

# Tablet Tableaux





# The concept

Tablet Tableaux is an art exhibit showcasing a modern take on an ancient theme – the Torah. The stories of each parsha are depicted through vibrant imagery on 54 large canvases that bring the Torah to life for people of all ages and backgrounds.

# The artist

Sheila Nemtin Levine is a self-taught artist who has experimented in different mediums over the years. Sheila has combined her artistic talents and strong Jewish identity to create Tablet Tableaux.



# The exhibit

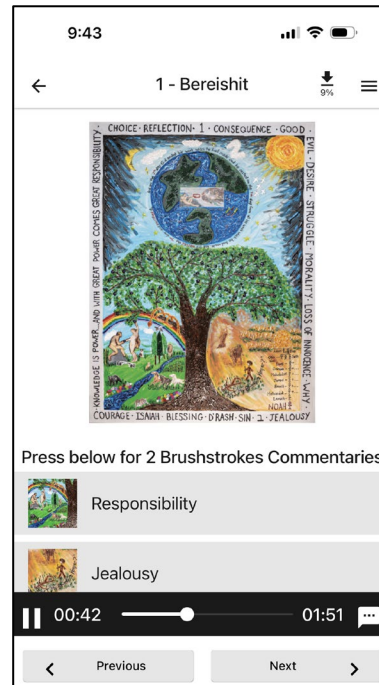
## Artist tour

Live guided tour by artist  
(60 mins)



## Audio guide

Self-guided audio tour  
accessible on smartphone  
(up to 180 mins)



## Book

Hard cover coffee table  
book available for purchase  
(\$54.00 + tax)





# The opportunity

The exhibit can serve as an ideal platform for:

- Fundraising events
- Jewish educational experiences (bar/bat mitzvah programs, Jewish day school and after-school programs)
- Community outreach programming



# The reaction

*“What an amazing legacy. This is such a wonderful display to teach our future generations. What a priceless gift!”*

*“What you have created is the first of its kind. Inspirational, emotional, educational, spiritual and stunning at the same time.”*

*“I grew up traditionally with no specific Jewish education. I was in shul because that is what you do. Now I understand more of what I missed while sitting in shul. Thank you.”*

*“Thank you for enlightening the world with your paintings and interpretations of the parshas. You have sparked interest in young and old alike... not only by creating these paintings, but also by creating the audio guide and book as well.”*

*“What an incredible perspective on the Jewish parshas. The approach opens a whole new way of understanding the Jewish experience. This is so relevant to understanding our world today.”*

*“Each tableau is filled with so much detail, depth and symbolism. You have created a beautiful story of all the parshot. These stories are brought to life. You have created a legacy for our people.”*



# The buzz

The Suburban

Shaar Shalom donates to MDA; exhibit at Beth Tikvah;

**TABLET TABLEAUX EXHIBIT:** Tablet Tableaux is a modern take on an ancient theme – the Torah at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Dollard des Ormeaux. The exhibit showcases 54 large (3 by 4) multimedia paintings, each depicting a parsha of the Torah. Each painting illustrates through vibrant imagery the stories and lessons of the Torah. An audio guide will escort visitors through the exhibit describing each painting and providing commentary that goes beyond the surface level narratives of each parsha, exploring the lessons of the Torah and their application to modern day society.

A coffee table book of the exhibit has been created so that visitors will be able to bring Tablet tableaux home with them and view it and/or listen to it (through the App) at their leisure. Tablet Tableaux is an ideal vehicle for bringing the Torah to people of all ages and backgrounds and will provide the visitor with a chance to gain a better understanding of who they are, and the roadmap that the Torah lays out for us to live a meaningful life.

Opening night left everyone who attended in awe. These works of art by Sheila Nemtin are truly inspirational! Synagogue officials say that everyone should come and experience the Torah through these brilliant paintings. Adults and children alike will be mesmerized by the colorful, creative storytelling ideas. It continues Sunday to Thursday from 11 am to 9 pm

The one hour tours are \$5 per person at 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 7pm and on. Oct. 29 (10am, 2pm, 7pm). Reserve a tour here: <https://www.bethtikvah.ca/event/tablet-tableaux>



Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz oversees the ceremony.

Shabbat Parshat Lech Lecha  
October 27 - 28, 2023 / 13 Cheshvan 5784

שבת פרשת לך לך  
יג חשוון תשפ"ד

## SHABBAT BULLETIN

CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

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### A SHABBAT MESSAGE FROM REVEREND AMIEL BENDER

**Avraham Avinu - A Pioneer of Jewish Outreach**  
אברהם אבינו - מייסד תורה ומצוות  
אברהם אבינו - מייסד תורה ומצוות  
It is you, Hashem the G-d, Who selected Avram, brought him out of Ur Kasdim and made his name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before you...  
(Nechemiah 9:7-8)

We read the above words in our Shacharit prayers every morning where we are reminded that Judaism started with one person who was selected by Hashem to be the father of our faith: Avraham Avinu. This is the focus of the opening verses of Parshat Lech Lecha which we read this Shabbat where Hashem promises Avram blessings and that he will make him a great nation.

At the end of last week's Torah portion Noach, we read that Avram's father Terach took him and his family towards the land of Canaan. Terach died on the way, and in the beginning of this week's Torah portion, Lech Lecha, Hashem appears to Avram and commands him to continue the journey to the land that I will show you - Eretz Yisrael. The Torah tells us that Avram married Sarai and that they joined Terach on their journey from Ur Kasdim, but doesn't tell us why Avram merited to be the chosen recipient of Hashem's attention and prophecies and, in short, the first Jew and father of our nation.

I am privileged to be able to share one of my late great-grandfather's thoughts on Parshat Lech Lecha in my message this week. Harav Yehoshua Halevi Zambrowsky z"l asked the following question: *In the beginning of the portion Hashem tells Avram that He will make him a great nation and that he will bless him. At this point the Torah doesn't yet tell us if Avram was a Tzaddik, a Chasid, or a person who was wholesome with Hashem. This is something that we don't find in the Torah. Noach is written in the Torah as a righteous person, and this merited him to survive his evil generation. Yaakov Avinu is described in the Torah as a wholesome person who spent his time in the study hall and merited to be one of our patriarchs. Why didn't the Torah tell us about Avram's merits and good deeds that would enable us to understand why he was chosen to be the father of our faith? Avram was chosen to be the first Jew and the father of our nation and there are no descriptive qualities written about him in the Torah. Why didn't the Torah say even one word in praise of Avram?*

Though space limitations here do not allow me to detail his lengthy answer, Harav Yehoshua mentions that later on in the portion, Malchizedek, the King of Shalem, blessed Avram: *Blessed is Avram, of G-d, the Most High, Maker of Heaven and Earth. And blessed is G-d, the Most High, Who has delivered your foes into your hand.* (Breishet 14:20, 21). These blessings were obviously given due to Avram's virtues which are highlighted in the way he conducted himself.

Ramban wrote that Hashem did indeed pick Avram because of his good deeds but explains that the Torah does not speak of Avram's good deeds because, at his chosen time, he was the only one who publicized the idea of monotheism and faith in Hashem, and it was up to him to shatter the idea of idolatry that was an accepted form of worship among the people. If the Torah wanted to explain how Avram attracted Hashem's attention, the Torah would have also had to write about the different ideas of idolatry and why they didn't apply to Avram's thinking and belief, and focusing on different forms of idolatry is not what our holy Torah is about.

Hashem was setting an example for all of us with the choice of Avraham. Rav Aharon Lichtenstein wrote that we can see expressions of Avraham's kindness in the two facets of his personality, in the practical as well as in the spiritual sphere. He serves and fears G-d and, as a practical man, he spreads G-d's name far and wide wherever he travels. He remains a humble, modest person despite his material wealth, and tries to influence his surroundings without expectation of any personal gain. In Pirkei Avot (1:15) we learn the words of Shammai: *...say little and do much. Avraham Avinu was a humble and an accomplished doer. People like Avraham don't need accolades or fame. Maybe that is why Hashem chose a person with Avraham's character traits while not mentioning them in the Torah – to teach humility to us, even at the*

highest level of leadership and accomplishment.

As the first Jew, Avraham Avinu became the pioneer of practicing what is commonly known in our synagogues and organizational circles as outreach. Avraham was a man of action who spread the word of monotheism near and far. He actively broke idols that were worshipped by the people of his society and vigorously spread his view that the only being worthy of worship was Hashem, that all should destroy the other forms they worshipped, so that others do not make the mistake of following them. Avraham, through his hospitality, brought people closer to Hashem. He loved his guests and took care of their needs, relating to them with true concern and escorting them when they left. He also taught them about Hashem and encouraged them to bless and thank Him for the food and drink that was given them. When Avraham was circumcised, he took care to have all the members of his household circumcised as well.

Jewish outreach is practiced in many ways and a rich variety of events, classes, and activities are geared to bring people into shuls and Jewish organizations. This past week I witnessed a unique form of Jewish outreach through Jewish art. I had the privilege to attend an extraordinary opening night VIP exhibition at Congregation Beth Tikvah on the West Island. This exhibit, truly one of a kind, depicts our fifty-four Torah portions in fifty-four paintings rich with colour, interpretation, messages, and ideas. The accomplished artist, Montreal's very own Sheila Nemtin Levine, spent seven years bringing her labour of love - her ideas and ingenuity for the most incredible portrayal of Torah through art - to eyes that will take in and enjoy the rich detail of our holy Torah's text, stories, and even commentary with utter amazement. As someone who has been learning Torah ever since I can remember and being the Torah for the community for most of my thirty-three years as clergy in the city, I was stunned into speechless admiration for this not to be missed exhibit. As the artist guided us through a tour of her work, there was much interest expressed through the questions of her guests. The questions were for many, the beginning of a thirst for Torah knowledge, to understand the concepts and ideas in the paintings, to go beyond the paintings to the source - to the Torah. This exhibit is a wonderful eye-opener to a unique pictorial depiction of Torah, and you can bring this exhibit home in a beautiful hard cover book published by the artist. The exhibit continues at Beth Tikvah until November 1st and will display at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue from November 6-8. Accompanying these canvases is an audio guide which is available with the purchase of the book. While viewing the exhibit in person it is advised to bring a smartphone and headphones to access the audio musically accompanied commentary.

And finally... I experienced a milestone in my outreach this past week! I began to teach the son of a former Bar Mitzvah student - my first 2nd-generation student! I may be getting old, or... my former student had children at a young age... your call!

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel





# Contact information

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