

# RITUAL AND OBSERVANCE



Bar mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, holidays, and the weekly Sabbath are all grounded in centuries-old religious tradition. These lifecycle events and observances have been passed down from generation to generation through the centuries and across the globe. While Jewish identity is expressed in a variety of ways in Ontario's geographically disparate Jewish communities, ritual connects members of the community with the continuity of tradition.



Bar Mitzvah class, Congregation B'nai Israel St. Catharines, 1974  
Ontario Jewish Archives, fonds 76



Simon family at a Passover seder Toronto, 1940s  
Ontario Jewish Archives, photo 4463



Wedding ceremony of David Leibman and Goldie Balinson at Beth Jacob Synagogue Hamilton, 1953  
Ontario Jewish Archives, photo 1915



Max Rotman recites the Sabbath blessings Hamilton, 1960s  
Ontario Jewish Archives, fonds 33, series 3, item 18



Tashlich (the tradition of casting away one's sins in a body of water during the holiday of Rosh Hashanah) at Lake Ontario Toronto, ca. 1910  
Ontario Jewish Archives, fonds 43, item 8



Grade 2 Chanukah performance, Bialik Hebrew Day School Toronto, 2010  
Photo courtesy of Anita Eckhaus



Harry Smith carrying a Torah scroll donated to Congregation Beit Yehuda Toronto, 1952  
Ontario Jewish Archives, photo 392A



Purim party Port Colborne, ca. 1951  
Ontario Jewish Archives, photo 1456

## Being Jewish in Ontario: A Pictorial Celebration

May is Jewish Heritage Month in Ontario. Discover the many different ways of "being Jewish" in the province through this exhibit of photographs from UJA Federation's Ontario Jewish Archives. Each of the five banners on view present a different aspect of Jewish life in the province, reflecting the vibrant texture of both the past and the present. From a bar mitzvah in St. Catharines, to the Jewish students' organization at Queen's University, to a Hadassah Bazaar in Brantford; this exhibit celebrates the multiplicity of Jewish life in Ontario.

The Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) acquires, preserves and makes accessible the records that chronicle our province's Jewish history including photographs, films, and oral histories. Through exhibitions, programs, research assistance, and walking tours, the OJA tells the stories of Ontario's Jewish community. Our Stories are your stories. This exhibition is co-organized by the OJA and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

