



Kol Tikvah

Har Tikvah Congregation of Brampton

www.hartikvah.org

Winter
2012

Rabbi's Message

My Rabbinic Vision By Lyle Rothman

As we enter this (Secular) New Year, and the final few months of my tenure here at the Har Tikvah Congregation, I want to share with you who I am and my vision for my rabbinate. This Vision Statement is not just something the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinic arm of the Reform movement, asks us to write but it is a document that helps us articulate our vision for the rabbinate we hope to create.

A nun playing an important role on my Jewish journey? Yes! Believe it or not, this is not a joke, but the beginning of a true story of my profound new faith in God.

I was born with a congenital heart defect, and at the age of four, and again at seven, the doctors decided that I needed open-heart surgery to repair a hole. The prospect of undergoing such a dangerous operation was terrifying for my family. We put our faith entirely in fallible human beings, rather than speaking to and partnering with God.

Growing up, my Israeli mother and American father were ambivalent about religion. As one might imagine, I never heard meaningful conversations about God. But my family was unexpectedly introduced to the power and

importance of prayer after an unanticipated visit from a nun who offered prayers of healing and comfort. Suddenly my relationship with God began to change. While I was too young to remember all of the details of this encounter, my grandmother often reminds me of this transformative moment.

Before I began my formal Jewish education, like the psalmist (Ps 121), I would “lift my eyes to the mountains” looking for guidance, wisdom, direction, and strength. I would often question the “source of my help.” Today, as a rabbinical student, I continually find my help in “God, the Creator of heaven and earth.” The assurance that God guards humanity gave my family strength while I was in surgery and continues to guide me in every aspect of my work and life.

The Judaism I teach is based upon devotion to God and prayer, because God is central to my life, understanding, and practice of Judaism. Helping Jews cultivate a meaningful prayer life in community, through a deep connection to God, is at the core of my rabbinic vision. I envision a community in which our ideal relationship with God will be reflected in our interpersonal relationships and the way we lead our lives. In community we have the ability to strive towards holiness by linking



the prayers of our mouths and deeds of our hearts.

Prayer is a conversation that permeates every aspect of Jewish life. While I recognize that there are many differing views on the significance of prayer and God in our lives, I see worship as an important practice to enrich our ability to live, love, learn, and create community. Through prayer we can begin to appreciate the sacred in the ordinary, learn to love Torah, wrestle with our relationship to the Land of Israel, and organize around issues of healing an imperfect world.

When we look at the world around us, we have the ability to see life's ordinary moments as sacred gifts. Whether or not you believe in God, together we can share in life's many joys. As Jews, we come together to celebrate our love of tradition in community regardless of our beliefs. We are diverse, and make no mistake: diver-



Rabbi's Message — Continued

sity is our strength. My strength comes from God.

Where else can we find strength?

When we immerse ourselves in the study of Torah, God fills the space between us. I have witnessed what happens when Jewish communities embrace the idea that learning is a sacred obligation for all. Sometimes the most profound learning transcends the walls of the classroom and is actualized in life. After I encouraged Reform college students with whom I worked at Columbia University to reach out and share Shabbat with their fellow students in the Orthodox community, stereotypes were shattered, barriers were lifted, and significant personal connections were made. The Talmud states, “I have learned much from my teachers, even more so from my colleagues, but I have learned the most from my students.” It is those words from Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi that continually encourage me in my life. My strength comes from our long tradition of torah lishmah, the study of Jewish texts for their own sake.

Where else can we find strength?

When we connect ourselves to the people and land of Israel through our liturgy, we spiritually gather ourselves from earth's four corners. One Shabbat evening during my first year of rabbinical school, I stood with a few friends at the Western Wall waiting for Shabbat to begin. Unfortunately, one female friend was standing on the other side of the mehitza, the partition that separates men from women in traditional Jewish circles during prayer. We waited for the yeshiva boys to come down to the Western Wall plaza singing and dancing to usher in the Sabbath bride, as our friend stood on a chair and gazed over the partition. The yeshiva boys never came that night but the Sabbath was fast approaching. As the Shabbat siren sounded across Jerusalem, and in the absence of the yeshiva boys, I found a velvet covered lectern on the Western Wall plaza, pulled out my siddur and started leading a group of wandering Jewish young men in prayer. All of a sudden our group grew as more men – religious

and secular, young and old, Ultra Orthodox and Reform – prayed together. And in the distance we could see our classmate, an equal at HUC-JIR, just gazing over the partition being forced to separate herself from our community. My strength comes from struggling with a personal relationship to Israel.

Where else can we find strength?

When we enter into a relationship with another and begin to share our stories and prayers, we have the ability create lasting and positive change. Each generation has a story to share, and by weaving together our narratives we can become an even stronger and more passionate community dedicated to innovation and change. My strength comes from organizing around the issues that matter, but together our strength will come from creating the personal relationships that form the glue of the community.

I have worked hard to cultivate a meaningful prayer life that connects me to God in order to ground me in life's joys and sorrows.

Whether it is the fixed liturgy or prayerful moments throughout the day, it is essential for me to find the time to say a blessing and connect with God. Just as the nun taught my family and me the power of prayer, I, too, hope to impart that wisdom by teaching God's Torah through prayer. If we become mindful of life's ordinarily sacred moments, if we love learning, and if we continually strive to create meaningful relationships, then we will undoubtedly find sparks of the divine in our lives.

I know my rabbinate will be grounded in caring for and nurturing souls. My desire to care for people was born out of my need to be cared for when I was so sick. More than being a caregiver, I want to guide people's souls to realize their Jewish potential. I look forward to [continuing to share]...my love of prayer and learning, so that together, as a community, we can strive to put our trust in the Eternal God who will guard our “going and coming, now and forevermore.”

*L'Shalom
Lyle*



President's Message

Dear Fellow Congregants,

I am writing this message as the 1st Vice-President. The reason will become clear as you read the content of my message.

Why will 2012 be different than any other year? (Sounds a little like Pesach, doesn't it?)

First of all, we will have an extra day to enjoy our time on the earth and thank G-d for what He has given us.

Secondly, according to the Mayan calendar, this will be our last chance to enjoy life, but also to make amends for our past digressions, since the world as we know it will cease to exist, or so some believe.

Thirdly, since no nomina-

tion came forth for the position of president, Har Tikvah will be functioning without a president at the helm. The Board is meeting, late in January to discuss the issue and resolve our way of functioning for the year 2012.

Since many of you were not able to attend the AGM, I will briefly cover the points I made to those that were present.

We are in the process of obtaining a de-fibrillator to be installed in addition to the synagogue's first aid equipment. I hope we will never have to use it but the Board agreed it would be necessary to have if we ever did require it.

The sewer connection has been delayed due to the prob-

lems our neighbouring plaza has in registering as a condominium corporation.

Following a report that the portable roof was leaking, it was necessary for the Board to agree to replace the roof and this has been done.

Concrete bumper boards have been placed on the south side of the parking lot to protect the plaza fence.

We have gained four new members. Please remember to welcome them at services when you see them.

The cell tower is not yet up and running; therefore the revenue from the tower has not started yet.

Thanks to the efforts of many of our members, the Bingo revenue has held

steady even though Bingo in general is not as lucrative as it has been in the past.

In conclusion, it will be a challenging year ahead, but I am sure that, given what I have seen in the past, everyone will rise to the occasion and Har Tikvah will continue to be a small, but vibrant organization in this community.

*Martin Kerman
President*



Sunshine News



Kathryn Tobe is delighted to announce the upcoming marriage of her son **Shane** to **Eleanor McMillan** is February 18, 2012 at the Loch-side House in Ayershire, Scotland. on February 18, 2012.

Shane has accepted a prestigious research position at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. This necessitated a change to the wedding date from a

much warmer July date to accommodate the time limits for taking up the position and the application for residence visas. The happy couple will relocate to Australia in the spring.

Kathryn is also delighted to announce that on October 30, 2011 **Rebecca** became engaged to her long time beau **Jeffery DeMille**. The wedding is set for February 17, 2013 at the Holland Marsh Winery in Newmarket.

Noah and Diana Farber are moving back to Toronto from Ottawa. Noah has accepted a job as Director of Communications and Government Relations for the Asthma Society of Canada



HARTY News

A HARTY shana tova to everyone. 2011 has concluded and we have a fresh start in 2012. I hope everyone had a safe and very happy new year. I'll spare everyone a bad 2012/Mayan calendar joke and get right down to a quick update on our youth group.

Fall Kallah has come and gone, with this year's social action theme being focused on educating NEL about people in society with disabilities and how they are excluded. During the event, we did a series of activities that would simulate if we were disabled in some way, for example we had to be blindfolded and find little balls in a room based on a partner's instructions. Other activities included being restricted to a wheelchair for a short

amount of time and being forced to walk only on little squares of carpets to get from one end of a hall to the next. While they seem slightly trivial, the point was made and I feel a lot of eyes were opened, including my own.

Winter Kallah was great. This time, it was in Toronto so had the privilege of avoiding the 8 hour bus ride for that event. It was a blessing and a curse, as there's nothing quite as bonding as being stuck on a moving vehicle for 8 hours with nothing to do but watch one (usually glitchy) movie and talk. I guess it's one of those things where you start to appreciate it once it's gone, as the event felt much shorter than usual. We also had one of 2 of our board meetings where we discussed a method to make resolutions pass more effi-

ciently and where we discussed this year's topics for debates.

The debates event for this year is actually being split into 3 sub-regional preliminary competitions and then the winners of such will compete in the finals at Spring Kallah. Even though this is one of NEL's least popular events, we still sent 100% of our membership last year, and we hope to do so again this year. It's a nice excuse to see all our Canadian NEL friends again anyway as the time between Winter and Spring Kallahs this year is 5 months. Don't ask me why it was planned that way, I don't know.

In his capacity on the board of the regional NFTY-NEL, in February **Sid Brejak** will be attending Veida in Missis-

sippi. At this event, the youth leaders from the 19 NFTY regions come together to elect a new North American board, decide on study and action themes for the coming year, and introduce and debate other resolutions that help guide and shape NFTY on a North American level.

On the bright side, Spring Kallah this year will be at Camp George. The seniors are all very excited as this is a great way to spend our last event in NFTY. I hope everyone's start to the New Year has been cheery to say the least. On a personal note, the doctors believe my dad's pseudomonas has been eradicated, so kudos to them.

*Matthew Jourard
HARTY President*



Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel

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November 15, 2011

Har Tikvah Temple Youth's
11 Meridian Road,
Brampton, Ontario,
L6S 3P9

Dear Jeannie Brejak, Mr. Mike Silbermann, and Har Tikvah Temple Youth:

Many thanks to ALL of you for what you continue to help us to accomplish. We feel truly blessed for the wonderful food donations once again this halloween. You do so much on our behalf and in turn we can provide a higher quality program.

Every time you have given to our outreach center, you have helped us to serve and empower vulnerable families throughout our community. Our ongoing operation can provide food provisions, basic necessities and access to various resources. Thank you for joining our fight in the war against poverty and homelessness. You continue to prove year after year that age has no limits or boundaries to accomplishing anything for those in need.

We wish you and your family's peace through your journeys.
God bless.

Catherine Rivera,
Board President

Har Tikvah PURIM PARTY !!!!

Saturday March 10th
5:00 pm



- Wear a costume
- Pizza dinner
- More info to come...

Calendar

February 8	Tu B'Shevat	
Saturday February 18	Service	
Wednesday March 7 (sundown)	Purim	
Saturday March 10 5:00 pm	Purim party and pizza dinner	
Friday April 6 (sundown)	Passover	
Saturday April 28	Service	

Humor



Jewbilation (n) Pride in finding out that one's favorite celebrity is Jewish or that your offspring is marrying a Jewish person.

Torahfied (n) Inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. (OR from the Hagadah at Passover)

Matzilation (v) Smashing a piece of matzo to bits while trying to butter it.

Bubbegum (n) Candy one's mother gives to her grandchildren that she never gave to her own children.

Chutzpapa (n) A father who wakes his wife at 4:00 a.m. so she can change the baby's diaper.

Hebort (v) To forget all the Hebrew one ever learned immediately after one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Jewdo (n) A traditional form of self-defense based on talking one's way out of a tight spot.

Mamatzah Balls (n) Matzo balls that are as good as your mother used to make ..

Meinstein - slang. "My son, the genius!"

Mishpochadots (n) The assorted lipstick and make-up stains found on one's face and collar after kissing all one's aunts and cousins at a reception.

Rosh Hashana-na-na (n) A rock 'n roll band from Brooklyn.

Yidentify (v) To be able to determine Jewish origins of celebrities, even though their names might be St. John , Curtis, Davis, or Taylor.

Minyastics (n) Going to incredible lengths and troubles to find a tenth person to complete a Minyan.

Feelawful (n) Indigestion from eating Israeli street food, especially falafel.

Impasta (n) A Jew who starts eating leavened foods before the end of Passover.

Kinders Shlep (v) To transport other kids besides yours in your car.

Shofarsogut (n) The relief you feel when, after many attempts, the shofar is finally blown at the end of Yom Kippur.

Trayffic Accident (n) An appetizer one finds out has pork

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

Mike Klopot, Chair
Ziva Marcos, Liaison

Youth Group

Randy Kerman, Co-Chair
Jeannie Brejak, Co-Chair
Lew Jourard, Liaison

Building

Mike Silbermann, Chair
Murray Farber, Liaison

Jewish Observance

Sally-Ann Kerman, Chair
Maureen Rich, Liaison

Social

Ellen Farber, Co-Chair
Esther Zimmerman, Co-Chair
Maureen Rich, Liaison

Future Building

Fred Streiman, Chair
Martin Kerman, 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
Susan Eichler, Liaison

Website

Gary Sternklar, Chair
Lew Jourard, Liaison

Phone Committee

Esther Zimmerman, Chair
Danny Gordon, Liaison

Newsletter

Ron Brejak, Chair
Martin Kerman, Liaison

Membership

Louis Eichler, Chair
Sally-Ann Kerman, Liaison

CCRJ and Har Tikvah

Social Action
Bette-Ann Goldstein, Chair
Maureen Rich, Liaison

Board Members

Executive

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Past President—Maureen Rich
1st Vice President—Martin Kerman
2nd Vice President—Lew Jourard
Treasurer—Fred Streiman
Secretary—Danny Gordon

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Susan Eichler
Ellen Farber
Murray Farber
Sally-Ann Kerman
Ziva Marcos
Michael Silbermann
Esther Zimmerman

