

**REPORT OF**  
**HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE BROTHERHOOD**  
**TO**  
**HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2007**

**Respectfully submitted by Jeff Levy, Brotherhood President**

Introduction

5767 was a successful year for Brotherhood as we continued to expand our programming and membership. Please read this report for the details of what Brotherhood has done and plans to do in the future to contribute further to the vibrancy of our great congregation.

Annual General Meeting and Installation

Our Annual General Meeting and Installation on September 30, 2007 was well-attended and I was honoured to be elected to a fourth term as President and to welcome six new directors to our board. Thank you to our Senior Rabbi and Nominations Committee for helping us to add these new men. Congratulations to John Sweet who has accepted the position of Vice-President and to Robert Collin for taking over from John as our new Treasurer.

Sunday Breakfast Club

Last year the focus of our Breakfast Club was Holy Blossom's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with five events devoted to our history. David Hart, Temple archivist, spoke on our Orthodox beginnings and our Orthodox rabbis. Dr. Ken Pritzker gave a comprehensive, hi-tech presentation on his ancestor, Edmund Scheuer. Michael Cole reviewed the life of Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, brilliantly portraying the Rabbi himself...down to his signature beret and eye-patch. We saw a film presentation of the 1938 move from the Bond street synagogue introduced by David Hart. And, as a real treat, the final in our special 150<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary series, Joe Kronick, Rabbi Michael Stroh and Edith Kirzner (with a cameo by Linda Wolfe) honoured the late Heinz Warschauer, our beloved Director of Education.

Other Breakfast Club events last year included Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers who led us in a Jewish songfest before Chanukah, Roz Schultz who spoke on how to maintain a relationship with a person who has cognitive impairment, dementia or Alzheimer's, and Jeff Dennis author of *Lessons from the Edge*, who revealed personalized stories about the world's well-known entrepreneurs and their successes and failures.

This season we started Breakfast Club with a fascinating talk by the editor of the *Jewish Tribune*, Norm Gordner, on the challenges of putting out a Jewish weekly. Our Senior Rabbi, John Moscovitz spoke about *Pirkei Avot: the Rabbinic View of the World*. On December 16, 2007 we will hear a special presentation by Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. Michael Cole, in his inimitable entertaining way, will review two books on January 20, 2008. On February 17, 2008 our guest will be Elinor Gertner of Jewish Family and Child Service, who will discuss the state of the Jewish family. We are excited about welcoming our new Assistant Rabbi, Karen Thomashow on March 23, 2008 as our guest speaker. Again, our wonderful Cantorial Soloist, Lindi Rivers will lead us in song on April 6, 2008 to prepare for Pesach. Our final Sunday Breakfast for the season will be led by Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, who grew up at Holy Blossom and is the Course Director of the Jewish Information Class of Greater Toronto, and who will speak about conversion to Judaism in our community.

Our ever-popular Sunday Breakfast Club, organized by Filip Levkovic and his dedicated crew, is open to all members of Temple – men and women. We serve breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and introduce our speaker at 10:00. We encourage our guests to join us beforehand for Temple Shacharit Service at 9:00 a.m.

#### Ontario, Canada, Israel and International Affairs

In cooperation with B'nai Brith Canada in October, we hosted an all-candidates meeting during the provincial election campaign where candidates for the riding of St. Paul's were questioned about their positions on issues of interest to the Jewish community. We continue to ask our members to help in the reconstruction efforts in Israel and to assist the victims of terror. We have a "Show your support for Israel" section on our Brotherhood website with links to Canadian and international sources of information about Israel and a link to your member of Parliament's email address. We also made a substantial financial contribution to the Israel Emergency Fund of the CCRJ and of B'nai Brith last year.

#### Photography Group

We are most grateful to the Brotherhood Photography Group under the leadership of Paul Hellen. Last year photogroup members took hundreds of photos of those who wrote letters in the Torah during Temple's Torat Chayim project. Members will continue to meet mostly on Tuesdays approximately once a month to show and discuss photographs

from their travels, exchange information on photographic techniques, and learn about the latest in photographic hardware and software. Check our website for dates.

### Joint programming with the Library Committee

This year we are again co-sponsoring evening educational programs with the Library Committee. We have three programs this year. Details are on our website.

### Communication

Thanks to Howard Roger, webmaster, and Richard Vrooman, our communications expert, we are constantly expanding our use of our website and email to communicate with our members. Our website is kept up-to-date almost daily. Visit our website at [www.obrj.org/hbbh](http://www.obrj.org/hbbh) to read about all our events. Email us at [brotherhood@holyblossom.org](mailto:brotherhood@holyblossom.org) if you want to be added to our mailing list and receive announcements of our events.

### Plaut Torah Commentaries

We have just purchased another 200 copies of the new Revised Edition of the Plaut commentary. For over a decade Brotherhood has ensured that all of our bar and bat mitzvah youth receive a gift of the Plaut Torah Commentary. Again this season the presentation was made at a special dinner program organized by the Religious School for the Grade 7 students and their parents. Each student received a personalized letter and their own copy inscribed with a newly designed faceplate indicating their Parsha, and the Hebrew date and secular date of their special day.

### Holy B's Baseball

Our Holy B's baseball team played brilliantly in the regular season this summer in the Inter Synagogue Baseball League, winning 8 out of 10 games. We did not do as well in the playoffs but everyone had a good time. There were often 15 or more fans in the stands, more than any other team. Contact us if you are interested in playing on our team this coming spring and summer. We have players of all ages and skill levels.

### Brotherhood Study Group

Last year Rabbi Michael Stroh lead us in four study sessions. The response was so overwhelmingly positive that we have invited Rabbi Stroh back for six study sessions to be held Wednesday evenings at 7:30 on Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, and Feb. 6 and 13, 2008. His topic this year will be "Modern Jewish thinkers confront nihilism and the void: What do the great Jewish thinkers of our day tell us about being Jews in our modern and post-modern world?" Mark your calendars. Women are invited to join the men in study, as always.

### Fundraising and Tzedakah

Throughout the year Brotherhood makes charitable contributions to the Temple and to Jewish causes. Tzedakah boxes are always on the tables at our Sunday Breakfast Club and our members contribute with their dues and sometimes spontaneously. Our eBay Auction fundraising project is still being considered for the future. Last year we were pleased to make financial contributions to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. We also donated to the Religious School's Confirmation-Class Israel Trip, and we have budgeted to continue this support. Our paid membership continues to grow with a 17 % increase over the last 3 years.

### Other Highlights

Brotherhood will help welcome new Temple members once again by making Chanukah gift-pack deliveries. We will provide drivers for the HABSTY Bagel Box program, when asked. We have submitted a comprehensive "wish list" to the "Building Our House" committee, and look forward assisting with the Temple Renewal. We are planning a social event (jointly with Sisterhood). We are again sponsoring the breakfast at the Temple's Annual General Meeting. In addition to our many programs, we hold five or six business meetings each season, usually on a Wednesday night.

We look forward to the rest of the year 5768. We are constantly finding new ways to serve the men of our congregation, the congregation as a whole and the Jewish community. New men are always welcome to join us in our work.