

CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ROSH HASHANAH 5777

ראש השנה התשע"ז





From the Editor

Mike Cohen

Welcome to this edition of the TBDJ Bulletin, our de facto annual report. As evidenced by the regular email blasts a vast majority of members receive, I think it is safe to say that this synagogue is a beehive of activity year-round.

When I first became editor of the TBDJ Bulletin, we mailed out two copies a year. Now we put together this super-sized edition and distribute it during the High Holidays. We ask that you take it home, share it with family members and keep it in a safe spot as a reference tool. You can also access it on our website.

In this edition, we formally welcome Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich and his family to TBDJ. Six years ago my family and I became members of TBDJ. For me, it broke a lifetime association with another shul. Why did we switch? The main reason was Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz. I had always been a great admirer of his. Even though he was not our rabbi, we felt very close to him. His sermons always gave us a lift. We made the move and never looked back. It did not take long to feel the warmth and energy of the entire synagogue.

When Rabbi Steinmetz announced a year ago that he was taking his dream job at a synagogue in New York City, my heart sunk. How could TBDJ function without him? We bid a tearful good-bye to him last fall. Wasting little time, TBDJ's leadership team sprung into action. They consulted every single member on what type of individual they wanted to see as Rabbi Steinmetz's successor. They met with many prospects, brought three final candidates to town on successive weekends, gathered feedback once again, and made a selection. I think it is already safe to say that we have struck gold.

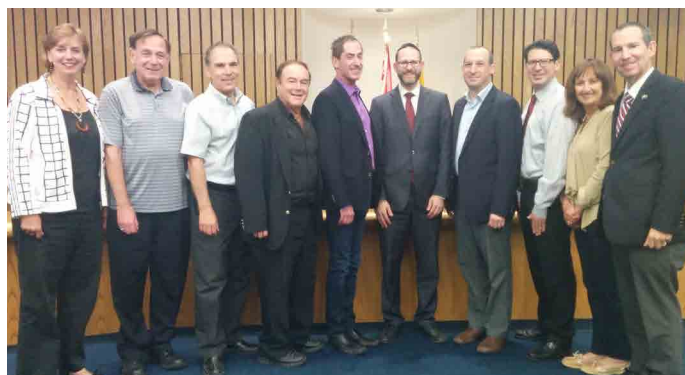
I immediately invited Rabbi Freundlich to meet with Mayor Mitchell Brownstein and our city council. The banter was superb. I asked Mount Royal Member of Parliament Anthony Housefather to pay the Rabbi a visit and explain to him how Canadian government works. He did and reported on a great first meeting. D'Arcy McGee Liberal MNA David Birnbaum did the same regarding provincial politics. I also asked the dean of local community journalists, Janice Arnold from the Canadian Jewish News, to interview him.

In this edition of The Annual Report, the chairs of our various committees provide a recap of what has been

accomplished over the past year. We have messages from the rabbi, our president, executive director and clergy members. Our first round-table discussion features the thoughts and commentary of six members on shul life. You have all seen Yakov Lev, the man of many talents, in action. In this edition we get to know him a little better.

We welcome your feedback.

Mike Cohen is a member of TBDJ, a columnist for The Suburban and a Côte Saint-Luc city councilor. He can be reached at mcohen@cotesaintluc.org. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl.



Rabbi Freundlich with Côte Saint-Luc's City Council (top); Member of National Assembly David Birnbaum (bottom-l); and Member of Parliament Anthony Housefather (bottom-r)

The TBDJ Annual Report

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Mission For The Masses

Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich

I have a favorite question to ask our assembled Rosh Hashanah guests every year at our Yom Tov table: Out of all the pages and pages of davening unique to the machzor, what is your favorite line? There are so many beautiful phrases and themes, culled from verses and pesukim from all over Tanach, there is poetry, Jewish History, passages from the Talmud, and of course, stirring requests and supplications for life, health, wealth and children. I am curious to know what speaks to different people and why.

For me, the answer has always been simple. It's a line from the zichronot section of mussaf:

“כִּי זִכָּר כָּל הַיְצוֹר לְפָנֶיךָ בָּא מַעֲשֵׂה אִישׁ וּפְקֻדָּתוֹ”

“For the remembrance of everything fashioned comes before you, everyone’s deed and mission.”

What I love about this line is the last word. *Mission*. That all of our deeds and actions come before Hashem on Rosh Hashanah is self-understood. It is, after all, the Day of Judgment, the day when the fate of mankind, both as individuals, communities and nations, is decided and then sealed shortly thereafter on Yom Kippur. But I find it a comforting thought to know that our deeds are not judged alone in a vacuum. They are analyzed in the context of our Divinely inspired mission, uniquely crafted and designed

for each one of us.

Our mission takes into account all of the individualized aspects of our lives: Where we were born and to which parents, the circumstances of our upbringing, the childhood experiences that impacted and shaped us, our innate talents, characteristics and temperament, as well as our socio-economic status, and countless other criteria. Put them together and you have a picture of what we are capable of, what we can accomplish, and what it is that Hashem wants from us. In short, that’s our mission. (It would be great if we actually knew what this personalized mission is. Alas, I don’t need to tell you that we don’t, and we are actually not supposed to know. What the machzor does teach us is that when Hashem judges us he takes our mission into account.)

This idea is expressed in the Talmud in regards to the familiar yet moving section of the machzor known as *Unetaneh Tokef*. In describing the experience of Judgment on the Holy Days, the liturgy borrows a phrase from the Mishna (Tractate Rosh Hashanah 16b) that every living creature passes before G-d on Rosh Hashanah like *bnei maron*. Most translations follow the first interpretation of the Talmud and render this phrase to mean “like sheep passing before their shepherd to be counted.”



But there is another interpretation the Talmud presents, which translates *bnei maron* as “soldiers of the House of David.”

This imagery is far different than that of anonymous flocks passing through in single file fashion to be counted. Every soldier has a specific mission. He has his own task that he has been trained and assigned to do. When going out to war, King David would have each soldier pass before him – “are you ready for your mission? We are counting on you,” he would say. “No one else can do what you have to do.” On Rosh Hashanah, we pass before Hashem like soldiers, and are asked the most piercing of questions. How did you do with your mission last year? Are you ready for your new challenge this year?

This idea, while daunting on Rosh Hashanah, is exhilarating for me as I assume my position at Congregation TBDJ. Every face is a new world, a new unique set of experiences that can contribute, in a way that no other can, to the family and community we call The Baily Shul. Each and every one of us has our individualized role to play in this shul.

I have to tell you that when I started a month ago, I would look out from the pulpit and just see an ocean of people. I didn’t know any names. I didn’t even recognize faces,

and I certainly didn’t know anything about anyone. But then, as the weeks went by, faces became familiar. Stories began to emerge. Relationships began to develop. And with each person I would meet, another thread in the fabric of our community came into focus and took its place in the shul. Like sheep being counted and the soldiers of David receiving their tasks, out of the masses individuals appeared.

Repeating what I mentioned in my first drasha several weeks ago, it is truly a privilege to serve in this special shul. I have heard much about Rabbi Hartman and Rabbi Shmidman, and have had several opportunities to be in touch with Rabbi Steinmetz. It is upon the shoulders of remarkable Rabbinic figures that I stand and I am very appreciative for this opportunity.

It is my hope and prayer that together, in the weeks, months and years to come, we each fulfill our unique mission in this shul and in the larger Jewish Community. Rifki and I both wish you our warmest Southern High Holy Day greetings, bless you with a *ketiva v’chatima tova*, and a year of good health and blessings.

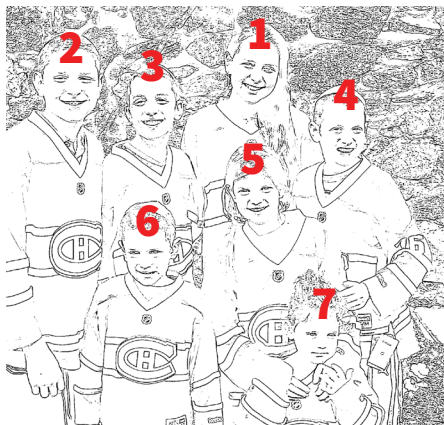
Shana Tova!



The Freundlich Family

The officers, members, clergy and staff of Congregation TBDJ joyously welcome Rabbi Yechezkel and Rifki Freundlich, and the entire Freundlich Family to Montreal.

We wish them years of health, happiness, success and fulfillment in our community.



Know Your Freundlichs.

1. Racheli
2. Binyamin
3. Ephraim
4. Shlomo
5. Rena
6. Shai
7. Shayna



A Special Welcome to Rabbi Y and his Family

By Maxine Jacobson

The following address was given by TBDJ member Dr. Maxine Jacobson at a special shabbat dinner held to welcome our new rabbi and his family.

Tonight is a very special Shabbat for each one of us individually, our shul, and our Montreal Jewish community. The reason is the importance of the occasion, welcoming Rabbi Yechezkel (warmly referred to as Rabbi Y) and Rifki Freundlich, and their children. Tonight we stand at the threshold of a new chapter in our synagogue's history. Our eyes are on the future. Rabbi Y and Rifki have come to fill a void in our lives. Though the synagogue has functioned in an exemplary way over the last year due to excellent leaders, and I call out one of the many- Judah Aspler, a rabbi at the helm is crucial.

A rabbi enhances our personal lives; he is there for us in happy, sad, everyday and special occasions. He is our guide, example, our council and support. Other rabbis in the community have helped us in our time of transition, and we are very grateful. However, we want *our* rabbi. We want one who knows us and has a connection to us. Without our own rabbi, we are unrepresented and needy.

Great rabbis make great communities. The rabbi defines the mood of the community and can change the mood of the community; he can transform communities leading its members to big and better things. I quote Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Chief Rabbi of South Africa, who said that there is more Torah learning today than ever in Jewish history. We are witnessing a renaissance of Jewish learning. Statistics will show that there is an increase in shul attendance and in Jewish children attending Jewish schools. Much of the credit has to go to the rabbis.

TBDJ has had dynamic, inspiring rabbis- a very high calibre of rabbinic leadership. Each has left his imprint on this shul and the Montreal Jewish community. Rabbi David Hartman, well-known Jewish philosopher, was our founding rabbi. He got people involved in living and learning Judaism. He left to make aliyah and founded the Shalom Hartman Institute. Rabbi Joshua Shmidman was intimately involved in the building of the Montreal eruv and mikvah and was a well-known scholar and Halachic authority. Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz was truly loved and a stellar example of outreach. He was active in many community endeavors. He began Lunch and Learn at the

synagogue and the Friday morning Talmud classes at Federation CJA.

I tell you of our glorious past to demonstrate that we make good choices. And I know that we once again have the right man in the right place at the right time. As soon as Rabbi Freundlich knew he was coming to Montreal, he treated us like his congregation. We all received an email with his phone number, telling us that we were welcomed to call him any time. He met with, or was in touch with, individual members who were making simchas, and of course, those unfortunately who were grieving. His presence, caring and involvement was seen immediately.

His leaving Atlanta was the repeated story of bittersweet departure, for him and his family, and also for his congregation. His years there were productive. He was held in high regard and affection; his knowledge, warmth and humor were very much appreciated. We feel fortunate and honored that he has chosen to be our rabbi. I know that we shall all be inspired by his vision, wisdom and compassion.

As for Rebbitzen Rifki, in Atlanta she taught, tutored and mentored at the Kollel and she led a weekly lunch and learn class. She is also known for her gracious and warm hospitality, her love of cooking, and her outgoing, winning personality. Hopefully we shall be privileged to learn with her (and you can get her recipes on KosherEye).

Rabbi, moving to a new city, a new country, with your family is a big undertaking and adjustment. We appreciate that you have done this for us and we would like to do all that we can to help you. No job can be done alone and the shul family joins me in saying that we are with you, and we collectively and whole heartedly welcome you.



Our new Rabbi

By Mike Cohen

Rabbi Freundlich, affectionately known as “Rabbi Y,” his wife Rifki and their seven children arrived here via Atlanta. Since 2007 he had served as the Associate Rabbi of Congregation Beth Jacob. In addition, he became Head of School at Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael High School in 2014.

“Having had the opportunity to engage with Rabbi Freundlich in the lead-up to his debut, there is no doubt that our incredible synagogue and community is now on its way to growing even stronger,” said TBDJ President, Judah Aspler. “With the Rabbi’s leadership and enthusiasm, the days, weeks, and years ahead will be filled with learning, spiritual growth, a connection to tefilla, friendliness, chesed, and a lot of excitement along the way.”

Rabbi Freundlich was one of three final candidates brought to TBDJ to spend a weekend with members. “Each of our guest rabbis commented to me on how impressed they were by what they saw in terms of member involvement, care and passion for the shul,” said Mr. Aspler. “From participation in davening and classes to efforts made to personally say hello and chat. I will add that the level of member feedback received prior to and during the search was tremendous. Our candidates were impressed, and I think we all were as well. We demonstrated who we are, and who we will be.”

Rabbi Freundlich received his smicha (rabbinic ordination) in 2005 from Baltimore’s Ner Israel Rabbinical College, where he also earned a Masters of Talmudic Law. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland. He and his wife Rifki are parents to seven children: Racheli (16), Binyamin (14), Ephraim (12), Shlomo (11), Rena (8), Shai (6), and Shayna (3).

More than 300 people attended a Shabbat dinner on August 19 to formally welcome the rabbi and his family to TBDJ. “As my wife and I went from table to table to introduce ourselves it really felt like our wedding,” he said. “There was so much positive energy in the room.”

While in New York City over the summer, Rabbi Freundlich paid a visit to his predecessor, Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz. “We had a wonderful discussion,” he said. “Rabbi Steinmetz has been a tremendous help and resource to me already. I am grateful for that.”

In his former post, Rabbi Freundlich also served as a member of the Atlanta Scholars Kollel, responsible for promoting personal and religious growth through family meetings, personal development classes and social programming, with special attention given to marital counseling and parenting consultations. In this role he also directed the Maor Eliyahu program, an advanced nightly Talmud study group, and held outreach responsibilities for university students and preschool parents. Amongst other accomplishments and publications, he developed and produced a “Strengthen Your Marriage” Workshop which was presented numerous times across the United States, and developed a “3 Minute Parenting Through the Parsha” online video series, featured by several national organizations such as The Orthodox Union and Aish Hatorah (videos can be seen at <http://tbdj.org/RZF1>).

Aspler has expressed his gratitude to Search Committee Chairs Morty Yalovsky and Ami Drazin, who worked tirelessly in order to ensure that the search was thorough and achieved its goals. He added that committee members Louis Drazin, Edie Friedman, Leslie Gal, Alan Katznelson, Perry Kliot, Daniel Lieberman, Dean Mendel, Shira Vasilevsky and Scott Garber left no stone unturned, explored every issue and detail, and considered every member throughout the process.

Rabbi Freundlich’s arrival coincides with the launch of new programming that will guide TBDJ into the New Year and Holiday season. “I am very excited to get started on this new adventure,” he said.

President's Report

Judah Aspler

A lot has happened since I took on this role in May 2013. We've had our share of excitement at TBDJ, and I personally have gathered sufficient material to sit down and write a good book or screenplay. Looking back, I never would have imagined our search committee having to extend itself beyond looking for kiddush sponsors, nor that we could successfully get 45 seconds of quiet once a week. I wouldn't have pictured Chassidim making an annual Elul pilgrimage to Baily Road, nor that our *weekly announcement* would outlive its embodiment, P.K. Subban, in town. My script could be part thriller, part comedy, part drama, and with touches of horror sprinkled in. But truth be told, if I were to actually take on compiling that story, I would simply tell the narrative of an amazing community, on an amazing journey, led by an amazing group of people.

This shul drives its members and the community around it. No longer is it just about the 500+ people in our building each Shabbat morning, or the 1300 present on the High Holidays, or the nearly 600 families on our membership roll. It is now about the broader Jewish community, its youth, its students, its young families, its older families, and everyone in between.

If you follow media coverage related to the state of today's synagogues, and especially in Jewish media sources such

as The Canadian Jewish News, you'll find a steady stream of doubt and despair. You'll read about the inability of 'paying for praying' membership models to survive, and the growing disconnect between millennials and our age-old institutions. Rather than highlighting the merits of synagogue membership and promoting involvement, you'll see a defeatist position where shuls are already treated as a thing of the past. Every day at TBDJ we prove that to be incorrect.

As I wrote in this column a few years ago, there's a pillar in Jewish life that no other community organization can be or fulfill. Celebrating Shabbat and Holidays, honoring lifecycle events, and striving for spiritual growth are elements only a synagogue can provide to each and every member of the community, individually and collectively at once. More and more, people are realizing this and coming through our doors seeking it.

We've begun a new chapter here on Baily Road, and as our new rabbi presented to us on his first Shabbat, we've embarked upon a *journey to greatness*. Such a journey can take many circuitous routes, but TBDJ serves as our Waze, allowing us to progress farther, faster. We've set a standard for the opposite of what is apparently vogue to report. This past January, I had the privilege of being asked to present some of our strategies and programs to North American synagogues like our own. At an OU conference in Atlanta, there were some twenty shuls asking questions and looking to emulate what we have done here over the last several years. (It was there that I was also fortunate to be introduced to one Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich!) Others are now succeeding on their journeys as well, and proving the reports of the synagogue's death to be greatly exaggerated.

Who is our competition? This question is commonly asked but often answered incorrectly. While overdue unification and consolidation of finite community resources would be both wise and advisable, nonetheless, our competition is not any other shul or institution in the area. Our competition is apathy and the temptation to just let the shul coast on its own, with indifference as to whether compelling programs and services are offered and used, or not. Once again we





have succeeded in overcoming that threat, thanks to our amazing team.

Led by the enthusiasm and charisma of our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Freundlich, along with the creativity and passion of Rev. Amiel Bender, that course will not change.

We also have a young dynamic leadership in the shul, active on a daily basis and connected to every facet of our operations. Whether it be visionaries and exceptionally capable leaders like Jonathan Gal, Josh Orzech, Scott Garber, and Yair Meyers; or veterans like Rochelle Rein, Alain Matarasso, and Meir Israel who put their everything into work on our programming, finances, and infrastructure; or future (and current) stars Zach Steinlauf and Jacob Shapiro who exhibit enormous dedication for our youth; or the many others who help our shul be great (again!) without any fanfare, there is always a discussion going on somewhere as to what we can be doing better for our members and community. And it is always followed by action. You'll read about a lot of it in this report and you'll see it come to fruition in the weeks and months ahead.

In addition to the dedication of this team, there is another key ingredient that lets us reach our goals, and that is the involvement of our members. I'd like to encourage you all to not only continue to find the programs and services that suit you and be active participants in them, but to add one new activity to your repertoire. If you come to shul Shabbat morning, come Friday night too. If you aren't a regular at the Rabbi's Shabbat morning or afternoon classes, try one of them out. If you come alone, bring a family member

or friend. There is no greater fuel for our journey than the energy of successful programs and participants who benefit from them.

Related to these efforts, we will be working hard towards the establishment of an endowment fund, in order to help us expand the programs and services we offer, and reach even more community members. Look for TBDJ Connect! to reach new heights this year, alongside our other youth and family programming. Being a contributor to TBDJ, via the endowment fund, Amudei HaBayit membership, planned giving, or other, will make a huge impact on the community now more than ever.

Please allow me to close by officially welcoming Rabbi Freundlich, Rifki, Racheli, Binyamin, Ephraim, Shlomo, Rena, Shai and Shayna to our community. I hope and trust that they will be as excited and happy to be with us, as we are to be with them.

This past Purim we read a pasuk in the megillah that is an oft-overlooked point of the holiday story: **קִיְמוּ וְקַבְּלוּ הַיְּהוּדִים**, the people's re-acceptance and re-commitment to what they had already signed up for. A week later our community was introduced to Rabbi Y, and I don't believe it was a coincidence. There is unparalleled excitement in the air, both in our shul and all around it, along with visible re-commitment to what was perhaps too routine, or misjudged as passé, not long ago. Our opportunity is tremendous and our journey will be great.

To all our community members, Shana Tova.

From our Chazzan Sheini / Ba'al Tefilla

Rev. Amiel Bender

Shana Tova to all!

My family joins me in wishing everyone a year of health, happiness and fulfillment, peace for Israel and good things for our brothers and sisters around the world.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich and family. Our Rabbi's first Shabbat with us ignited an amazing future for our shul, and Baruch Hashem our team is complete! My wife Cheryl joins me in this opportunity to wish Hatzlachah Raba to Rabbi Y, Rifki and their family and I look forward to many productive years of achievement and camaraderie!

Has another year just flown by? With so much going on at TBDJ you just don't feel it! It's great to be involved in such an active Shul... Here are a few of the things that I am working on.



TBDJ Holocaust Memorial

We have installed new memorial pillars in our daily chapel. Four of the new pillars have been designated as *Pillars of Memory* for the beloved members of our TBDJ families who were murdered during the Holocaust years. A stained glass marker by Montreal artist Nora Golic will adorn these pillars. We are still accepting plaque orders. You may contact me at the office or by email.

Please join us for the dedication of these pillars during the week of Kristallnacht, on Sunday November 6, at 7:30pm.

It has been a pleasure to work with committee members Joyce Reinblatt, Nathan Rosenshein and Leo Grunstein who were instrumental in making this memorial happen. Many thanks as well to Sam Kuperman for donating new LED bulbs for all our *yahrzeit* plaques in the Chapel!

Jewish Music

I have been emailing the "Nigun/song of the week" to our members in an attempt to keep everyone up to date with the ever developing world of Jewish song. On that note, I will, please G-d, be releasing a CD of my own Jewish music in the next few months. On the CD I am happy to include a tune recently composed in honor of Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song called *Nigun TBDJ*.

In general, if there are any tunes that you would like to hear incorporated into our Shabbat davening, please let me know.

High School Programs

We enjoyed a variety of activities for Grades 7 to 9!

This past year we had our first **Bar Mitzvah Seminar**, where 15 young men convened for evenings of fun and learning. **Girls at the J** provided Shabbat morning learning, games and sushi for our young ladies in Grades 7 to 9, and our incredible new **Fun N' Strum** guitar program for boys and girls Grades 7 to 9 struck chords with our youth in many ways, as they learned to strum along with the beauty of Jewish Music.

I look forward to leading all of the above programs in the upcoming year and if there is interest, I will be happy to initiate a Fun N' Strum for adults as well.

Davening Skills & Megillah Cantillation ("Trop")

A note to boys in Grades 4 to 6: Please join me to learn to lead the first part of our Shabbat service (P'sukei D'Zimrah) and to read the Megillot: Kohelet on Sukkot, Shir Hashirim on Pesach, and Ruth on Shavuot. Please call or email me at the Synagogue to arrange for an appointment.

I can be reached at 514-489-3841 or amiel@tbdj.org, and would be thrilled to work with adults on learning *Shabbat nusach* and *Haftarah trop* as well.



Special Megillah Project

Congregation TBDJ is procuring a *Sofer* to write a special Megillat Esther in honour of our youth. The Megillah will be used for the first time on Purim 2017. Chapters and Verses for sponsorship will be available to the membership of the Shul in honour of children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbours and friends.

Each child will have the opportunity to come to the Shul on designated dates to complete his/her letter in the Megillah with the *Sofer*, and will receive a special commemorative photo. Each child will also receive a special personal commemorative certificate in honor of the occasion. Proceeds will go to our youth program. Details to follow.

Calling all Musicians for a Musical Kiddush Levana!

On Saturday Night, November 12th at 6:15 pm in front of the Shul, we will be hosting a special Kiddush Levana, including singing, dancing and refreshments for all.

In case of inclement weather, our celebration will move inside.

Musician rehearsal: Thursday night November 10th at 7:30 pm. Please call or email Amiel for more details



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HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON

**SHABBAT NOVEMBER 5TH
PARSHAT NOACH**

FOR A SPECIAL

**HIGH SCHOOL SHABBATON
WITH RABBI FREUNDLICH!**

9:30am - Youth Minyan with Rabbi Freundlich

9:45am - "Girls at the J" with the B'not Sheirut, hosted in the library

10:30am - Join together for Mussaf

...Followed by Kiddush and Shabbaton Lunch

Sign up at [HTTP://TBDJ.org/HS](http://TBDJ.org/HS)



TBDJ Youth Minyan

The TBDJ Youth Minyan serves our high school and university students, and is where they lead davening every Shabbat. Led by our Gabbayim Sam Drazin, Yoni Drazin, and Eitan Levy, and under the direction of TBDJ's Director of Education, Rabbi Eddie Shostak, the Youth Minyan begins at 9:30am on Shabbat and concludes with its own special kiddush.

For additional information or any questions, please contact Rabbi Eddie Shostak at eddie@tbdj.org.



The Examined Life

By Rabbi Eddie Shostak

Once a Jew approached the Holy Baal Shem Tov and asked him: "If the mitzvah of teshuva (repentance) means that I find out all the bad things that I did, and if we are supposed to perform every mitzvah b'simcha (with joy), then how am I supposed to do the mitzvah of teshuva b'simcha? Teshuva is a sad process, not a joyful one."

The Holy Baal Shem Tov answered: "Without this awakening, without finding these dark places of mistakes and missed opportunities inside of you, you could have lived your entire life thinking that where you are is where you're supposed to be."

The High Holiday season is a time of self-reflection and a time of reawakening. It is a time for new beginnings and more than anything it is a time of opportunity.

The teshuva process is a difficult and challenging one. Recognizing that where we are is not necessarily where we could be or should be, is not always a comfortable realization. Yet, what a joy it is to know that we are granted new opportunities and that they are ready for us to make the most out of them.

We are blessed to kick off this new year with the sweet smells of opportunity and new beginnings as our synagogue community has welcomed Rabbi Freundlich and his family. And as you see in these pages there are a wide variety of learning opportunities and programs being offered in the spirit of – "something for everyone."

I believe TBDJ to be an incubator of opportunity, where together we can learn from each other and grow together as a community of individuals.

"The unexamined life is not worth living," said Socrates. Rabbi Yitz Greenberg writes that the Torah version would be: "to live the unexamined life is not really living."

Together, let's aim to make ourselves and our shul the best that it can be by making the most out of every opportunity that we have been granted.

Shana Tova.



Fun N' Strum

A yearlong musical experience for high-schoolers.

Participants receive their own guitar to keep, along with instruction and music-themed events.

Every 2nd Sunday at TBDJ

Fall Session: Oct. 30th, Nov. 13th, Dec. 4th & 18th

Grades 5-6: 10:00am -11:00am

High School: 11:00am – 12:00pm

Cost: \$150 per person

Space is limited.

Please RSVP to: amiel@tbdj.org



Executive Director's Desk

Joyce Reinblatt

Wow, I can't believe that a full year has passed since I wrote my first article for this annual report!

A lot has happened in the past year, notably the departure of Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz and the subsequent arrival of our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Freundlich. There have been some great upgrades within the synagogue building, and I must highlight the continued dedication of our office staff.

We are now into our second year of using ShulCloud as our member database system and I cannot be happier with its resounding success. Members can now access their accounts online, making paying their bills much more accessible and flexible. Event registration is also much easier, as members can go online to register and pay for shul events and they don't have to worry about calling the office.

The office staff has also been hard at work entering and updating member profiles to ensure that we have accurate and complete information for every member. As of today,

we can easily reach 835 individuals through our email distribution list, with over 550 of those being current shul members.

As for my wonderful, hard working staff, suffice it to say that without them the office, and the shul, would not run as smoothly as it does. Brian, Yakov, Tatyana and Natali, thank you for your dedication and hard work.

I wish all our members and friends a Shana Tova.



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Yakov Lev: The Heart of TBDJ

By Mike Cohen

Yakov Lev is a familiar face to everyone who walks through the doors of TBDJ and a man of many titles: banquet manager, superintendent, procurement, head caretaker and right hand man to Executive Director Joyce Reinblatt. In fact, because he lives in the building he is on call 24/7.

"I love my job and I really care about this synagogue. It is my family," said Yakov.

Yakov, 46, has been part of the TBDJ family for 16 years now. He arrived here via his home in Tel Aviv, Israel. The father of a 22-year old daughter and 17-year old son, he served as a bomb defuser in the Israel Defense Forces.

How did he find his way to TBDJ? "My brother-in-law worked here and he told me about some part-time work. I kept filling in for people. Eventually it became my regular job."

Yakov is responsible for purchasing all of the food products and cleaning supplies the shul needs, keeping the building clean, dealing directly with suppliers, contractors and repair men, and setting up all the rooms for a variety of events. He is integrally involved in planning for and implementing all the actions necessary to host large simchas.

Working with Yakov is caretaker Albert Williams, as well as part-time personnel, Antonio Chora, Felli Hussein and Aleksandra Szadkowska.

What is Yakov's dream? "To be part of completely renovating the sanctuary," he said, with a wide smile.

Says Joyce Reinblatt, "We are so fortunate to have someone like Yakov here. This is a man who never says 'no' and is always there when we need him. There could be four weddings in a week and he will tirelessly oversee the setup and cleanup for each without any complaints. He does his job with a smile!"

"I love my job and I really care about this synagogue. It is my family."

Yakov is also a key piece of the programming that takes place at TBDJ. President Judah Aspler attributes much of TBDJ's programming success to Yakov, "There's a running joke amongst caterers and event coordinators around town that TBDJ's real name is actually *Beis Yakov*. Yakov is a key team member in helping us carry out all our plans. Especially the complex and last minute ones!"

Next time you see Yakov, give him a thumbs up for a job well done.



The TBDJ Round Table

Moderated by Mike Cohen

In this edition of TBDJ Bulletin we bring together six members of our shul – **Joe Mendel, Sharon Koifman, Carolyn Steinman, Jonathan Gal, Edie Friedman and Mark Buch** – to share their perspectives on where the Congregation is headed. Some of them are relatively new to our shul and others have been here for a number of years. We will call this the first TBDJ Round Table.

Q: Why did you join originally and what is it you like about it that you are still here today?

Joe Mendel: My brother Leonard was one of the founders of the TBDJ. He is five years older than me and happily influenced my decision. Rabbi Hartman was the spiritual leader back then. He was an inspiration for many people to join the shul. When he eventually left, Rabbi Joshua Shmidman took his place and served us for 18 years. I became very close to him. Then came Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, a super individual who was with us for 19 years. Each of these wonderful individuals helped attract members.

Sharon Koifman: I love the people and the speeches by our Rabbis.

Carolyn Steinman: The shul is our home away from home. We love the warmth of people, the davening and entire atmosphere within the shul, which represents our extended family.

Jonathan Gal: I was born into TBDJ. I joined as an adult, as it was a place that I wanted my family to be involved in.

Edie Friedman: I joined because it was the shul of my husband and his parents. The late Rabbi Shmidman married us and was a close friend of the family. It was a “family affair” then and the shul has been a part of our family life as we had children of our own. Our boys had their births at TBDJ and all of our children had their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs here too. In between, they went to youth groups and led teen minyan. We meet old friends there and make new friends as well. It helps us feel part of a special community and we turn to the Rabbi for spiritual inspiration.

Mark Buch: There is an overwhelming sense of community and chesed.

Q: What do you see as the biggest change in synagogue life in recent years?

Joe: I remain so impressed how our synagogue gets 300 to 400 people out for services each week. There are so many young people getting involved. It is wonderful to see how our children’s generation has taken over the management of this dynamic congregation. At the TBDJ, we are a Modern Orthodox shul whose members have adapted to modern times. President Judah Aspler and his team have done a remarkable job by changing how we operate. That means a lot of excellent programming that we did not see for some time.

Sharon: It is a bit too early for me to answer that question. Can I be invited back next year to answer it?

**Joe Mendel**

Joe has been a member since TBDJ came into being. He is a distinguished real estate investment operator. Among those properties, he is an owner and managing partner of the Ruby Foo's facility on Decarie.

**Sharon Koifman**

Sharon and his wife Stephanie (Finkelstein) have been members for just over a year. They recently welcomed their newborn daughter to TBDJ as well. By day Sharon works as an entrepreneur and recruiter.

**Carolyn Steinman**

The Steinman family have been members of TBDJ for 45 very happy years. Carolyn was a teacher by profession, but switched to fundraising. For many years she served as the executive director of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University.

**Jonathan Gal**

Jonathan, an insurance broker, has been a member of the shul his entire life. He currently serves on TBDJ's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and serves as its Membership Committee Chair.

**Edie Friedman**

Edie, a real estate agent, has been a member of TBDJ for 24 years. She served on TBDJ's Rabbinic Search Committee this past year, and her husband Phil serves on TBDJ's Board of Directors.

**Mark Buch**

Mark joined the shul one year ago, together with his wife Laurie (Vineberg), and children Casey & Charlie. Mark is a physician at The Jewish General Hospital, and also serves as Medical Director of Santé Mont Royal.

Carolyn: This is a funny question to answer, as all of my friends are now members of the shul. No matter where I am I always talk about our shul and the strong connection our family has to it and how our family has changed for the better because of our strong connection to TBDJ.

Jonathan: The programming. In the past few years, it has really been the genesis for a lot of the growth and success that our shul has had.

Edie: I see a changing of the guard; young people stepping up as leaders and coming up with amazing new programs and initiatives.

Mark: The Montreal Jewish community rabbinical leadership is at a point of transition.

Q: TBDJ had the same rabbi for 19 years. Now a new rabbi has arrived at the shul. What are your thoughts about the process?

Joe: I think it was a superb process. What I liked is how the entire congregation was included in the decision from the get go. In the end they definitely chose the right person. Rabbi Y is a real people person with fabulous interpersonal skills.

Sharon: The vetting and transition process was fantastic. It brought people closer together and to their shul.

Carolyn: I thought the process was well done and our new rabbi and his wife are a perfect fit for the shul.

Jonathan: I thought the process was thorough and inclusive. It was amazing to see the energy in the air at TBDJ for those three Shabbats. Now that 'Rabbi Y' is here, I can't wait to see a return to that excitement and energy level.

Edie: I was a member of the Search Committee and took my responsibility for the future of TBDJ to heart. I think that it was a very exciting process when the candidates came for their "probeh" weekends. It was great to see so many members come out and give feedback, and be a part of the process. It was a great testimony to our shul that we had the same rabbi for 19 years and before that a rabbi for 20 years. We look forward for Rabbi Freundlich to succeed and prosper at TBDJ for at least that long!

Mark: It was open and transparent. I loved the input requested by the membership and the inclusiveness of the process.



Q: What do you do personally to try and attract new members?

Joe: Honestly, I think I need to do more. I believe that I probably would be effective even though those from my generation are already affiliated elsewhere. It is never too late to change!

Sharon: I don't have many orthodox friends who are not at TBDJ already, but for the two that I have, I tell them they must move to Côte Saint-Luc so they can join this shul.

Carolyn: At my age all our friends are long standing members of their own shul. As I stated previously, most of our friends are now members of TBDJ.

Jonathan: As I'm the Membership Committee Chair, that is my responsibility. I always feel that bringing someone new to a program goes a long way to having them feel comfortable and at home at TBDJ. A lot of times, membership happens organically as people want to be part of our family. That is always the most gratifying.

Edie: It's a "soft sell." I invite friends to events at our shul and am confident that the shul's energy, its people and its rabbi will help it sell itself.

Mark: I simply mention the importance of community and how our shul embodies that.

Q: Are you a regular synagogue-goer and if so does it upset you that only a minority in the community are? If you are not a regular, why is that the case?

Joe: I do not come as often as I should. I am hoping with the new rabbi that will change.

Sharon: It does not concern or upset me at all, but I would like to see more younger people attend.

Carolyn: As a regular shul goer, I am disappointed that we do not attract younger families; however, I do believe with our new rabbi and his wife they will attract young families. We must revitalize the Shul to encourage young families to join us.



Jonathan: I come weekly to TBDJ. A synagogue is many things to many different people. Some come three times a day, some weekly, some occasionally, some rarely. But we are all part of the same community and each and every member should be valued. There is nothing to be upset about.

Edie: I am a regular synagogue-goer, but it does not upset me that I am in the minority. The synagogue means different things to different people who will decide for themselves how it fits into their lives. I encourage friends who do not attend regularly to try some of the different programs that are being offered to see how enriching synagogue life can be. "Try it, you'll like it!" There's much more to synagogue life than High Holiday services.

Mark: I am as regular as my hospital schedule allows me to be. My goal is to be there when I'm not at the hospital.



Q: TBDJ has a young leadership. What would you like to see happen at this synagogue over the next five to 10 years?

Joe: I would like to see more programming for young people at the shul on subjects catering to their lifestyle.

Sharon: It's so important to keep shul relevant to modern times, and fun. I know that some people really come just to pray, but some people like me need so much more than that to keep things relevant. Keeping Shabbat eventful, good lectures, good social experiences during both Shabbat and weekdays are really the keys to success in the next 10 years.

Carolyn: You must nurture the young families by having programs that these families will plan and participate in. We "old" folks have to step aside and give the younger members of our shul a chance to develop and to feel that TBDJ is their home.

Jonathan: I'd love to see the young leadership continue to grow and prosper while still seeking the council of the more "experienced" TBDJ leadership. Also, ushering in a new generation of leaders and having them become committed to TBDJ is vital for the long term continuity of the shul. Over the next decade, we need to continue to attract Jews of different religious backgrounds, experiences and ethnicities so we can all grow together and benefit from each other.

Edie: The young leadership is amazing. I love their energy and creativity. I will let them lead and eagerly await the exciting results. That kind of energy is contagious.

Mark: I want to congratulate the leadership. I think they should run for public office. Getting young families involved is the way to go with dynamic and relevant programs.

The Y-Studs

Returning for an encore performance
on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur



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

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

Y-Stud members: Akiva Abramowitz (Bass), Jason Katz (Tenor), Jake Litwin (Baritone), Nathaniel Ribner (Musical Director and Bass), Jonathan Green (Tenor), Kevin Perlitz (Baritone), Ilan Brownstein (Percussion), Gedalia Penner (Bass), Jared Ehrenreich, Josh Eisenberg, Uri Garber, Michael Lefkovits, and Eitan Rubin. Visit www.ystuds.com to hear some of their music.



A Perspective from the Rabbi Search Committee

By Dean Mendel

Last fall, when Morty Yalovsky asked me to join the search committee, I was hesitant. I believed I had no right to help select TBDJ's next rabbi because I was neither an active participant nor a leader at shul. Morty convinced me that my work in many other Jewish organizations would surely help the quest and eventual selection of our next leader.

Once committed, I felt a deep sense of responsibility to effectively represent hundreds of TBDJ members and their children, who, like my family, were not yet fully engaged at shul. At the same time, I was responsible to help deliver a leader that would fit the needs and desires of hundreds of members that were already frequently participating in TBDJ's religious services and programs.

The search committee looked far and wide for a rabbi who:

- Embraces modern Jewish orthodoxy and religious Zionism in all his activities;
- Is well versed in Halacha;
- Is sensitive and nuanced in his approach to the diversity and broad spectrum of our membership;
- Displays strong and effective orator skills in order to maintain and enhance the spirituality of our religious services;
- Would ensure that our shul remains a makom limud (place of Jewish learning) for our members;
- Would play an active role in engaging in activities targeted to the different constituents of our community with particular focus on our youth, particularly those in High School and University, and the expanding educational desires of our women membership.

The committee sought to recommend to the Board of Directors a rabbi who could truly connect to the individual. It desired a rabbi who is very engaging, easy to talk to, passionate, warm, open, welcoming, inclusive, kind, enthusiastic, approachable, down to earth, and so much more. A tall order, no doubt!

Evident throughout a six-month journey was the passion of hundreds of our members. I learned so much about our shul and its culture from all of you. My personal journey was exciting and motivating as I witnessed the profound commitment to our shul of so many people and as I became fully aware of the broad range of exceptional programs our shul offers. Our next leader would be inheriting a shul filled with meaningful activities and with vibrant, devoted and proud members.

Following interviews and due diligence with numerous rabbis, the finalists were welcomed with open arms by TBDJ's diverse community. For three weekends, you packed the shul repeatedly, then provided thoughtful feedback. I was blown away when the committee received over 300 pages of written comments. Your observations and remarks helped complete a rigorous vetting of three strong candidates.

Finally, I was overwhelmed by hundreds of hours of hard work and dedication by committee members. Ami Drazin and Morty Yalovsky led us and challenged us throughout. A very special thanks to Judah Aspler and Scott Garber for helping us in so many ways.



With Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich as our leader, TBDJ is poised for continued growth and success. Rabbi Y and Rifki will be a very powerful team, engaging members of all ages in a myriad of shul activities. TBDJ's future starts now, and it looks magnificent!

The Search Committee was chaired by Morty Yalovsky and Ami Drazin. Committee members were Louis Drazin, Edie Friedman, Leslie Gal, Alan Katznelson, Perry Kliot, Daniel Lieberman, Dean Mendel, and Shira Vasilevsky. Judah Aspler and Scott Garber served as advisors to the committee.



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Thursday Night Learning with Rabbi Freundlich

JOIN THE THURSDAY NIGHT LEARNING ON BAILY ROAD!

Two new opportunities to learn in shul.
Please join us at either, or both parts!

8:00pm - Interactive gemarah shiur led by Rabbi Freundlich,
topics will change regularly

9:00pm - Kugel and an informal fireside chat on stimulating
topics of interest

Followed by Maariv at 9:30pm



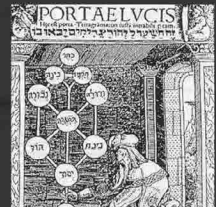
Great Controversies in Jewish History Part 1: 1400 - 1700 with Rabbi Freundlich

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

**Monday nights at 8:00pm
beginning Monday, November 14**

Topics will include:

- ❑ The Spanish Inquisition: Exiles and Marranos, and How to Repair a Fractured World
- ❑ The Great Semicha Controversy: Reviving Authentic Rabbinic Ordination
- ❑ Kabbalists and Rationalists: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Mind
- ❑ Shabbetai Tzvi: The False Messiah - Shattered Dreams in Desperate Times
- ❑ Chassidim and Misnagdim: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Soul





Chesed

By Yair Meyers

I read recently a quote by an ancient philosopher and poet, “Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.”

We at TBDJ need to focus on all three. That is the way we as a shul can make a difference in our community and the community at large. We are in the process of bringing the Chesed Committee to an entirely new level and it can only get there with all of your help. We set up **eight different task forces** that focus on the various needs of our members and shul.

We as a community have a responsibility to be there for others in times of need and in times of joy. Please review the new task forces listed on the next pages, and consider stepping forward to help, in however large or small way you can.

All of these task forces are extremely vital in making a successful shul and community. We have to make sure that everyone is aware that there are people out there that care for them and want to make sure they succeed in life.

“A person who runs to do just, good, and kind deeds attains Life, success, and honor.” Proverbs 21:21

For any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me at chesed@tbdj.org.

Chesed Task Forces

“Welcome” Task Force

Leader: TBD

This task force works with the Membership Committee, Executive Director and Gabbayim to ensure that every new member in our community is welcomed and embraced by a seasoned TBDJ member. The volunteers welcome the new family with a basket beautifully prepared by the office. The new families are matched with a TBDJ member who will answer questions, show them around the neighborhood, introduce them to new friends and ensure their transition is smooth. Moving is one of the most stressful times in one's life. TBDJ strives to make this process as seamless as possible.

“Visitation & Phone” Task Force

Leader: Yair Meyers

The shul is extremely lucky to have certain founders that have really stepped up in the community when it comes to visiting the sick and being there for them. We can all learn from their example. We have members that are currently in various hospitals and institutions all over the city and some that are not doing well and are at home. We need to make sure that those individuals realize that we are there for them if they need anything. I can say from personal experience that when I go visit people in the hospital, besides for making me feel so much more accomplished it makes the patient feel emotionally better knowing that there is someone there that cares about them.

“Shabbat & Holiday Hospitality” Task Force

Leader: Jordana Levy & Yael Alt

This task force is responsible for making sure that none of our members are left behind for a meal. Shabbat and Holidays are a time to be with friends and family and opening our hearts and homes for those around us. This includes our members and anyone that is coming to visit Montreal and wants to experience a warm hospitable community and shul. A way to get involved is to help coordinate meals for our members, or by being a host. This task force will help make your Holiday and Shabbat so much better and uplifting.

“Big Brother/Sister” Task Force

Leader: Leo Grunstein

How often have we heard phrases attesting to our future being our children. We know this to be true but we still see some of our youth falling between the cracks. Among our members we have several individuals who are available to fill the role of “Big Brother” or “Big Sister” for young people needing the companionship of a stable adult in their life. The “Big Brother/Sister” can be available simply for companionship, as a resource for guidance with personal issues, to provide a moral compass, or just to lean on for any help they need.

“Shiva” Task Force

Leader: Gerry Cartman

Bereavement is never easy for the family, and having a strong community for them to lean on is extremely important. We at TBDJ want to make sure that the community knows that they can always lean on us. We are here to provide the support necessary for the families to spend the time with their loved ones and find comfort and solace. This task force makes sure the shiva home is prepared with proper shiva chairs, siddurim, a seven-day candle and other supplies necessary for observing shiva, such as mirror coverings and door signs. We try to address the needs of the bereaved family by giving special consideration to each situation. The general policy of the shul is to provide a *Seudat Havraah* (the family meal immediately following the funeral). If the family needs help with the other meals during shiva this can be arranged as well. It is also a custom to make a siyum after Shloshim in honour and memory of the deceased. TBDJ will make sure that something proper is done and a siyum can be held in the shul.

“Newborn Assistance” Task Force

Leader: Alyssa Grunstein

Having a newborn, even for an experienced mother, is a time of great emotion and happiness but also many nights of no sleep and a ton of work. This group is responsible for making a meal for the family and being there for them with any help they need. The shul has the resources to set up a meal train for the family as well.

Chesed Task Forces

“Family Assistance” Task Force

Leader: *TBD*

For families affected by illness or special needs. TBDJ is here to support our families when faced with acute or serious illness. When an individual falls ill, the entire family becomes affected. Committee members will find out from the family what needs they want filled by us. That can be phone calls, visits, meals, babysitting, shopping and arranging transportation to doctors. The efforts of the task force allow families dealing with illness to deal with the personal needs of the ill, while knowing that everything else is being taken care of.

“Go Getters” Task Force

Leaders: Amiel Bender, Rabbi Eddie Shostak, and Yair Meyers

We will be starting a new campaign aimed at encouraging kids of all ages to participate in acts of chesed throughout the year. Opportunities will include being part of a shiva minyan, shofar blowing for people who cannot make it to shul, and bringing the spirit of the Holidays to people that don't have the opportunity to come to shul.

To join any of these Task Forces, please email chesed@tbdj.org

If you would like to assist as a sponsor, a team leader,
or in some other way, please also let us know.



Adult Education Year in Review

By Rochelle Rein

With the departure of Rabbi Steinmetz, there was concern as to whether we would have the means and inspiration to continue quality programming in his absence. Thankfully, his mentorship to me over the past few years gave me some confidence and there was amazing teamwork and input from a variety of individuals.

My deepest appreciation goes to President Judah Aspler and Rabbi Eddie Shostak for guiding, supporting and fulfilling multiple roles; to members of the Adult Education committee, particularly Michele Shemie and Gerry Cartman, for their ideas and perseverance; to countless individuals of the shul for their advice and chizuk; to Joyce, Brian, Yakov, and the rest of their staff, for the PR and organizing all the details; and to the many members who come out to our programming with enthusiasm and further suggestions. We could not do this without you!!

We kicked off the year by hosting a Shabbaton with Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of the BAYT in Thornhill, Ontario. He spoke on three diverse subjects, but the one that stayed with me was his talk on the dual identity of St. Peter/Shimon ben Yona as the possible author of the prayer “Nishmat.” In November, we were addressed by Rav Yitzchak Neriya, former Rosh Kollel of KTM Montreal, as part of the Torah MiTzion North American Shabbaton, and later that month by Dr. Yehudah Mirsky, Associate Professor at Brandies University and an authority on Rav Kook.

In December, we welcomed Aviva Klompas, former director of speech-writing for Israel’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, who fascinated us with the inner workings of that complex institution. In January, on Parshat Yitro, Rabbi Dr. Raphael Shuchat, author and current lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, spoke on the 10 Commandments.

February saw multiple visiting rabbis from Israel including our own former member, Rabbi Yair Silverman, and in March, before the visits of candidates for the position of new Rabbi at TBDJ, we hosted Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka of Ottawa.

Following Pesach, we had former Montrealer and AIPAC member Lyon Roth speak on Israel’s economic transformation “From Jaffa Oranges to Iron Dome,” and later at Seudah Shleesheet on U.S.-Israeli relations and the upcoming U.S. elections.

Our whirlwind of visiting rabbis was completed in June with the Shabbaton of Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth, Tzohar rabbi from Ra’anana and former rabbi of Bnei Akiva of North America, who described the spiritual renaissance in Israeli society today and his role in magnifying the voice of mainstream Judaism.

If you’re not too exhausted after reading this summary of Shabbat events, read on for what took place on weeknights!!

We organized several Monday night learning series. Rabbi Dr. Shimshon Hamerman lead us in an inspiring series on “Prayer: Who do you talk to? God, yourself or your friend?” in which we studied the origins of prayer, the building blocks of the siddur, Shema, Amidah, Hallel and the prayer for the State of Israel.

We continued text-based learning in the winter and spring to help prepare for the holidays. With Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold, we studied Megillat Esther; the Haggadah and Pesach ritual with Dr. Shimshon Hamerman; and the Book of Ruth: Chesed as a Governing Principle in Society with Rabbi Avi Finegold.

In February, we hosted Rabbi Raphael Afilalo, Director of Pastoral Services at the Jewish General Hospital, for a





timely and relevant three-part series on Jewish Medical Ethics and End of Life Decisions.

At members' homes, we organized a three-part Refresher Guide of Jewish marriage with talks by Rabbi Avi Finegold, Dr. Ellen Moss and Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold.

We initiated Monday evening Jewish Studies Homework Help for students in grades 1 to 4; along with continued Gemara and Parsha shiurim on Thursday nights.

Add to this, a reading by Jacques LaSalle of his autobiography, "A Life in Four Acts." Jacques told his fascinating story of being a francophone Montrealer who lived in Israel and continues to champion the legitimacy of the State of Israel through his work on the Canada-Israel Committee and in particular, by educating francophone Quebecers.

Those of us who attended the multi-media presentation of Laura Ben-David of Shavei Israel were fascinated by this organization's work as it reaches hidden Jews and remote Jewish communities in India, Poland and South America.

In June, our very own Dr. Maxine Jacobson, launched her new book "Modern Orthodoxy in American Judaism: The Era of Rabbi Leo Jung." Maxine explained some of the economic, social and political influences that impacted Orthodoxy from the 1920s to the 1960s. We look forward to more in-depth classes this fall.

Women's learning continued at TBDJ. On Simchat Torah, Cheryl Bender shared her personal story of her mother as an Ayshet Chayil. Wednesday Lunch and Learn resumed in January with three women alternating to teach Parshat Hashavua (which was open to all). Many thanks to Cheryl Bender, Gitit Herman of Kollel Torah MiTzion, and Dana Levin of Bnei Akiva for stepping up to fill this gap.

On Shavuot, Meira Alper Orenstein, gave an integrated talk on healing, wellness and the wisdom of Torah entitled "The Connection between Self-Compassion, Self-Care and

Tikun Olam" which left everyone a bit more rested.

At the beginning of Elul, we capped off the year with a most special evening, an inaugural monthly Rosh Chodesh shiur that included a special welcome to Rifki Freundlich. Ninety women attended the event at which Rifki introduced herself and her family with much sincerity and humour. Rabbi Freundlich gave a meaningful shiur with a timely message for Chodesh Elul about the importance of our commitment to others in the community. We look forward to continuing these Rosh Chodesh shiurim every month.

So what's on the horizon for 5777?

Following Dr. Maxine Jacobson's fall series on the development of Modern Orthodoxy, we look forward to a Canadian Institute of Jewish Research (CIJR) panel discussion on October 31 on the impact of the coming U.S. elections on Israel.

On November 23, Endre Farkas, poet, playwright and author, will read from his new book "Never, Again", the story of a young boy, son of Holocaust survivors, set in post-war Communist Hungary. The book chronicles his journey leading up to the Hungarian uprising and includes flashbacks to the parents' experiences during World War II and beyond.

The most significant and exciting impact on programming is the arrival of Rabbi Freundlich to lead our shul, along with his wife, Rifki, and their beautiful family. We are already benefiting from the rabbi's knowledge and enthusiasm, and I look forward to continued meaningful learning and the development of new initiatives under his leadership.

I extend to the Freundlich family "*Bruchim ha'baim*" and much hatzlachah as they settle in to our community. And to everyone, Shana Tova U'metukah!!



Adult Education: Upcoming Programs

Rochelle Rein & Scott Garber

As we look ahead to our Fall 2016/5777 adult education semester we would like to highlight a few special events, as well as new and ongoing weekly programs.

Leading up to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Rabbi Freundlich will host a series of Wednesday night classes focused on the tefillot of the High Holidays, and providing insight into their meaning through the machzor text.

On Monday, October 31, The Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) and TBDJ will host a panel discussion on “The 2016 U.S. Elections”, moderated by CIJR National Chairman, Jack Kincler, and featuring our own Prof. Hal Waller as a panelist.

On Wednesday, November 2, our shul will have the privilege of hosting Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, on his inaugural visit to Canada. This was made possible by the host organization, Mizrahi Canada.

On the weekend of December 2-3, TBDJ will welcome a scholar in residence, the Honorable Judge Dan Butler. Judge Butler previously served as Judge of the Municipal Court of Pittsburgh, as well as numerous other roles in the judicial system. Judge Butler has lectured around North America from Radio City Music Hall to the Vermont legislature, and over a thousand times for the United Way. Please stay tuned for his topics as we get closer.

In addition to the above, please join us for our regular weekly classes.

Starting on Monday, November 14, and continuing every Monday night at 8:00pm, Rabbi Freundlich will speak about “Great Controversies in Jewish History, Part 1: The Years 1400 - 1700”. Topics will include- The Spanish Inquisition: Exiles and Marranos and How to Repair a Fractured World; The Great Smicha Controversy: Reviving Authentic

Rabbinic Ordination; Kabbalists and Rationalists: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Mind; Shabbetai Tzvi: The False Messiah - Shattered Dreams in Desperate Times; and Chassidim and Misnagdim: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Soul.

Let us help you learn and improve your Hebrew. On Wednesday nights, TBDJ is introducing Hebrew language classes, focusing on reading and conversation for all levels. This series, which encourages active participation, will be taught by Elana Cohen, who has 30 years of experience teaching Hebrew. Please see the program flyer for details.

Our new Rosh Chodesh Program for Women began in Elul with a spectacular attendance and will continue every month, hosted by various members in their homes. All women are invited to come learn and share in a fun and meaningful way.

We will be continuing our new Thursday Night Learning Program each week at 8:00pm, featuring Rabbi Freundlich’s Gemara Shiur, followed by kugel and inspiring discussion, and concluding with Maariv.

And last but certainly not least, each Shabbat brings with it learning opportunities, and perhaps the hidden gems of adult education at TBDJ. On Shabbat morning prior to Shacharit, Rabbi Freundlich shares 15-minutes of fascinating insight into the weekly Parsha, and prior to Mincha in the afternoon dives into various interesting and relevant topics throughout the year.

Stay tuned to our bulletins, announcements and emails for further updates.

Please also let us know of any ideas you have, or if you would like to help sponsor any of the above programs. We can be reached at programming@tbdj.org.



Classes & Learning Opportunities

◆ Experience the High Holidays through the Machzor

Wednesday nights at 8:00pm between September 21 - October 5.

A special series led by Rabbi Freundlich. Gain an understanding into the structure and meaning of the High Holidays, through the words and ideas of our Machzor and prayer.

◆ Daf Yomi - Talmud Study

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

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

◆ Great Controversies in Jewish History - Part 1: 1400 -1700

Mondays at 8:00pm. Begins November 14.

Rabbi Freundlich leads a fascinating weekly series with topics that include The Spanish Inquisition: Exiles and Marranos; The Great S'micha Controversy; Kabbalists and Rationalists: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Mind; Shabbetai Tzvi: Shattered Dreams in Desperate Times; and Chassidim and Misnagdim: The Fight for the Heart of the Jewish Soul.

◆ Lunch & Learn

Wednesdays at 12:00pm.

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

◆ Thursday Night Learning with Rabbi Freundlich

Thursdays at 8:00pm.

Two new opportunities to learn on Baily Road. Begins with a 60-minute gemara shiur led by Rabbi Freundlich, followed by kugel and an informal fireside chat on stimulating topics of interest. Concludes with Maariv at 9:30pm. Subject of gemara shiur will change regularly. Feel free to join for either or both parts.

◆ Parsha & Coffee with The Rabbi

Shabbat mornings at 8:45am.

Join Rabbi Freundlich for 15 minutes of fascinating insight into stories, mitzvot, and other texts from the week's parsha.

◆ Shabbat Afternoon Rabbi's Class

Shabbat afternoons, 20 or 40 minutes prior to Mincha, depending on season. Please see weekly schedule.

A great opportunity to learn on Shabbat in a relaxed environment. Join Rabbi Freundlich as he works through different series of topics throughout the year, beginning with "The Essence of Elul" during the lead-up up to the High Holidays.

◆ Women's Rosh Chodesh Program

Each month at Rosh Chodesh. Please see tbdj.org or email roshchodesh@tbdj.org for full schedule.

A special program for women focused on learning, together with some fun. Hosted by Rifki Freundlich.



Notre Minyan Sepharade

Par Gabriel Cohen

Ces derniers mois, le Minyan Sépharade Emet L'Yaacov de TBDJ a connu de belles activités, tel que le michté de Pourim ou nous avons accueilli plus de 100 personnes, ou des prix de présences ont été distribués, des déjeuners de Shabbat, des cours de Torah dans les maisons de nos fidèles ainsi que des *seudah shlishit* les Shabbat.

Par ailleurs, nous avons aussi remarqué ces derniers temps l'arrivée de nouvelles familles le Shabbat, qui deviendront membres à part entière de la grande famille TBDJ et ceci avec l'aimable assistance de Jonathan Gal avec qui nous avons une excellente coopération.

Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir participer à la vie active de TBDJ et sommes très optimistes face à l'avenir de notre congrégation.

Meilleurs vœux pour une nouvelle année remplie de bénédictions.



Hebrew Classes at TBDJ

Learn our beautiful ancient language
as spoken today in modern Israel.

Wednesday nights from 7:30 - 8:30pm

Nov. 9 - Dec. 21

Cost: \$35 for 7 sessions

Register at TBDJ.org

The classes will focus on reading and conversation, with an emphasis on active participation. The course is geared towards Beginner and Intermediate levels, but will be customized to the level of each student and can accommodate all levels.

Taught by Elana Cohen. Elana taught Hebrew to children for 30 years. She has degrees from Bar Ilan University, Hebrew University and Concordia. Since retiring from the day school system, Elana has been teaching Hebrew to adults for 4 years. She is passionate to share her love of the Hebrew language with her many students.



The 4th Annual TBDJ Whiskey Society **SCOTCH TASTING**

Thursday, Dec. 8TH @ 7:30pm

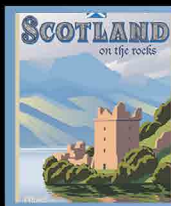
Register at TBDJ.org/events

\$ Hors d'oeuvres and full buffet

\$ Tastings from a full range of regions

\$ Rare collections & bottles

VIP: Early access with whiskey tasting class



RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE
Trip to Scotland
including airfare, hotel
& distillery tour



Welcome to our New Members

By Jonathan Gal

As chair of TBDJ's Membership Committee, and on behalf of our Board of Directors, Executive Committee, staff and clergy, I want to welcome all new members who have joined our family this year! It is because of people like you that TBDJ is able to offer so much to so many people.

Congregation TBDJ is proud to serve its 570 member units. Membership is an important part of a synagogue's vitality. So many wonderful programs, be it social or religious, have come directly from our members. With each new member comes innovative and fresh ideas, passion and energy. We finished off 5776 in an amazing way by welcoming Rabbi Freundlich, together with Rifki and their incredible family, to TBDJ. Already in just a very short period of time, 'Rabbi Y' has shown us how bright the future is. 5777 is set to be a special year in the history of TBDJ and I am very excited to experience it with all of you.

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

In the Year 5776 we welcomed 32 new members, including:

Avigyle, Seth & Annaelle ABBEY

Karine, Yoram & Lielle ABENHAIM

Melissa, Michael, Charles, Katie & Max ASSARAF

Patricia, Michel, Anaelle, Elsa & James BOHBOT

Miri, Jason, Audra & Micah BOWEN

Sarah, Michael, Daniel & Jacob BYBELEZER

Martine, Benjamin & Jessica COHEN

Shalom COHEN

Phyllis, Michael, Mark, Matthew & Jason DAVID

Eileen & Imre ERDOS

Jonathan GOLBERG

Kara, Bruce, Kole & Zachary GURBERG

Michelle, Josh, Benjamin & Frankie HASEN

Rhoda HOCKENSTEIN

Goldie & Gerry HOFFMAN

Donna HUTMAN

Helene & Salomon KASPY

Noa, Steven, Ari, Eli & Ani KOHL

Trish, Nadav, Jordan, Adam & Joshua KRASNER

Tanya, Howard, Noah, Gita, Eryn & Alexandra MARGOLESE

Raffi POVITZ

Sara & David RINZLER

Miri, Lorne, Jesse, Jonah & Maya ROSENBLOOM

Ryva, Scott, Jeremy, Leah & Benjamin ROZANSKY

Jacqui, Michael, Liela, Max & Ronnie SILBIGER

Susan, Philip, Sarah, Kevin, Amy & Sophie STEINER

Zachary STEINLAUF

Elaine & Howard VINEBERG

Audrey, Danny, Avi & David WALD

We wish them all a long and wonderful association with our Shul and our Community.



Melissa, Michael, Charles, Katie & Max Assaraf



Miri, Jason, Audra & Micah Bowen



Martine, Benjamin & Jessica Cohen



Eileen & Imre Erdos



Kara, Bruce, Kole & Zachary Gurberg



Michelle, Josh, Benjamin & Frankie Hasen



The Margolese family



Raffi Povitz



Sara & David Rinzler



Miri & Lorne Rosenbloom



The Rozansky family



The Silbiger family

Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle

*“On three pillars the world stands:
On Torah study, prayer, and acts of kindness.” (Pirkei Avot 1:2)*

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

What makes a community a community? Of course, it must be a place of connection and closeness; a community needs to offer companionship, and ensure that no one feels alone. But for a Jewish community, it also has to nourish the soul; it has to be a place where the pillars of spirituality are also the pillars of the community, a place where we pray as a community, study as a community, and help the less fortunate as a community.

Our synagogue is a true community, one that we all are deeply proud of. In the last few years, we have welcomed over 100 new families, and more importantly, we have received everyone who has entered the door from near and far with a warm TBDJ welcome.

But there is more. We have an exceptional array of programs. Programs that include Torah study, prayer and social action. Our synagogue is filled with exciting activity and inspiration and is a pillar of the spiritual life of the Montreal Jewish Community.

But our synagogue needs pillars as well. Our new programs, which make such an enormous impact, come at a cost, and we need more help.

It is for this reason that we last year introduced the Amudei HaBayit membership level. Amudei HaBayit means “the Pillars of the House”, because every strong house needs a strong foundation.

This new tier is a voluntary commitment for members who want to help us continue to offer the highest possible level of educational, religious, social and youth programming. We are fortunate to have a growing number of members in our community who give above and beyond, year after year, and the Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle allows these individuals to support our synagogue and community in a significant and structured manner.

For too long, we have run the synagogue on a bare bones budget, and our programming was hampered as a result. In the last few years we have seen a true TBDJ renaissance. Youth programs, education programs, social programs; so many programs it takes too long to announce them all on Shabbat morning! These programs allow us to be pillars of the Jewish community. And by joining the Amudei HaBayit membership level, you will be one of our pillars.

The Amudei HaBayit Leadership Circle consists of an annual membership of \$5000. Members of the group receive two High Holiday seats along with their membership, as well as recognition for an annual \$1800 Kol Nidre Appeal donation.



TBDJ INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO AN INSPIRATIONAL SHABBAT

SHABBAT PARSHAT TOLDOT DECEMBER 3RD

*Your son has a half hour to live and
your car is being towed away...*

An Emotional, Personal Journey with Judge Dan Butler

A simple Jew making the most of a bad day.

*"...during and after your talks, the impact
you had on the students was immeasurable.
I say with certainty that they have never
met someone with your personal strength,
openness, sense of humor and religious
depth. The Torah insights and life lessons you
offered will stay with the students forever...."*

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna
University Chaplain, New York University

Audiences all over North America have been bowled over by Butler's personal and professional perspectives, his whirlwind delivery, gentle humor, and remarkable insights into the human condition. Dan Butler served as a judge of the Municipal Court of Pittsburgh, as well as on Pittsburgh's specialized, Domestic Violence Court. He has spoken about legal issues and on Jewish ethics at hundreds of Jewish events. He is an active Board Member of many charitable organizations and is Past Chairman of the Holocaust Commission of Greater Pittsburgh. Dan is an Executive Board member of the Orthodox Union.

Visit <http://danbutlerinspires.com>

Community

By Josh Orzech

Opportunity and Excitement!

If there are two words that I think best describe what's just in front of us at TBDJ, it's opportunity and excitement. And if you ask me how to respond I would quickly answer embrace it and join in, you don't want to miss out!

This past year has been a year of reflection. Reflecting on our past and the many incredible experiences and accomplishments we have achieved. Reflecting on our future, where are we going and how do we get there. These are difficult questions with no wrong answer and that is the beauty of our community. Diversity! The challenge is creating an environment filled with meaning and inspiration that appeals to everyone.

I feel privileged to have the opportunity together with the many volunteers and the entire TBDJ family to help shape our future. We have been working hard the past few months planning and preparing for the upcoming year.

Our amazing youth team is hard at work and continue to improve on our existing Shabbat and Holiday programs while also adding a weekly homework night which takes place every Tuesday.

We have re-energized our Connect! program with a host of events scheduled over the next few months. Last year TBDJ Connect! hosted more than 40 families who all sat together and enjoyed an amazing Friday night experience. Everyone left asking for more, and we plan to deliver. This year's first Shabbat dinner is already in the works, scheduled for Friday, November 11th.

Guest speakers, weeknight learning, social programs, and so much more, all surrounded by friends, family, community and our new inspiring leader, 'Rabbi Y'. As I said before, you don't want to miss out!

Wishing you all a Shana Tova. A year filled with health, happiness, mazal and community.



Connect!

For Young Professionals, Couples & Families



Rosh Hashanah Flash Mob

On the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, be ready to join Rabbi Freundlich at a moment's notice for a few quick words of inspiration. Our Connect! group will gather for 15 minutes that carry a year's worth of value.



Yom Kippur Huddle

During Yizkor on Yom Kippur, on the front steps of TBDJ (or just inside if the weather doesn't cooperate), join us for 10 minutes of discussion on the holiest day of the year and what it means to each of us.



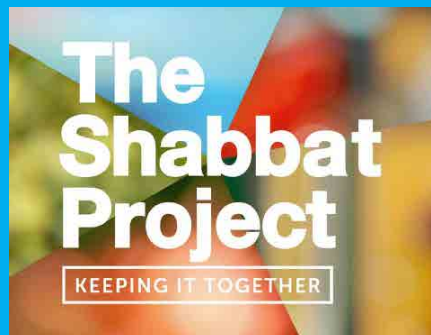
Meet The Freundlichs ...in the Sukkah

Friends of Connect! are invited to the TBDJ Sukkah for some food and drink, and an opportunity to mingle with 'Rabbi Y' & Rifki. Thursday, Oct. 20 at 8:30pm. RSVP to connect@tbdj.org.



Shabbat Project Friday Night Dinner

A repeat of last year's popular event. Young professionals, couples and families are invited to join us on Friday evening, November 11, for an enjoyable and meaningful Shabbat dinner.



Saturday Night With The Judge

On December 3rd, TBDJ welcomes Judge Dan Butler. Saturday night features a special get-together for Connect! with one of the most inspiring people you'll ever meet (see <http://danbutlerinspires.com>).



Youth Report

By Jacob Shapiro & Zach Steinlauf

As we reflect on the year that has past, we feel truly grateful for the success of our youth programs. With our varied, engaging and intentional programming delivered by caring and dynamic staff, Camp Ilan @ TBDJ is at a great place. Yet, as we usher in this new year, our third as youth directors at TBDJ, and look ahead to what is in store we are more excited than ever.



We are very proud and plan to build on our measured and steady approach that has laid the foundation for the development and introduction of two new programs this past winter, our Homework Program and VaChai Bahem: Living the Tradition (grades 7 to 9 teen leadership), which have both received overwhelmingly positive feedback. These programs were the result of careful thought and organization, communication and input from parents, and a commitment to quality over quantity coupled with a willingness to start small and ensure sustained success as opposed to going big and hoping for the best. As such, both programs achieved and will continue to grow this year, serving as models for how we grow, nurture, and develop innovative and intentional programming.

We would like to thank Scott Garber for encouraging us, ensuring that the Homework Program got off the ground, and, at the same time, invite more people to share their ideas with us. For people interested in hearing more about these programs please speak to us directly, but, most importantly, seek out participants who are currently involved, and hear what they think!

One of our major priorities for the upcoming year is to encourage feedback and input. Our programs are stronger, more engaging, and more impactful when we work together; as such, we will be issuing monthly newsletters, setting up our social media presence, and making use

of surveys and feedback meetings to really form open, healthy, and vibrant channels of communication. We are proud of our programs, and want you to know more about what goes on so that you can be too and so that you can be better equipped to give us real, constructive feedback, making your children's experiences even better!



Camp Ilan @ TBDJ is in the position it is today thanks to the work our predecessor, Zack Isakow, did in crafting the framework of our regular Shabbat morning program, a unique blend of fun and structure, chinuch and simcha. With this solid basis and Zack and Amiel's initial support, we were able to hit the ground running. Last year, we stepped up the quality of our holiday programming with our





Sukkah Hop on Wheels, where we went all around the city to all different kinds of Sukkahs, making stops at Nahar Shalom, in Outremont, Hillel Montreal, and the Mount Sinai Hospital; built humongous Chanukiahs and made fresh sufganiyot at our Hanukkah party; kept the energy of our Purim carnival going past 10:00pm; partnered with KTM, PJ Library, and Chai Lifeline for a fantastic chocolate seder; and played all kinds of games, eating ice cream, staying up well into the night learning about *nevuah* on Shavuot.

As always, throughout the year, we had special guests bringing us extra fun, like improv, magic, Lego, and team building games, but we also added some new activities like our Board Game Tisch, bowling night and outing to Woohoo, themed shabbats (like Ten Plagues shabbat, where all the activities were part of one giant competition and each game related to a plague), and we even made apple cookies on Rosh HaShanah and delicious cheesecake on Shavuot.

With all that goes on throughout the year, it is important that we acknowledge our dedicated and dynamic staff. They enjoy their work so much that they might even say it doesn't even feel like work at all sometimes, but it's that special energy and level of commitment that makes all these programs possible. We are truly grateful for the

support of the shul's visionary lay leadership, led by the hard-working Judah Aspler, and for the patience and willingness to constantly accommodate of Yakov Lev, Brian Torobin and the entire professional staff led by Joyce Reinblatt.

Finally, we are really lucky to have been able to rely upon the advice and feedback of Youth Committee Chair, Josh Orzech. Josh's passion, creativity, and innovation have been more than just a tremendous asset, as he also is a great model, showing us how to be an involved leader while also empowering others. We both recognize how lucky we are to be working with so many people who care about the quality of the youth programs at TBDJ and are willing to make sure that quality is the reality.



THE TBDJ BAR MITZVAH EXPERIENCE 2016-17



A group of 12-year old boys from the community come together once a month to explore contemporary Jewish issues in a fun and exciting learning environment, followed by dinner.

The program includes periodic special activities during the year, both at TBDJ and outside venues.

PREPARATION FOR THE BAR MITZVAH DAY WILL BE TAILORED
TO EACH PARTICIPANT AND FAMILY, BASED ON PRIVATE PLANNING MEETINGS.

**Our 2016-17 Bar Mitzvah Experience begins on
Monday, October 31st at 7:00pm
with a special session for the "Boys of '17" and their parents
together with Rabbi Freundlich. Pizza dinner will be served.**

Additional sessions:

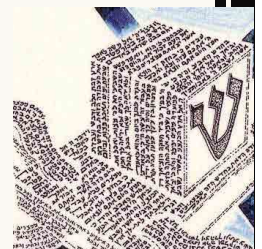
Dec. 5 - Understanding the number "10" in Judaism - Bowling at Rosebowl Lanes

Jan. 9 - "We have what so many before us couldn't have"

Feb. 6 - Miracles!

Mar. 20 - Understanding the idea of positive and negative Mitzvot

For more information and to register, please email amiel@tbdj.org



HOMEWORK NIGHT @ TBDJ

Do your schoolwork with a bit of help,
a bit of food, and a lot of fun!



Join our CEGEP and University aged staff for pizza, help with homework, and some fun!!!

...and introducing this year:

*** Rabbi Y's 10-minute Parshat Hashavua Club! ***

Weekly Schedule

- 4:45pm Early drop off
- 5:00pm Dinner and learning with Rabbi Y
- 5:30pm Homework
- 6:25pm Dodgeball or Mad Science & Crafts activities
- 7:00pm Pick up
- 7:15pm Late pick up

Program runs **Tuesday nights, Sept. 13 – Dec. 13**
For Grades 1 – 4 from all schools

Space is limited. Sign up at TBDJ.org
Cost: \$80 for the 10-week session
Questions? Email youth@tbdj.org



Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem
6519 BAILY ROAD, COTE ST LUC, QUEBEC, H4V 1A1
WWW.TBDJ.ORG



Social Programming

By Michael Hollander

2015-2016 was another banner year for us in terms of programming, which saw us deliver more focused, invigorating events than ever before.

Our 3rd annual Scotch Tasting was our absolute best yet, shattering our attendance record and delivering an experience so memorable that people are still talking about it and asking when the next one is scheduled. We are proud to announce that our 4th Annual Scotch Tasting will be held on December 8, 2016, at 7:30pm, and that registration will soon be open at TBDJ.org/events. **The grand raffle prize will be a trip to Scotland (!!!)** for exclusive distillery tours... so be sure to sign up early for the event in order to reserve your spot.

Following the Scotch Tasting was TBDJ's first exclusive women's event, dubbed *Martinis & Macarons*, in which our ladies enjoyed a splendid evening of hors d'oeuvres and martinis followed by a macaron-making class.

Our annual raffle was yet again a big success, featuring an elaborate dinner and festive atmosphere, to say nothing of the prizes!

We once again just recently welcomed the *Traveling Chassidim*, an incredible group of Chassidic families from New York who again graced us with an exciting shabbaton of shtetl-style song, spirit, and food. Anyone who attended can tell you what a party that Shabbat was. The musical Selichot that followed were once again tremendous.

As far as the Holidays are concerned, our annual Simchat Torah and Chanukah celebrations were once again huge hits, drawing enormous crowds. Our complete Purim

program, attended by over five hundred people, keeps getting bigger and more exciting with each passing year.

We held our third annual *Baily Road Diner* luncheon on Shavuot, and once again welcomed over 350 diners to our shul in order to celebrate the holiday 1950's-style.

For this past year's Shabbat Project, TBDJ did something different and, instead of opening up our homes as individuals, we took it upon ourselves to open up our home at the shul to the community. We held a Shabbat dinner for young couples and families, and had a phenomenal turnout. It was a truly special moment as so many different people of all levels of observance joined in for a traditional Shabbat meal.

And, last but certainly not least, we were honoured to hold a formal dinner party at the Shul in order to formally welcome our new Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich, his wife Rifki, and their children into our community.

The coming year presents us with a unique opportunity to take our programming endeavors even further with our new rabbi at the helm. We look forward to continuing to provide our members and the community with fun, eclectic and inspiring events, and we hope that you will join us this year in order to be a part of it.

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

To our most exciting year yet!



Introducing TBDJ's Photography Club

By Ruby Friedman

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to have been the unofficial/official photographer and videographer of TBDJ for several years. Especially over the last five years, the quality and quantity of special events have been outstanding, including the Passover Haggadah Lecture Series, The Traveling Chassidim, The Kiddush Cup, Eddie Schachter's Torah Dedication, our Eitan Katz Concert, and many more.

How often have we regretted not being able to attend an event? How often have we heard, "You really missed something special!" How often do we regret having enjoyed an event and not being able to "re-live" it again? How often have we learned something in a lecture but would like to hear it "one more time"?

Last year, together with some other dedicated members, it was concluded that we had to become much better organized in our recordings of these events, with both photography and videography. We have to become much better organized putting photos and videos on the shul web site and posting them to Facebook, so that all will know that TBDJ is the place to be!

We expanded our thoughts and felt this would be a good

opportunity to introduce and develop a new exciting *TBDJ Photography Club*. From my own personal experience, I can tell you that photography is an excellent way to meet people and become connected with the synagogue and the community. The camera also makes the event even more enjoyable and memorable for the photographer! Furthermore, given the immense popularity of digital photography and photo/video editing, we could improve our own skills by inviting professional photographers and videographers to workshops for us during the year!

The synagogue once again has many events scheduled for the coming year. We need your help! With a committed Photography Club and some planning, a schedule can be made for professional coverage of all our events. A camera and/or dedicated video camera is required. Cellphones are good but not sufficient for what we want to accomplish! If we need other special hardware or software, we'll look at acquiring it through the Photography Club. A knowledge of basic photography and editing skills are also required. Certainly, all of us will improve our skills during the year. We'll start with the basics and then become pros!

Are you interested in joining the club? Please contact me at photos@tbdj.org with any questions, or to get involved.





House Committee

By Meir Israel

Following some years of major renovations on the shul, this year has been relatively quiet (thus far). Despite the fact that we have concentrated on some smaller projects, what we have done has greatly improved a number of areas within shul.

As part of our ongoing commitment to conserving energy, we have installed several mini split air conditioning units throughout the shul, including in the Youth Minyan room, the Library, the Chapel and the Office. These new units allow us to turn off the building's main air conditioning units during the day, relying instead on the mini splits, and only as needed.

In addition to this, we have enclosed the area under the

stairs to allow for some much needed extra storage. We have also enhanced the men's washrooms and downstairs washing station, making them more sleek with new black granite counter tops and a refreshing coat of black paint on the cabinetry.

As always, our dedicated staff is working tirelessly to keep the shul looking as great as possible and we are always on top of making any necessary repairs, adding fresh coats of paint, and always keep the shul clean.

We look forward to everyone enjoying our enhancements, and having them contribute to all the services we offer and events we host.



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Condenser coils cleaning - Cooling towers



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The Perspective of a New Member Family

By David Ettedgui

When we were asked recently to write a brief article about ourselves for the TBDJ Annual Report in an effort to profile “new young family members,” our immediate thought was, “why us?”

Although we’re regular Shabbat morning congregants and attend as many shul events and activities as we can, we didn’t spearhead some new benevolent mission, nor did we chair one of the many synagogue initiatives or committees. We’re just an ordinary young family. So what’s so remarkable about us? What is there to actually profile?

That’s when it hit me: our self-deprecating and quasi-mundane self-described stature isn’t what makes us, but rather the synagogue remarkable.

In North America, regular synagogue attendance, much less membership, is on the decline, most alarmingly in the 18 to 35 demographic. Yet in the case of TBDJ, we are visibly swimming against the tide. It’s not uncommon for our young family to be but one among many others at shul, even on a cold February Shabbat morning.

As such, the better question is “why TBDJ” and not “why us?”

We joined TBDJ shortly after our wedding two years ago. I was raised in a traditionally orthodox Sephardic home, while Amanda was brought up in a traditional Conservative Askenaz environment. Although we experienced diverse

upbringings, it was clear that we required commitment to a congregation - a place where we could raise our family with Jewish values and a sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves.

This said, there is no shortage of synagogue options in Montreal, particularly in the Côte Saint-Luc and Hampstead area. So, again, why TBDJ?

Above all, we were drawn by the warm and welcoming atmosphere. From our first visit to the shul we were greeted with open arms, and made to feel as though we had made our way to our home away from home.

Additionally, the modern programming and exciting activities for all ages were an important attraction and serve as proof that the shul is well positioned to continue its upward trajectory for years to come.

After two years, we don’t see ourselves as “new” members, but rather seasoned veterans. Indeed, we feel so integrated that it’s difficult to imagine that not long ago TBDJ wasn’t on either of our radar screens.

We’re proud to take up the mantle of those who so warmly welcomed us to the shul and take this opportunity to spread the shul’s infectious warmth and hospitality by extending a heartfelt “*baruch haba*” to our new members, and of course to the Freundlichs. Welcome to the family. Shana Tova!



A Message for the 18 to 25 Year Old Crowd

By Zach Steinlauf

There are not many places that I can confidently remember returning to for upwards of 21 years. My debut at TBDJ started at the age of eight days old, when I had my brit milah. It's not really an experience I can remember, but I'm sure it was eventful. The next big step I took at TBDJ was at the age of two, when I attended the nursery school located where our beautiful Youth Minyan room currently stands.

TBDJ was the first place I learned how to say *modeh ani*, learned about parshat hashavuah, and of course learned how to build with Mega Blocks. From the ages of two to twelve I took many Shabbatot to familiarize myself with the entire shul, from the library, to the rabbi's office, to which candy men had the best candy, to which locks I could attempt to pick with my kippah clips, and of course how to tell time. For those of you who know my father, he is a stickler for punctuality and it was essential that I made it back into the main sanctuary to sing *adon olum*... if I wasn't five minutes early I was late.

Finally at the age of thirteen I had my Bar Mitzvah and couldn't be more excited to start my new journey at TBDJ as a man. My Bar Mitzvah was everything I could have asked for and more, and I was honoured to have had the privilege of reading my parsha in front of the TBDJ congregation. When my Bar Mitzvah concluded I figured that my involvement in shul would be limited, but surely I was wrong. In 2011, I joined the TBDJ youth counselor team in the nursery room, supervising TBDJ's youngest members. Believe me when I say that it brought back some very nostalgic moments.

In 2014, I was given the privilege of becoming TBDJ's newest co-Youth Director. I embraced the challenge of changing youth programming at TBDJ and have since made it my mission on Shabbat and Chagim. Along with Jacob Shapiro, we strive to provide the best possible youth events and memories for our lively young members from grades 1 to 6 and 7 to 9, with the hopes that one day they too will embark on the same mission and bring youth programs to even greater heights.

For the past three years I have spent almost every Shabbat at TBDJ and have realized that our synagogue has done a wonderful job connecting youth from ages 2 to 17, and young families. I am currently a 21 year old student studying accounting at the John Molson School of Business and can't ignore the fact that there are not too many young adults in the 18 to 25 age bracket that come to



shul on a regular, or even semi-regular, basis. I have taken the time to ask myself how I would be motivated and eager to come to shul on Shabbat if not for my current position. It didn't take me too long to realize, that other than prayer and spirituality, the TBDJ family is really what brings me to shul week in and week out.

This year I've decided to take on a new initiative that involves connecting young adults to the TBDJ family through special Shabbatot, Friday night dinners, weekly learning with Rabbi Y on various talmudic and world topics, as well as networking events with our shul's influential business, medical, legal and other professionals. This program will be geared to any student looking not only to expand their professional network, but to really immerse themselves in our thriving TBDJ community. I am eager to see what this year has in store and couldn't be more excited!

Shana Tova!



TBDJ extends
its thanks and
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We are so fortunate to still have these survivors among us. Their stories are chilling. It provides a stark reminder of how remarkable it is that these individuals came to Canada and rebuild their lives.

Yom Hashoah Commemoration once again held at TBDJ

By Mike Cohen

The annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust remembrance) commemoration organized by The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) is always an extraordinarily well put together and touching evening. This year's May 4 edition at the TBDJ was no different

The theme of this year's ceremony was the struggle and ability to rebuild lives after the genocide. Through video testimony, Holocaust survivors shared memories of their post-war battle to move forward and begin their lives anew. In addition, these survivors and their descendants lit six candles in representation of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The Montreal-based survivors participating as speakers and candle-lighters this year were Leon Celemencki (born in France, who survived in hiding with his uncle and in various orphanages), Guta Fleising (born in Poland, survived the Warsaw Ghetto, Majdanek, Auschwitz, Ravensbruck, and Malchow camps, and multiple Death Marches), Willie Glaser (born in Germany, survived the war in Great Britain), Yetti Glasman (born in Romania, survived by posing as a German nanny and farmhand), Rena Schondorf (born in Poland, survived the Krakow Ghetto, and Plaszow, Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, and Salzwedel camps) and Marcel Tenenbaum (born in Brussels, survived two years hiding in an attic and imprisonment at the

Malines transit camp.

We are so fortunate to still have these survivors among us. Their stories are chilling. It provides a stark reminder of what cold blooded murderers the Nazis were and how remarkable it is that these individuals came to Canada and rebuild their lives. They are first asked to come to the stage and then, along with the audience, watch their video testimony. Thank goodness the MHMC undertook this important project for these interviews will be invaluable for generations to come.

Judith Nemes Black and Joyce Rappaport co-chair the event committee. Rappaport noted how 40,000 people who survived the Holocaust came to Canada, including 9,000 to Montreal. "Some felt welcomed," she said, "and some were ignored and shunned by the general population. The impact of surviving the Holocaust can never be erased."

Israel Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman spoke, as did Rabbi Reuben J. Poupko of Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation. The Children's Choir, directed by Dr. Shimshon Hamerman and accompanied by Anna Levitana, sang beautifully. This group was comprised of students from Hebrew Academy, JPPS, Solomon Schechter and UTT. District 2 resident Natalie Constantine provided translation in sign language.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the survivors in



the room were asked to stand. Having attended these events for the past several decades, it was evident of the shrinking number. Next Second Generation (the children of survivors) were asked to stand. That number was more significant. After that, past participants in the March of the Living, Third Generation and the rest of the audience were asked to stand as well.

Cantor David Guber of Beth El Congregation sang a powerful rendition of the Memorial Prayer. Survivor Leo Honigwachs recited kaddish. Proceedings concluded with the partisan hymn, O Canada and Hatikvah.

Quebec Lieutenant Governor Michel Doyon was the highest ranking dignitary on hand, joined by D'Arcy McGee Liberal MNA David Birnbaum and many municipal representatives.

The 2017 commemoration will take place at TBDJ on Sunday, April 23.



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