



WELCOME TO CONGREGATION BETH ORA

Congregation Beth Ora is a Modern Orthodox synagogue serving the Jewish community in Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada.

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MESSAGE FROM RABBI

KNOPF AND HOWARD YANCOVITCH REGARDING SHUL REOPENING PROCEDURES

Dear Friends,

Three months ago, Congregation Beth Ora, along with communities throughout the world, was forced into a situation that had previously been beyond our wildest imagination. It has been painful to close our beloved synagogue building which is such an important religious, spiritual, and communal centre for our members.

We are delighted that, during this period, so many of our members have engaged with Congregation Beth Ora through Zoom prayer services, chats, educational and social events and more. We have also made great efforts to reach out far and wide to our members during this difficult time and we would like to thank those of you who have participated in this outreach. There is much that we have learnt during this pandemic as to how we can continue to serve our members and nurture this beautiful community.

With the recent announcement that religious institutions may re-open, it is now the time to begin the process of resuming Beth Ora prayer services. Though we wish we could open the doors wide and return to everything which we all miss so much, we know that would be irresponsible, and halachically and medically inappropriate. Every step on the road to reopening must be governed by the overwhelming priority of Pikuach Nefesh – the protection of life. This process is a learning curve for us all: for religious and lay leadership, as well as for members. It requires the active cooperation of everyone. It will also require a good deal of forbearance from every person wishing to partake in communal life. It can only succeed if we work carefully and cautiously together.

For the first phase of Beth Ora's reopening, Minyan will be outside only, and our building will be locked and inaccessible. The first service will be held on Shabbat morning of June 27th. At this initial stage, we will only be holding Shabbat morning services. This service will begin at "Shochein Ad" and will run from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

We will be using these Shabbat services as an opportunity to test the new safety protocols outlined below.

- It is of paramount importance that anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, quarantined due to exposure, traveled outside of Quebec in the last 14 days, or otherwise under suspicion for developing infection, not attend services. This includes anyone exhibiting any symptoms of illness. We cannot emphasize this point enough: Even if one's decision to stay home will mean there will not be a minyan, **DON'T COME TO SYNAGOGUE.**
- Those with chronic medical conditions – including the severely obese, as well as those with lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, severe kidney or liver disease, neurological disorders, and the immunocompromised – who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 should consult with their doctors as to whether or not they should attend services.
- **At this initial stage**, we ask that children below 13 years of age, and adults over the age of 65 not attend the services. Because older adults are more at risk of severe COVID symptoms, it is essential that we ensure that these gatherings can be facilitated in a way that minimizes risk. We hope that this will go well and that we can then look at opening the services to all age groups.

Joining Beth Ora's services implies full acceptance of the guidelines stated below:

- The wearing of a mask is compulsory at all times for everyone, as soon as you are on the synagogue parking lot. Everyone who comes must bring their own mask and wear it the entire time.
- During the service, as well as while entering and exiting, congregants should maintain social distance of two metres. There should be no congregating before or after prayers, and no food served.
- Hand disinfection using disinfectant gel (provided by the community) will be compulsory
- Participants are to bring their own prayer book, Chumash and tallit from home. We will have printouts of the Torah reading available.
- Participants should not sing during these services.
- There will be no access to the synagogue building under any pretext, including bathroom use, or retrieving books or Tallit.
- Anyone attending the service agrees that if, G-d forbid, they are found to be COVID-19 positive, they give permission that all other minyan attendees will be notified of their COVID-19 positive status so appropriate contact tracing can occur immediately.

None of us has experienced anything like this. We ask for your understanding, patience, and cooperation as we implement this phase, as there will surely be issues that will arise and adjustments that we will make. We welcome your feedback and input.

We look forward to the gradual and safe reopening of all our services, and the continued support and growth of our community during that process.

Rabbi Anthony Knopf

Howard Yancovitch

OUR VISION

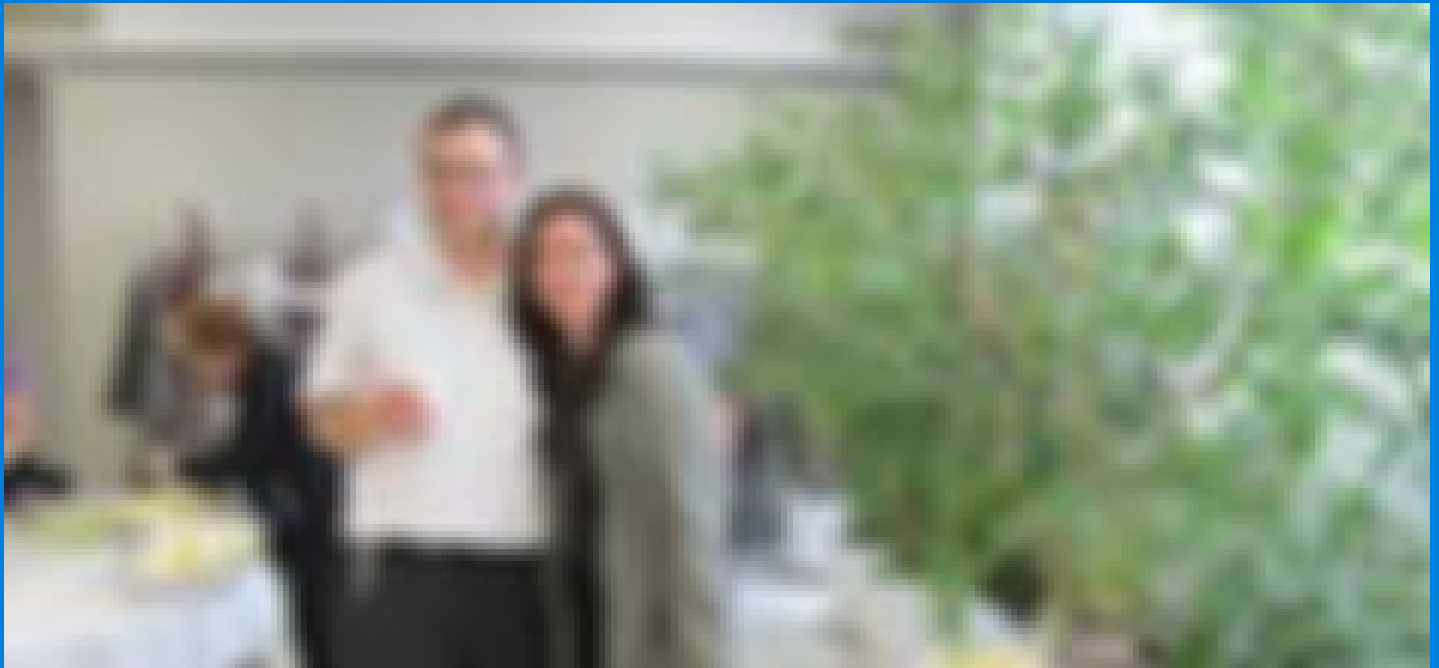
A community centre where all generations, of whatever background or level of observance, connect to their Jewish heritage and find meaning through giving and spiritual growth, in a vibrant, caring environment.

OUR MISSION

Bringing all generations together to inspire and empower Jewish living, learning and acts of kindness; honouring our heritage and building for the future.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE LATEST EDITION OF THE BETH ORACLE!](#)

SPRING-SUMMER 2020 EDITION OUT NOW!



BETH ORA COMMUNITY CARE

Volunteer your time!

One of the key strengths of community life is developing and deepening relationships. Our tradition places great emphasis on the importance of helping other people. There is a mitzvah of **bikkur cholim** (visiting the sick), **nichum aveilim** (comforting the bereaved), helping the needy and giving **tzedakah** and time to charitable causes.

Choose an area of interest and contact Rabbi Knopf - rabbiknopf@bethora.org

MEMBER NEWS

MAZEL TOV

June 20

To **Natalie & Stan Lang** on their daughter **Jessika's** graduation from Herzliah high school, and to her brother **Jaden** as well as to **Jerry Lang** and **Bella & Leon Celemencki**

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

June 20

To **Sigalit & Ran Petel** on the loss of her father **Benyamin Shabitai z"l**

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

June 20

To the family of the late **Shirley Schwartz z"l**

[More News](#)

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CHANUKAH WINTER BBQ

Recent Event

More Past Events

UPCOMING (ONLINE) EVENTS



Mitzvah Scaveng...

Sun., Jun. 28 | St Laurent



Pre-Shabbat Inspiration

Fri., Jun. 26 | <https://zoom...>



Beth Ora Bingo Night

Thu., Jun. 25 | Zoom

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

PLEASE NOTE - ALL SERVICES IN SYNAGOGUE ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

STAY HOME

STAY HEALTHY



SHABBAT BEGINS AT 8:29 PM

PARSHAT KORACH

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