly from the sacred scroll. For those who are successful in this endeavor and complete 14 (The Hebrew numerical equivalent of



*Yad*) Torah readings here at Beth Tzedec, the congregation will be honoured to provide special recognition by awarding a personalized *Yad*.

For more information contact Cantor Russ at  
[cantorruss@bethzedec.ca](mailto:cantor russ@bethzedec.ca) or 403-255-8688 ext. 4.



Beth Tzedec is on facebook!  
Click [HERE](#) for the link or  
search for **Beth Tzedec  
Congregation** on facebook.



## Through the President's Lens

*A Message from David Inhaber*

Hi Everyone,

It really does seem like yesterday when I started to write *Shofar* articles and here we are well past Hanukkah 5778 already. The year has appeared to fly by. I hope everyone enjoyed a great Hanukkah and new year celebrations with family and friends.

I want to thank all congregants that took the opportunity to fill out the Beth Tzedec High Holiday Survey. We received approximately 126 responses. Vice President Lorne Pearl is tabulating the results and I hope to share some general comments and themes with everyone once it has been rolled up. As I indicated from the Bimah following recent Shabbat services, your voice is important to us at the Board and your input will help us build our strategic plan.

I also want to thank the many congregants who reached out to me by telephone, text, fax and face-to-face. There is nothing more important to me than having a two-way dialogue. I must admit that I don't always have all the answers but your questions and concerns do help the Synagogue leadership team in formulating our discussions and agendas.

December 2017 not only saw Hanukkah 5778 come and go but included the final wind down of the Beth Tzedec Sisterhood and the official transfer of Sisterhood Gift Shop assets to the Beth Tzedec. This, of course, is a bitter sweet moment and is another example that times have changed. It is difficult to express in words all the gratitude we have for the many leaders, volunteers and members of Sisterhood over the years. It should be noted that Sisterhood shared with us most of its remaining assets in addition to the gift shop inventory. I want to acknowledge the years of financial support including generous support of the Synagogue kitchens. The management team will discuss how we will proceed with plans on the Sisterhood's gift to the Beth Tzedec.

Gregory Davis, Chair of our Strategic Planning Committee, along with Vice President Joshua Switzer, is continuing our work toward finalizing a comprehensive long-range strategic plan for our Shul. The strategic plan will be

presented in a self-contained report at our AGM. It will provide a brief history of Beth Tzedec, a Vision and Mission Statement, a discussion on our values and culture, demographic information, our overall institutional strategy, and list of specific projects that we will undertake to achieve our strategy.

Gregory Davis and Joshua Switzer have shared some of the data gathering and has identified eight key Strategic Opportunities that need to be addressed to sustain our congregation.

- Short Term Financial Security
- Long Term Financial Security
- Youth and Family Engagement
- Diversification of Programming
- Enhanced External Visibility of Programming
- Facility Maintenance and Development
- Leadership Development
- Development of the Volunteer Base

A review of strategic opportunities will be used to identify five to 10 potential projects for initiation or implementation in a two to three-year timeframe. The projects will be selected based on alignment with Beth Tzedec's strategic objectives.

Assessment Criteria will be defined and a decision matrix will be used to identify two or three key strategic projects that should be pursued. An action plan will follow for each of the selected strategic projects detailing the implementation timeline and identifying key risks.

I again echo what I stated in past *Shofar* articles ... we have a very bright future ahead of us and I'm looking forward to heading down this path. Most importantly the leadership team expresses their gratitude to all congregants for your continued support and generosity.

*David Inhaber*

*President*

## Avatara and Incarnation

by Dr. Tinu Ruparell



Does God visit the earth? What is the nature of God's presence in creation? If God does visit us, why? In this season such questions are, despite all of the Santa-themed capitalism, never too far from mind for the religiously inclined. Hindus have sophisticated and rich

views on God's appearance on earth. The concept used to think about this is *avatara* which literally means "descent" and appears in many forms through the various families of Hindu tradition and practice.

The notion of a divine descent or appearance in our world stretches into Vedic sources where the deity Indra is said to have the power to appear in any and multitude material forms, but the main development of the idea occurs much later into the late classical and medieval periods (6c-13c ce), and this mostly in the Vaishnavite schools (those who follow the deity Vishnu). In texts as diverse as the Bhagavata Purana, the Pancaratra and the Bhagavad Gita, we see a divine descent or incarnation when God is needed to protect the good, destroy the wicked, reestablish dharma, teach the paths to salvation, and free his devotees from the ceaseless round of rebirth. (*Bhagavad Gita* 4:5-9)

Now this might strike some as strange. Hindus understand the Divine Godhead as Brahman: suffused throughout the universe (though not exhausted by it). Indeed the Upanishads teach that the universe and all in it (including us) *is the same as* Brahman, the divine ultimate reality. If this is the case, then why is it necessary and how is it possible for Brahman to exist in one place, at one time, in an earthly, material form? This 'scandal of particularity', to borrow a phrase from Christian theology, seems to contradict the idea that the divine is everywhere and thus in no particular place, and it raises questions as to the nature of an avatara. Are avataras really material or only apparently so? Are they subject to all of the imperfections and entropic realities inherent to matter? Are they born, do they die? Before moving to these questions I should note that the idea of avatara has been elaborated and theorised to respond to the question of how the divine reality could be at once universal and particular. In the *Pancaratra* (1) Direct avataras, emanate directly from God as material human beings subject to all material realities; (2) Entranced avataras animate creatures into whom God enters; (3) Grouped avataras appear as multiple entities in order to manifest cosmic and salvific functions; (4) Inner controller (antarayamin) avataras inspire and direct from within (particularly humans) to aid action towards wisdom; and (5) Worship avataras descend into consecrated images and symbols for the sake of worship. All of these forms of divine descent try to answer the question of how a transcendent divine reality could

at the same time be immanent in/as creation. This theological conundrum is in no way unique to Hinduism; every religious tradition which wants to maintain that God engages with creation must grapple with these philosophical puzzles. The concept of avatars responds through a robust doctrine of divine immanence.

So with that theological caveat duly noted, let me return to the ‘scandalous’ part of avatars. There does seem to be something unfair about the idea that God periodically incarnates in particular times and places in order to protect the good and vanquish the evil. We naturally wonder what it would have been like for those historic humans, alive during a divine descent, to be able to experience God’s physical presence on earth, while secretly resenting the fact that this does not seem to be the case in our time and for us. Questions of rebirth aside, Hindus have an interesting way of thinking about this. Avatars, as a divine descent, are not only God’s periodic and particular earthly manifestation, but an act of the divine concern for and commitment to our material, imperfect nature. Brahman takes material form in order to share our imperfection, while at the same time being the perfect horizon which we all seek and to which we travel. God comes down in order to *be with* us: to teach, protect, inspire, and vanquish – yes – but also merely to be with us in compassion and love. Humans are social creatures and we need to be with others to truly come into our own being; we need the love of fellow human beings in order to be and become our selves. But this does not mean that we thirst for the company of humanity *per se*, that is humanity in a general sense. Rather we seek the company of *particular* human beings. We seek friendship with the individual person, and delight in their uniqueness, individuality and particularity. Amazingly, it is as we grow more deeply aware of just this unique, individual, particular person that we discover their, and our, universal humanity. As we deepen our relation and commitment to the unique and particular way in which a particular person exists, we also become most our compassionate, unique and loving selves.

This begins to make sense of the scandal of particularity. It is only through the particular that we discover the universal. God’s divine descent as an individual, unique human avatars, bound in particular space and time, ironically allows us to discover perfected human nature and our true selves in the divine incarnation. In this way the Divine descends to become imperfect humanity in order to raise imperfect humans towards the divine. Moreover, God’s descent to the material, earthly realm is the Divine commitment to and reminder of the holiness of all of creation – to be found in nature, our neighbours and our selves.

**Dr. Tinu Ruparell**

*Lil Faider Scholar-in-Residence*



## News and Notes from the NML

### GIVE A LITTLE, GIVE A LOT!

By now most of us are familiar with NML 101-The Basics and how the NML is premised on participants attending minyan on a prescribed day of the month.

In a perfect world, each participant would faithfully attend on their team's day each of the 12 months in the year.

However, it is not a perfect world and due to other commitments some of us are not able to unequivocally commit to being present each and every month. That need not be a reason for not participating in the National Minyan League.

We are not operated at the behest of Gary Bettman and we do not require rookies to sign boiler plate contracts.

If you think there is a day of the month that you merely would tend to be free for an hour in the morning or the evening, we will enthusiastically welcome you to help the NML guarantee the existence of a minyan in the community each day of the month.

If you are already a team member in the NML and sometimes have availability other days of the month, consider joining a second or even third team, again with the understanding that there will be no league-enforced sanctions if you are not able to participate with your secondary team(s) each and every month.

The bottom line is that the NML is a flexible platform for doing mitzvahs.

If you would like to discuss participation on your terms, please contact the Commish, Susan Inhaber at [inhaber@telusplanet.net](mailto:inhaber@telusplanet.net).

Ron Singer, NML Leadership Committee

## Life Cycle Events In Memoriam

Shelley Posner, mother of Andrea (Laurence) Davis.

The funeral took place on December 5, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Alex Lanyi, father of Peter (Andrea) Lanyi.

The funeral took place on December 18, 2017 in Montreal, Quebec.

## Engagement

Mazel tov to Avi Sherman and Laurie Meyers on their engagement.

## B'nai Mitzvah

Mazel tov to parents Heather and Jason Wax, brother Brett and grandparents Betty and Irwin Itzkovitch and Rose Wax on the occasion of Isaac's Bar Mitzvah.

*If you are marking a life-cycle event and would like it included in SHOFAR, please let us know by contacting the Shul office at 403-255-8688 or [info@bethzedec.ca](mailto:info@bethzedec.ca).*



If you would like to read Torah, Haftarah or lead services please contact Cantor Russ at [cantorruss@bethzedec.ca](mailto:cantorruss@bethzedec.ca) or 403-255-8688 Ext 4.

## Beth Tzedec Casino – March 14 and 15, 2018



Beth Tzedec's next casino takes place at Cowboys Casino on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. These funds are important at Beth Tzedec! That's why we need 36 big-hearted people to step up as Casino volunteers. If you can help by working a daytime or night shift, please contact the Beth Tzedec office at 403-255-8688 or [info@bethzedec.ca](mailto:info@bethzedec.ca).

**Did you know?** Each casino volunteer helps Beth Tzedec to raise approximately \$1,800 per shift . . . what a mitzvah!

## 2017 USCJ Convention



A highlight of my leadership experience at Beth Tzedec for many years, now, has been the opportunity to meet and learn with and from Synagogue clergy, professionals and lay leaders from across North America and around the world.

Last month, I treated myself to another remarkable journey when I represented our Kehilla at the 2017 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the Convention, *Dare Together*, radiated through every keynote address, workshop, prayer service and social gathering for five action-packed days.

Much emphasis was given throughout the biennial gathering to the need for “creative disruption,” the kind of wakeup call that can transform our Synagogues and appeal to a new generation.

It was a real pleasure to meet and spend time with some of the clergy and lay leaders who are not content with doing things as they’ve always been done . . . who are trying new things and creating exciting new linkages within and sometimes well beyond the Synagogues and Jewish communities they serve.

In his opening remarks at the convention, Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of USCJ, urged the 900+ leaders who traveled to Atlanta to embark on an even more adventurous journey . . . to delve into “the truth of our movement.” He urged attendees to go beyond the tip of the iceberg, diving deeply to grasp the truths of the movement that lay beneath the waterline.

I urge everyone to take a moment to hear for yourselves Rabbi Wernick’s call to action in which he emphasizes the need for us to tackle the challenges of our changing times with both “courage and passion,” attributes that were positively modeled at every turn in Atlanta where clergy, USCJ staff and special guests including academics, journalists, entertainers and businesspeople brought their inspiration and successes to the fore.

Click on the following link for Rabbi Wernick’s opening speech:

[Opening Speech.](#)

A key theme that permeated every moment of the Shabbaton and Convention is the need for our Synagogues to be inclusive and welcoming communities. Much

discussion was centred upon how to welcome and serve interfaith and multi-faith families. Another highlight was the screening of *In the Divine Image: The Path of LGBTQ Inclusion in Conservative Judaism*. To view the video, click on the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=In+the+Divine+Image%3A+The+Path+of+LGBTQ+Inclusion+in+Conservative+Judaism](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=In+the+Divine+Image%3A+The+Path+of+LGBTQ+Inclusion+in+Conservative+Judaism)

Finally, I urge interested congregants to read the following articles related to the *Dare Together* Convention, especially the one by USCJ's Director of Innovation, Rabbi Joshua Rabin, in *New York Jewish Week*:

- ["For Conservative Judaism, Time To Dare Together"](#); *New York Jewish Week*
- ["USCJ Confronts Identity Issues at Biennial"](#); *Atlanta Jewish Times*

The 2017 Convention was inspiring, empowering and instructive as we delved into best practices in Conservative kehillot across North America and around the world. This remarkable, immersive experience will be repeated in Boston two years from now, December 1 – 6, 2019. I urge current and potential Shul leaders to consider representing Beth Tzedec there, to share our successes, learn from others, and help to inform the direction of our Conservative movement.

I've saved the last word for our Beth Tzedec clergy. Although they did not attend the convention in person, I can attest to the fact that their spirit and their good work was reflected there in so many ways. Many of the themes and directions discussed in Atlanta are evident right here at Beth Tzedec because our clergy devote themselves to inclusion, to creativity and to the joyous observation of a Judaism that is consistent with our lives as we live them . . . in Rabbi Wernick's words, "an authentic and dynamic Judaism."

*Maxine Fischbein,*

***Immediate Past President***

PS – I bring greetings back to our Kehilla from Joshua Warshawsky (Beth Tzedec's High Holidays Chazzan Sheni and Family Service co-leader), whose music was a treat throughout the convention. Other musical highlights included two unforgettable concerts, one by Neshama Carlebach and her gospel singers and the other by Israel's *Nava Tehila*. If you want to hear some inspiring music, check out the 2017 [Convention Playlist](#) on Spotify.

*Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Jewish Film Festival such a resounding success!*

*I'd like to thank and acknowledge the fantastic members of my film festival committee for the special effort that they put into ensuring that this year's festival would run smoothly in my absence. In particular, a huge "Todah Rabah" is due to Maxine Fischbein for stepping in on such short notice to assume my responsibilities and hold everything together. Her leadership, commitment and total dedication ensured that the show would go on.*

*Thank you to all of our loyal sponsors, whose generous support and commitment to Jewish culture enables us to bring this event to the community each year.*

*And Todah Rabah to our wonderful audience. We hope you enjoyed this year's festival and look forward to seeing you again next year at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival.*

*Harvey Cyngiser*

#### **2017 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:**

Barb Atnikov, Irina Be'eri, Milton Bogoch, Renee Bogoch, David Busheikin, Debra Carnat, Maxine Fischbein, Wylma Freedman, Sarah Ginzberg, Ralph Gurevitch, Sheila Gurevitch, Naomi Hashman, Lil Hershfield, Noel Hershfield, David Prasow, Herb Rosenberg, Lily Rosenberg, Albert Rosengarten, Deborah Silver, Irena Sofman, Mark Swartz, Orly Yadid-Pecht

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**Cyngiser Family Jewish Film Festival Fund** (Sid and Bronia Cyngiser)

**ENDOWMENTS****Gurevitch Family Endowment Fund in honor of Dr. Ralph Gurevitch**

Sheila Gurevitch, Illana and Henry Morton and family, Dr. Darryl and Allison Gurevitch and family, Dr. Jason and Cheryl Gurevitch and family

**Dr. Martha Cohen Bequest** (Beth Tzedec Congregation)

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

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Nitzanim Community Fund - Ron and Barb Krell (JCFC), The Aaron Family, Jenny Belzberg, Ze'ev and Shoshanna Berger, Harvey and Alexandra Cyngiser, Irwin and Wylma Freedman, Noel and Lil Hershfield, Larry and Deborah Katz, Phil and Harriet Libin, Stuart and Elaine Myron (MetroWest), David and Cynthia Prasow, Al Rosengarten and Barb Atnikov, Harvey and Wynne Thal

**SCREENWRITERS**

Irvin and Sandy Adler, Milton and Renee Bogoch, Aharon and Hanita Dagan, Dr. Allan Donsky and Dr. Michele Moss, Jack and Rose Edelson, Albert and Marcy Fialkow, Milt and Maxine Fischbein, Barb Joffe, Miriam Milavsky, Dr. Orly Yadid-Pecht, Jamie and Karen Phillips, Morley and Cheryl Shore, Adam and Deborah Silver, Neil and Jemmie Silver, Joe and Sondra Spier, Jerry Snukal, Anonymous



## Programs

### Minyan Katan

**Shabbat, January 13th - 10:00am**

A special minyan for the B'nai Mitzvah Cohort of 2017/18 and their families. All children in grades 5-7 and their families are welcome. For more information, please contact Rabbi Corber at rabbicorber@bethzedec.ca or 403-255-8688 ext 8.

### Lil Faider Scholar-in-Residence

**Sunday, January 14th - 12:00pm**

#### *Sita Sings the Blues*

We will be viewing this acclaimed 2008 animated film produced by American artist Nina Paley which incorporates events from the Ramayana with its history and meaning. A light lunch will precede the film which will be followed by a discussion led by Dr. Tinu Ruparell. Free and open to the public but RSVP at info@bethzedec.ca or 403-255-8688.

### Hazak 55+ Presents

**In The Spotlight - the Music of the Yiddish Theatre or "Second Avenue" with Cantor Russ**

**Wednesday, January 17th - 12:00-2:00pm**

Like most of the people who made it what it was, the American Yiddish theatre was born in Europe but found its greatest success in America. And though its 1882 American premiere ended in a brawl, Yiddish theatre (or "Second Avenue," after the Manhattan street that housed most of the theatres) quickly became a wildly popular entertainment choice for American Jews in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its songs captured the aura of an era embodying, often simultaneously, the joy, sorrow, humor, and tragedy of a generation caught between two worlds. We hope you can join us as Cantor Russ helps us navigate this powerful force in the turn-of-the-century immigrant experience. Lunch is served at 12 noon, \$5 per person. RSVP to the synagogue office at 403-255-8688 by Monday, January 15th. For more information, please contact Donna Caplan at 403-271-3066.

### Koleinu Minyan

**Shabbat, January 20th - 11:00am**

The Koleinu Minyan is an interactive worship and learning experience designed for individuals who are interested in exploring the depth and meaning of Jewish prayer in a relaxed and informal setting. If you want to understand the deeper meaning of prayers or become more familiar with them, this is the place for you. For more information, please contact Rabbi Corber at rabbicorber@bethzedec.ca or 403-255-8688 ext 8.



## Tot Shabbat

Shabbat, January 6th - 10:45am

Parents with young children are invited to a Shabbat service aimed at engaging young minds and turning them on to the magic and majesty of Shabbat.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Corber at [rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca](mailto:rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca) or 403-255-8688 ext 8.

## Tot Shabbat Eve

Friday, January 19th - 5:30pm

Members: 0-4 Free, 5-12 \$5.00, 13+ \$10.00

Guests: 0-4 Free, 5-12 \$10.00, 13+ \$20.00

Introduce your little ones to the magic of Kabbalat Shabbat in a relaxed kid-friendly environment. Followed by Shabbat Dinner.

For more information please contact Rabbi Corber at [rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca](mailto:rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca) or 403-255-8688 ext 8. To RSVP contact [info@bethtzedec.ca](mailto:info@bethtzedec.ca) or 403-255-8688.

## PJ Library Havdalah at Beth Tzedec

Saturday, January 20th - 6:15pm

Join Rabbi Corber and PJ Library for a beautiful Havdalah service at Beth Tzedec. We'll have fun crafts and yummy snacks.

## 20-40s Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 26th - 7:00pm

Join us for a spirited and musical Kabbalat Shabbat (6:00pm) service followed by warm dinner, drinks, smiles and friends. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by emailing [rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca](mailto:rabbicorber@bethtzedec.ca) or by calling 403-255-8688.

## Tu B'Shevat Kiddush and Discussion

Shabbat, January 27th - 12:00pm

Please join us for a special Tu B'Shevat-themed Kiddush and exploration of the holiday with our clergy.

**Please support our twice daily weekday prayer services.**

### Prayer Service Times

**Morning Services:** Monday-Friday 7:45am  
Saturday, Sunday and Stat Holidays 9:00am

**Evening services:** Daily at 6:00pm

**Saturday Evening Services (Mincha and Seudah Shlishit):**

4:30pm on January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

**TRIBUTES and DONATIONS**  
**CONGREGATION FUND**  
**MAZEL TOV**

**Rosslyn and Norman Steinberg**, on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

By Therese Nagler

**Minnie Segal**, on the occasion of her new home

By Sheila Riesenberg

**Toto and Mort Levitt**, on the occasion of their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

By Evelyn Sheftel Shapiro

**Lorie Abernethy**, on the occasion of her birthday

By Evelyn Sheftel Shapiro

**Dr. Allan Donsky and Dr. Michele Moss**, on the occasion of their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

By Akiba and Yerusha Charikar and Family

**Debby and Barry Smolkin**, on the occasion of their birthdays and anniversaries

By Sheila Riesenberg

**Barney Faber**, on the occasion of his special birthday

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**Murray Robins**, on the occasion of his special birthday

By Lloyd and Karen Ashkin

**Ben Berman**, on the occasion of his birthday

By Nat and Harriette Alexander

**SYMPATHY**

**Betty Sharp and Family**, on the loss of her husband and their father and grandfather

By Stuart Libin

**Marni Besser**, on the loss of her mother Elsie Besser

By Nadine Drexler

**GET WELL**

**Jacques Mydlarski**

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**CYNGISER FAMILY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL FUND**  
**GET WELL**

**Sheila Gurevitch**

By Sid and Bronia Cyngiser

Harvey and Alexandra Cyngiser

**LEV SHALEM SABBATH & FESTIVAL BOOK FUND**  
**MAZEL TOV**

**Jenny Belzberg**, on the occasion of her special birthday

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**RABBI'S TZEDAKAH FUND**  
**MAZEL TOV**

**Rabbi Shaul and Bobbie Osadchey**, on the occasion of their 17<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

By Toto and Mort Levitt

Evelyn Sheftel Shapiro

**CHANUKAH GREETINGS**

**Rabbi Shaul Osadchey and Family**  
 By Janice Middleman

**LEO & GOLDIE SHEFTEL ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**GET WELL**

**Sheila Gurevitch**

By Evelyn Sheftel Shapiro

Akiba and Yerusha Charikar and Family

**Phil Libin**

By Evelyn Sheftel Shapiro

Akiba and Yerusha Charikar and Family

**Cemetery Entry Code**

To gain entry into the Beth Tzedec Memorial Park cemetery, press 1 then 3 for the gate code.

**Yahrzeit Fund****Ethel Fishman, beloved mother**

By Max Fishman

**Bessie and Samuel Slutker, beloved parents and grandparents**

By Rosslyn and Norman Steinberg

**Isaac Boryowski, beloved uncle**

By Norman and Rosslyn Steinberg

**Mary Waldman, beloved mother**

By Blair Waldman

**Yisroel Shkolnik, beloved father**

By Alex Shkolnik

**Henach Dov B'Reb Mor Promislow, beloved great grandfather**

By Dianne Lipton

**Rose Goodman, beloved mother**

By George and Sondra Goodman

**Leo Sheftel, beloved father**

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**Bessie Gurevitch, beloved grandmother**

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**Elkanah Sheftel, beloved uncle**

By Harriet and Phil Libin

**Lee Lazanik, beloved sister**

By Rudy Berger

**Isadore Goldenberg, beloved father**

By Jeanette Berger

**Sam Galpern, beloved father**

By Anita Cohen

**Dorothy Galpern, beloved mother**

By Anita Cohen

**Sondra Rothberg, beloved sister**

By Anita Cohen

**Alexander Glow, beloved grandfather**

By Bert Glow

**Mordehai Levant, beloved husband**

By Amalya Levant

**Fanny Sheftel, beloved mother**

By Rose Zivot

**Louis Zivot, beloved father-in-law**

By Rose Zivot

**Jennie Brown, beloved grandmother**

By Stephanie Dorchik

**Abraham Simon, beloved grandfather**

By Faith Dubisky

**Alice Robinstone Rimer, beloved mother**

By Faith Dubisky

**Kathleen Fleishman, beloved mother**

By Ryan Fleishman

**Kathleen Fleishman, beloved mother**

By Kyle Fleishman

**Rose Goodman, beloved mother**

By George and Sondra Goodman

**Yuraj Kohn, beloved brother**

By William Kohn

**Sol Gurevitch, beloved father**

By Cyril Gurevitch and Family

**Leah Mittleman, beloved grandmother**

By Lila Mydlarski

**Doris Miller, beloved mother**

By Lila Mydlarski

**Glenna Harriet Silver, beloved sister**

By Randi Aaron and Alan Silver

**Musja Korenfield, beloved niece**

By Sara and David Profis

**Max Kwavnick, beloved father**

By Nat and Harriette Alexander

**Edward Sklar, beloved father**

By Carol Levitt

**To Make a Donation**

If you would like to make a donation celebrating or honouring a life cycle event, please call the office at 403-255-8688 ext. 0 or visit us in the shul office and we will be happy to help you.

**Pinia Title and Goldie Title, beloved parents**

By Nancy Sternberg

**Harvey Viner, beloved husband**

By Fran Viner

**David Viner, beloved brother-in-law**

By Fran Viner

**Leon Zimmerman, beloved brother-in-law**

By Fran Viner

**Harry Switzer, beloved father**

By Jarold Switzer

**Jackie Switzer, beloved brother**

By Jarold Switzer

**Jennie Rachel Rosenbaum, beloved grandmother**

By Jarold Switzer

**William B. Cohen, beloved brother**

By Toto and Mort Levitt

**Alice Adler, beloved wife**

By Jack Adler

**Mary Korenfeld, beloved mother**

By Innessa Korenfeld

**Ida Switzer, beloved mother**

By Sam Switzer

**Emil Vladut, beloved father**

By Tom Vladut

**Leon Krygier, beloved brother**

By Lea Kohn

### SPECIAL YAHRZEIT FUND

**Morris and Sarah Litwack, beloved parents-in-law**

By Jane Litwack

**Joseph Seinfeld, beloved uncle**

By Saul Prince

**Allen Cole, beloved father**

By Marty and Cathy Cole

**Alexander Markovich, beloved father**

By Eli Markovich

**Jacob Lyuber, beloved husband**

By Liza Lyuber

**Mordehai Levant, beloved brother**

By Rachel Amir

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**Renee George, beloved mother**

By Kathy Morgan

**Louis Gruman, beloved father**

By Marilyn Fraiberg

**Tryna Rudolph, beloved mother**

By Beth S. Price

**David Viner, beloved father**

By Arlene Viner-Holmes

**Faiga Friedman, beloved mother-in-law**

By Arla Diamond

### KIDDUSH YAHRZEIT FUND

**Morris Hanson, beloved husband**

By Zelda Hanson

**Cipora Zadik, beloved sister**

By Ben Zalmanowitz and

Leo Zalmanowitz

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday	8:30am - 4:30pm
Friday	8:30am - 3:30pm



### Prayer Service Times

**Morning Services:** Monday-Friday 7:45am

Saturday, Sunday and Stat Holidays 9:00am

**Evening Services:** Daily at 6:00pm

## Ongoing Classes

### Keruv (Conversion) Class

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00pm

The Keruv (Conversion) Class is currently underway and welcomes anyone interested in learning about Judaism with a focus on becoming Jewish. For enrollment, contact Rabbi Osadchey at 403-255-8688 or rabbi@bethzedec.ca.

### Shul School

A unique approach to Jewish education

Sundays - 10:00am - NOON Ages 4-9

Shul's cool at Shul School where kids enjoy music, arts and crafts, and much more! Infuse your home and community with a love of Judaism. Your child will learn prayer and blessings, Bible Stories, Holidays, mitzvot, Jewish ethics, Hebrew and more! For more information please contact the Beth Tzedec office at 403-255-8688 or info@bethzedec.ca.

### B'nai Mitzvah Program

Tuesdays - 4:00-5:30pm Ages 10-13

Each student receives personalized instruction and attention. We are committed to making your child's journey toward Jewish adulthood an exciting and memorable experience. Your child will learn to lead Shabbat Prayers, Hebrew reading/comprehension, observance of mitzvot, what it means to become a Jewish adult in 2017 and more! For more information please contact the Beth Tzedec office at 403-255-8688 or info@bethzedec.ca.

## Project 146

ה' שומר את-גרים, יתום ואלמנה יעודד...

*Adonai protects the stranger and supports the orphan and widow...*

*(Psalm 146)*

**Project 146** is our synagogue's program to actively encourage every household to perform one act of *zedakah* and *gemilut hasadim* (loving-kindness) in 5778. The inaugural year is dedicated to Sam Switzer whose commitment to helping the needy is an inspiration to all. If you didn't receive your **Project 146** Tzedekah box in the mail, please find one in the synagogue lobby on the display table.

The funds collected will be used to further the social justice projects of Beth Tzedec.



**JAC Talk and Drink****Thursday, January 11th - 5:30pm****Sidewalk Citizen**

Join JAC for a business panel at Sidewalk Citizen. Hosted by Phil and Sebastians. More information: [jac@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jac@jewishcalgary.org), 403-444-3146

**JACfit Nordic: Skating****Sunday, January 14th - 11:00am - 1:00pm****Olympic Plaza**

The first of five opportunities to get out and enjoy winter with JAC! More information: [jac@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jac@jewishcalgary.org), 403-444-3146

**CIJA Grassroots Consultation****Tuesday, January 16th - 7:00pm****Calgary JCC**

Your priorities are our priorities - CIJA is looking for community input into strategic advocacy priorities. Please register by contacting Judy Shapiro at [jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org) or 403-444-3153

**Surviving and Thriving Series: You've Got a Diagnosis, Now What?****Tuesday, January 23rd - 6:30 - 8:30pm**

If your child was recently diagnosed with a visible or non-visible disability, come and learn more about funding and resources, and meet other parents. For parents, extended families, friends and guardians of a child with a disability. Registration is required: [karinas@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:karinas@jewishcalgary.org), 403-389-6994.

**Laugh Yourself Silly**

Tickets now on sale for Laugh Yourself Silly ~ a Tu Bi'shevat comedy night to be held on Monday, January 29th at 7:30pm at the new Comedy Cave. Featuring local comics Danielle Braitman, Alana Fischer, Linda Gutman, Sam Harris, William Katz and Hayley Silberg performing for your vote for The Last Comic Standing Contest and featuring funny man himself, all the way from Toronto, Simon Rakoff. Funny man, Joel Zimmerman MC and Sarah Katz Event Chair. For an evening of laughter and celebration of Tu Bi'shevat, book early - limited seating. Online purchase at [jnfcalgary.ca](http://jnfcalgary.ca) or call 403-255-0295.

## MINYAN MATTERS

- \* a spiritual comfort zone for meditation, contemplation, prayer
- \* an opportunity for regular, meaningful Torah study in a relaxed environment
- \* a venue for learning Jewish skills – how to have an aliyah, how to lift and wrap the Torah
- \* the place where one fulfills the mitzvah saying kaddish for a loved one during the period of mourning or on yahrzeit
- \* a source of spiritual meaning and connection in our lives – the feeling of satisfaction that comes from being part of the “community” (of 10 or more) that makes communal Jewish prayer possible

**Daily minyan at Beth Tzedec  
is all this and more**

ALL ARE WELCOME

For more information, contact Cantor Russ at  
403-255-8688 ext 4 or CantorRuss@bethzedec.ca

**Prayer Service Times**

**Morning Services:** Monday-Friday 7:45am  
Saturday, Sunday and Stat Holidays 9:00am

**Evening services:** Daily at 6:00pm

**Saturday Evening Services (Mincha and Seudah Shlishit):**  
4:30pm on December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

We do our best to ensure the accuracy of all the information contained in *Shofar* and other Beth Tzedec publications. Despite our best efforts, sometimes an error can occur. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors that may appear in our publications. Please contact us at [info@bethzedec.ca](mailto:info@bethzedec.ca) or call our office at 403-255-8688 so that we can correct them or update our records as soon as possible. Thank you.



# building *sacred* bridges

*An interfaith musical experience.*

**February 10, 2018**

**7:00pm**

Knox United Church  
506 4 St SW

**February 11, 2018**

**7:00pm**

Beth Tzedec Congregation  
1325 Glenmore Trail SW

Reserve seats at

**[www.habitatsouthernab.ca/bsb](http://www.habitatsouthernab.ca/bsb)**

***Some rush seating will be available.***

There is no charge for tickets, but all attendees are invited to make a generous donation, with 100% of your donation going to the Interfaith Project to fund Habitat homes for 10 working families in Southern Alberta.