

May-June
2009

KOL TIKVAH

Har Tikvah Congregation of Brampton

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Rabbi's Message

Shalom Har Tikvah,

As you may have noticed, there are not one, nor two, but three dates attached to this letter. In Judaism there are many ways of counting time. We have the Gregorian calendar, the system we use in our secular lives, to mark our daily obligations, meetings, birthdays, and vacations. Then, we have the Jewish calendar, which marks the cyclical year of our people. It informs us of when to celebrate our festivals and it links us to the land of Israel, our spiritual homeland, as its days correspond to Israel's agricultural cycle.

Lastly, we have the 49 days of the Omer, which start on the second day of Pesach and continue to Shavuot. We begin this daily count at the inception of our freedom from Egyptian enslavement, and we prepare ourselves for the day—seven weeks later—when we will reach the ultimate freedom, the choice to take on laws for ourselves, from God, together as a sacred community. It takes seven weeks for us to truly become free.

Every year, we return to this cycle of slavery and redemption, and every year, we partake in and invoke our status as a holy people.

The story of the Jewish people has never been one being settled and comfortable. As we proceed through the Torah with the annual cycle, we move from Creation to the challenging journey of the unknown. Just before we cross over the Jordan River to the Promised Land, we complete the book of Deuteronomy and return once more to the beginning. It is like waking up from your dream just before cashing in that winning lottery ticket.

Here's the difference. It's not about that gift at the end. The gift is in the process. It is such a beautiful thing to be part of the Jewish community—part of a sacred society that prides itself on challenge, on learning, on wandering through the wilderness, not knowing what will come at the next turn.

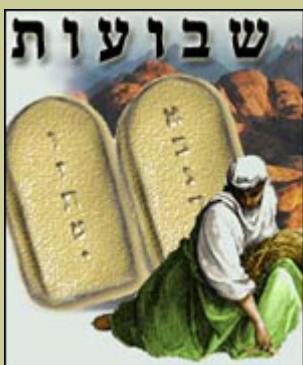
Often, in the midst of our journey, we find great blessings. We reach Sinai. And before we know it, the time has arrived to begin the cycle once

more—to begin a new journey, a new challenge.

The time has come once again this year, to arrive at a new end and a new beginning. I remember looking ahead at the year to come last June when I was first welcomed to Har Tikvah. As at the beginning of any journey, I was anxious in the face of the unknown. Within a few minutes in this sacred, warm community however, I found home, blessing, friendship, and something new to learn at every turn. You have all had a tremendous influence in my life.

Har Tikvah has been for me both a sacred journey through the wilderness and Har Sinai, a place of revelation and divine experience. I thank you all for an incredible year; it has truly been my honour and pleasure. I wish you all great success in your journeys to come, and I hope to hear about them as we both continue on our paths all the world.

*Shalom u'Vracha,
Student Rabbi David Vaisberg*



President's Message

Hello to all. It is a beautiful day outside as I write this short note.

As I said previously, we have confirmed our new Student Rabbi for next year. Her name is Sara Newman. This is what Sara has written by way of introduction of herself to us.

"I am very excited to be working with the Har Tikvah community next year. Just to give you a few words about who I am, I was raised in Maryland

and attended the University of MD, where I studied Psychology. After graduation, I studied for a semester at a liberal yeshiva called Pardes, in Jerusalem, and then stayed in Jerusalem for my first year of HUC. I now live in Brooklyn, and am finishing up my 3rd year of rabbinical school. In addition to school, I teach 4th grade Hebrew at a local synagogue. This past year, I have also been serving monthly at a congregation in Williamsport, PA. I have learned a great

deal there, in terms of practical skills and my own professional development, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to continue my learning with your congregation next year."

Sara will be visiting us on the weekend of June 5th – 7th. I hope that as many of you as possible will come out to meet her at the Shabbat service on June 6th. This is a very special service as it will be led by the Hebrew School students with help from our soloists and

musicians, and, of course, both Student Rabbis.

Thanks to all who came out to help at this year's Sprint. Thus far, we have raised over \$101,000 and are still counting!!!

*All the best
Lawrie Bloom
President*

HARTY

Hello from HARTY

HARTY was busy this past month. On April 18th some of our youth helped clean up Manorcrest Park and thanks to them it's a much cleaner place. After that we had a Havdalah Service at the Brejak's house with Rabbi David and then we when and played Laser Quest (the Rabbi and Jeannie Brejak played too) and we had a blast.

Also on April 24th, Josh Shack, Sid Brejak and Mathew Jourard went to NFTY's Spring Kallah in Erie, Pennsylvania where we learned a lot about the environment and how to make it better. We all had a great time and can't wait for the next one.

*Thank you
Sid Brejak, President*

Hebrew School

There is a service led by the Hebrew school on June 6th. Last day of Hebrew school is June 7th and will be a play day

Susan Eichler



Bingo

There are still lots of open dates available. To get us through until the end of June, please volunteer for these.



*Mike Klopot
Bingo Chair*

Editor's Desk

In previous years we offered the opportunity for businesses to advertise in the newsletter. Recently we've had inquiries about this, so we've decided to start offering this again to provide some extra revenue for Har Tikvah. The ads will appear on the last page. The costs per issue are:

Business card size - \$25
Double business card size - \$35

Let me know if you are interested and please pass my email address to others that may be

interested.

Ron_Brejak@hotmail.com

Since Kol Tikvah is issued bi-monthly, the next issue would be in July. Considering Har Tikvah events slow down for the summer, the next issue will be in September timeframe.

Have a fun and safe summer everyone !



*Ron Brejak
Editor*

SUNSHINE NEWS



Bram Zimmerman is engaged to Jennifer Canon.

Mellisa Goldstein received her Masters of Environmental Studies and got a contract with the Ontario Government.

Rebecca Zimmerman needs well wishes for getting her tonsils out in June.

Murray and Ellen Farber's 30th Anniversary is in July.

Jillian Farber has received her Bachelor of Design

*(All this good news was "reported" back to me after the recent Har Tikvah ladies get-together, when this newsletter was basically done. Better late than never...hopefully next time some can be sent to me earlier...please.
Ron)*

Member News

Even as I write this I know that most of you will read this with a smirk. The fact is that each year I fondly remember the Seder experience as a complex and beautifully crafted event. Any attempt to hold one on our own resulted in a nice meal in the dining room but, otherwise not much different than any other meal with company. As long as we had Gefilte Fish and horseradish on the table, we thought we were doing pretty well.

For the genuine experience, every few years we'd attempt to find something put on by a local synagogue. Often these attempts to reconnect with our heritage resulted in deep and bitter disappointment. I'm not sure how anybody can feel anything other than remorse and emptiness when being forced to eat bland food off paper plates and white plastic table clothes. Rather than being the focus of the Seder, children were left to be bored

out of their minds in large and crowded rooms devoid of any interest or real entertainment value.

Imagine my delight when I joined my daughter for the mock Seder put on by the Hebrew school. Without any exaggeration this modest event put most of our previous experiences to shame. It even gave me the confidence to attempt to hold a Seder of our very own.

With a little help from the Internet, and the mock Seder still fresh in our minds, we managed to have such a fun time that I can't wait for next year when our little boy will be even more involved than simply tasting the Gefilte Fish.

*Best Regards,
Yevgenia Casale*

Awesome Things....

With all the depressing news lately, consider these awesome things (from the web site www.1000awesomethings.com)

- Being the first table to get called up for the dinner buffet at a wedding (*or at a B'nai Mitzvah*)
- Picking the perfect nacho off someone else's plate
- When you pull to a red light and the guy in front of you

nudges up a bit so you can make a right turn

- Wearing clothes just out of the dryer
- Sneezing three or more times in a row
- When cashiers open up new check-out lanes at the grocery store
- The first shower you take after not showering for a really long time

- Somebody flashing their high beams at you to warn you about the cops ahead
- Perfect parallel-parking on the first try
- The first scoop out of a jar of peanut butter
- Snow days
- When you're really tired and about to fall asleep and someone throws a blanket on you

- Having a whole row by yourself on the plane
- The smell of frying onions
- When the vending machine gives you two things instead of one
- The other side of the pillow
- Popping Bubble Wrap
- Finding money in your coat pocket you forgot about

Ron




From the ROM website:

The Dead Sea Scrolls are coming to the Royal Ontario Museum on June 27, 2009. For six months, the ROM will display these priceless treasures together with a collection of ancient artifacts from Jerusalem and environs from the time of the Second Temple and the births of early Judaism and Christianity.

In partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority, the ROM will be exhibiting at least 17 Dead Sea Scrolls, of which four are on public display for the first time ever, having been conserved at the ROM's request. Artifacts from Qumran, Jerusalem and the Second Temple, Sephorris and other parts of Judea and the Galilee will be on display, with Jewish and Roman artifacts from the period. The Scrolls include the fascinating Book of War Scroll, the Messianic Apocalypse Scroll and a section from Genesis, the first book of the Hebrew Bible, telling the story of the attempted seduction of Joseph by Potiphar's wife.



Event Calendar

Saturday May 23	10:00	Service
Sunday May 24	9:00 Kickoff Party 10:00 Walk Start	Walk with Israel 
Thursday May 28		Shavuot
Saturday June 6	10:00	Service Partially led by Hebrew School Students. Come out and show your support for their efforts ! Our new Student Rabbi Sara Newman will be visiting us.
Saturday June 20	10:00	Service— Student Rabbi David's last service at Har Tikvah



walk with Israel

TORONTO
Sunday, May 24, 2009
Coronation Park

9:00 a.m. KICKOFF PARTY 10:00 a.m. WALK

rain or shine

BACK TO HOME

BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR VISTEK PHOTO CONTEST

don't forget to bring your...



Presented by:
yogen früz



From the UJA website:

Why Walk with Israel?

The real question is - why not walk? This amazing annual experience is the biggest one-day solidarity event in support of Israel anywhere in the world! Show the people of Israel that you care and Toronto cares by lacing up your shoes on Sunday, May 24th, 2009. The massive kick-off party starts at 9:00 am and the Walk leaves at 10:00 am sharp - RAIN or SHINE! This is one event you really don't want to miss! Walk with hope! Walk with pride! Walk with ruach! Walk with Israel!

Committee Chairs and Board Liaisons

The following are our committee chairs and their corresponding board liaison member. If you are not already involved, please strongly consider contributing to Har Tikvah in one of the open spots.

Education

Hannah Barnett, Chair
Susan Eichler, Liaison

Bingo Chair

Mike Klopot, Chair
Ziva Marcos, Liaison

Youth Group

Randy Kerman, Co-Chair
Jeannie Brejak, Co-Chair
Ron Brejak, Liaison

Building

Mike Silbermann, Chair
Paul Brannan, Liaison

Jewish Observance

Sally-Ann Kerman, Chair
Maureen Rich, Liaison

Social Action

Vacant, Chair
Vacant, Liaison

Fundraising

Tammy Kerman, Chair
Martin Kerman, Liaison

Social

Ellen Farber, Co-Chair
Lew Jourard, Co-Chair
Ellen Farber, Liaison

Future Building

Fred Streiman, Chair
Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Shabbat Services/Kiddush

Sally-Ann Kerman, Chair
Martin Kerman, Liaison

Cemetery

Sally-Ann Kerman, Chair
Martin Kerman, Liaison

B’Nai Mitzvah

Esther Zimmerman, Chair
Idit Pearlman, Liaison

Communication (emails)

Jim Wilkinson, Chair
Jim Wilkinson, Liaison

Website

Gary Sternklar, Chair
Ellen Farber, Liaison

Phone Committee

Idit Pearlman, Chair
Idit Pearlman, Liaison

Newsletter

Ron Brejak, Chair
Ron Brejak, Liaison

Membership

Louis Eichler, Chair
Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Board Members

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President—Lawrie Bloom
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Director—Ellen Farber
Director—Ron Brejak
Director—Ziva Marcos
Director—Susan Eichler
Director—Paul Brannan
Director—Idit Pearlman
Director—Jim Wilkinson



Humour

Dry Bones



JEWISH JEOPARDY

- A: Midrash
- Q: What is a Middle East skin disease?
- A: The Gaza Strip
- Q: What is an Egyptian Belly Dance?
- A: A classroom, a Passover ceremony, and a latke
- Q: What are a cheder, a Seder, and a tater?
- A: Sofer
- Q: On what do Jews recline on Passover?

- A: Babylon
- Q: What does the rabbi do during some sermons?
- A: Filet Minyan
- Q: What do you call steaks ordered by 10 Jews?
- A: Kishka, Sukkoth, and circumcision
- Q: What are a gut, a hut, and a cut?

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