

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Friday January 16

2:00 pm 4A Leads Kabbalat Shabbat  
2:45 pm 6A Leads Kabbalat Shabbat

### Monday January 19

Grade 6 to North York Food Bank  
2:30 pm Early Dismissal

### Wednesday January 21

Middle School Ski Day

### Friday January 23

2:00 pm 3A Leads Kabbalat Shabbat  
2:45 pm 6A Leads Kabbalat Shabbat

### Monday January 26

8:45 am Middle School  
Rosh Chodesh Service

### Thursday January 29

SSAF Ski & Snowboard Tournament

### Friday January 30

2:00 pm 3B Leads Kabbalat Shabbat  
2:45 pm Grade 7 Leads Kabbalat Shabbat

### Monday February 2

PD Day - School Closed

### Wednesday February 4

6:00 pm Baeck Birthday Bash

### Thursday February 5

SSAF Senior Hockey Tournament  
2:30 pm Grade 1 Aleph Bet Ceremony

### Friday February 6

SSAF Junior Hockey Tournament  
2:00 pm 2A Leads Kabbalat Shabbat  
2:45 pm 8B Leads Kabbalat Shabbat

### Monday February 9

Tu B'Shevat

### Tuesday February 10

9:15 am Prospective Parents' Open House

**Mazel Tov to the Family  
of our Bar Mitzvah**

**January 24  
Aaron Schenk**



This past summer, we went to Israel. Nancy was there last 40 years ago. This was my first ever visit. What an experience it was. We started with an eleven day guided tour. It was truly an amazing experience. Pictures, even movies, can't take the place of the real experience, and it wasn't just about seeing things. Being immersed in the culture/religion was also enlightening. Shabbat dinner with 100 or so people is quite different than with just the family. Seeing the stores in Jerusalem opening at 8:30 on Saturday evening to begin shopping was equally fascinating. I was also mesmerized at the Bat Mitzvah ceremonies outside the Western Wall, as well as the Bar Mitzvah services right at the wall.

On the other hand, I was quite shaken at the sight of large numbers of young female soldiers with machine guns slung over their shoulders.

One of the key highlights of the trip was a guided tour of Tel Maresha, where we participated in an archaeological dig. The resulting article appeared in the special Chanukkah section of the CJN in December. To discover the importance of that site, you are invited to read the full article, at [http://www.cjnews.com/images/stories/Supplements/chanukah\\_greetings\\_08.pdf](http://www.cjnews.com/images/stories/Supplements/chanukah_greetings_08.pdf) Pages B22-B24.

It was truly gratifying to hear the number of students at Leo Baeck who had the same experience on their visits.

*Ted Liss teaches the Computer program at South Campus.*

## Alumni Spotlight



As a Leo Baeck alumna I was honoured to have the opportunity to come speak about the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program. This program enables teens at Bar and Bat Mitzvah age to start a fund in their name.

Every year the teen has the opportunity to donate money to the charities of their choice. Last year, I donated my money to Jewish Family and Child Services, and Lilah's Fund, two charities that mean a lot to me. In this program events are run to help educate the participants about the charities out there that need our help. The B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy program helps teach young adults about the importance of philanthropy and volunteering their time, and helps shape future young leaders.

Tzedakah plays a huge role at Leo Baeck. I recall working on numerous Tzedakah projects at Leo Baeck that made a great impact on my life. My time at Leo Baeck helped me develop the understanding of how important it is to help others, whether it is through donating your time or money. Leo Baeck also helped me develop the leadership skills in order to lead a project like the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy program. Leo Baeck's emphasis on Tzedakah and Tikun Olam helped shape the person I am today and helped me realize how important it is to help others who are less fortunate than I am.

If you have any questions about the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program, contact Angela D'aversa at [adaversa@ujafed.org](mailto:adaversa@ujafed.org).

*Hannah Davis graduated in our South Campus' first Grade 8 Class in 2006. Hannah is currently in Grade 11 at CHAT.*

## New South Campus Faces



Marc Kates is thrilled to join the dynamic Leo Baeck South Campus team. He teaches English to our Grade 8 students and provides special educational support. The Grade 8 classes and Mr. Kates are now engaged in a media study unit exploring through film, the way in which artistic expression mirrors society.



My name is Leah Zilbert and I am thrilled to join The Leo Baeck Day School as a Grade 3 math, science, social studies teacher. I also have the privilege of working with many other students as I provide remedial assistance in numerous classes throughout the week. I have been living overseas for the last two years completing my Master's degree in Education at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Additionally, my time abroad involved a great deal of substituting and traveling. I am delighted to be back in Canada. I moved to Toronto this past August from my hometown of Halifax, Nova Scotia. I look forward to a wonderful term two and three at Leo Baeck.



Daniel Abramson will be teaching the Reform Judaism Unit to our Middle School students. Daniel is not totally new to Leo Baeck, having been the visiting artist for Leo Baeck's Israel Legacy project at both the North and South campuses last year. Daniel is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. He has been a member of the teaching staff at Temple Holy Blossom since 2000, and has taught classes and led workshops for a number of other congregations and community organizations. Daniel has worked with confirmation classes at both Holy Blossom and Temple Sinai where he was the youth advisor for two years. In 2002, 2004, and 2006 he was the artist in residence for the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism's biennial convention. Daniel has also worked at Camp George since its inaugural session in 1999.

## A NEW OLD TRADITION

My wife, Nancy, and I have had the opportunity to travel and write over the past number of years. Actually, my wife has written the travel articles for the Canadian Jewish News while I have been the photographer, as well as Nancy's editor. Articles have appeared focusing on Budapest, Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, and Ghent. The focus was always sites of interest to the Jewish traveler.