



In this issue:

- Spring Highlights
- From our Rabbi
- From our President
- Religious School
- Donations
- Congratulations
- Calendar of Upcoming Events

What's Happening at Temple Israel?



On a Roll with Temple Israel

Young and old enjoyed our Temple Family Bowling Night at Fleetway Bowling Lanes, organized by Gail Bass. Great fun was had by all, and we even raised a few dollars!

Spring 2017 Highlights



Side Splitting Fun

Laughter filled the room all evening as we enjoyed our first annual Comedy night. Highlights included skits, humorous songs, all-time classic comedy videos, and hilarious performances by some of our members, including a memorable crashing performance by Yolanda Tomaszewski. Our thanks to Gail for organizing such a successful and fun-filled event.

Spring 2017 Highlights, continued



Esther triumphs again!

Always a lot of fun, Purim was awesome this year as the Rabbi told the “true” story of Vashti, ably assisted by Maya Dressler. This was followed by great food and a variety of delicious home-baked Hamantaschen which magically disappeared almost immediately!



Religious School News

On Friday, March 31, we thanked our teachers at the annual Teacher Appreciation Shabbat, with blessings led by our students. On Sunday, May 7, Temple Israel Religious School concluded a wonderful school year with a community potluck luncheon. Just as with the school year, the luncheon was infused with Jewish community, culture, and warmth. Our teachers, including our own Religious School graduates, Nevia Frank and Rachel Okazaki, participated enthusiastically, strengthening the bonds among our young people and helping to bring our traditions to a new generation. We look forward to another terrific year in 5778!



Our Temple Community Seder

Temple Israel was filled to capacity as we told the Passover story, sang songs, drank wine and ate! Chef Ian Kennard of Willie’s Cafe prepared an awesome meal culminating with amazing desserts! Our thanks go to Daryl Fridenberg for organizing such an enjoyable and successful event.

From our Rabbi and President

Jason Mandlowitz, Temple President

At long last, Spring has arrived. I'm sure we are all looking forward to a sunny and dry summer. In my last Congregational Message, Temple Israel was planning our annual Passover Second Seder Dinner on April 11. The event was a huge success and fully subscribed. Special thanks to Rabbi Dressler for conducting the Seder, Daryl Fridenberg for organizing the event, and Ian Kennard at Willie's Café for catering services. We have already booked March 31, 2018, for next year so mark your calendars.

We have a number of new enhancements to our security system. An automatic lock and buzzer system has been installed at the side door together with an external mirror to allow for easier recognition of people for the office. An Intruder and Security Threat Alarm policy and procedure is being finalized to secure the Temple from external threats. A new siren has been installed in the school and run from the office, and security film was added to the downstairs windows. These measures were motivated by the increase of antisemitism in our community. This has included a number of bomb threats received at the Jewish Community Centre. We can't be too careful. It is our obligation to protect our congregants, visitors, and children attending our Religious School.

The recently published Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2016 by the League for Human Rights, B'nai Brith Canada, tells a chilling story. The Audit found that in Canada in 2016 there were 1,728 acts of antisemitism comprised of harassment, vandalism, and violence. This is the highest total seen over the past five (5) years. Temple Israel is working with representatives of the Judaic-Catholic-Muslim communities to establish an interfaith group in London to act on the Audit's recommendation. We are all dedicated to making our community a tolerant and welcoming environment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, let me remind you of the Temple's Annual Meeting on June 13, 2017, starting at 7:00 PM. Our agenda includes the election of Officers and Directors for 2017-2018, presentation of the Temple's budget for 2017-2018, reports from our Executive members, and a couple of other surprises. Until then, best wishes, good health and peace.



Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

In May, as I prepared Parashat Emor for services, I had an epiphany. Not only was Emor the Torah Portion I had prepared for my (adult) bat mitzvah, it was also exactly twenty years ago this month. Coming to Judaism as an adult, the anniversaries I celebrated were usually in the single digits. Eventually I could say I had done something 10 years ago. I could even reference a few things from “the last century.” But my Jewish life had still been a minority chapter in my life’s history.

As the 20th anniversary of my bat mitzvah passed, I realized that these proportions had begun to change. I first learned of my Jewish background in 1989, and I began classes in my home community of Washington, D.C. within months. While I was pregnant with my oldest daughter, I became involved in a synagogue and joined as a member half my life ago. I’ve thought of myself as a Jew for almost 30 years now, more than half of my life, and I had formally engaged serious study of Judaism and communal involvement for more than two decades. As new chapters of my story take final form from the vantage of hindsight, the story is now one being told from within the bonds of Jewish community k’lal Yisrael. It’s hard even to remember what it actually felt like to think of myself in any other terms. The Jewish identity that began as aspirational, as I sought to understand and embrace Judaism, was now foundational. It is an inseparable part of my life and my family. I no longer know anything else.

Temple Israel has blessed me with a contract renewal that now defines this summer as the mid-point of my foreseeable tenure. Everything that has brought me to this moment, my 7th anniversary as your Rabbi, will be matched with an equal period of growth, maturing, and exploration. These first seven years have been so rich for me intellectually, spiritually, and communally I can barely imagine matching the substance of this chapter that’s ending with an equally rich one ahead. But it cannot be anything but. My youngest children will reach adulthood. I will do weddings for “children” whom I knew as b’nei mitzvah, and celebrate b’nei mitzvah with children I named. I will, sadly, bury people who have become not just friends, but extended family. A whole other chapter of my life will be written, and I cannot fully conceptualize the years that will lie beyond.

Thank you for welcoming me into your wonderful spiritual family. I hope I am able to share with you all the blessings I have known as we have grown together. And may the next seven years bring us all good health, good fortune, and incredible memories. Together.

Mazel Tov!

...Mike and Elise Derbyshire and family, on Rachel’s Bat Mitzvah May 20

...Jason and Karen Murray and family, on Alexandra’s (Alex) Bat Mitzvah May 27

...Margie Wienburg, on her retirement from Noah’s Ark Preschool June 18

Your loving presence has been known far and wide among the generations of students whose lives you have touched these many years.

In Appreciation

A special thank you to...

The Shmukler-Dutsch family for organizing our Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Dinner on Friday, March 31, 2017. Congratulations to all who participated, and our Teachers in particular.

Stephen State for his commitment to Adult Hebrew classes 2017

Yola Tomaszewski for opening the Gift Shop extra days and times leading up to Passover

Tom Casler and Wally Zimmerman for so expertly conducting tours and teaching sessions for various area high schools for Grade 11 World Religions Course

Kiddush/Oneg Hosts

May 13, 2017 Kiddush was hosted by Wayne and Kim Atkinson in honour of Emma's birthday and enjoyed by all

June 2, 2017 Oneg will be hosted by Sharon Marks in memory of Ron Marks, following the 7:30 service

If you would like to host a Kiddush or Oneg, please contact the office and we will be pleased to help you make the necessary arrangements.

Donation Acknowledgements:

For your generosity...

A sincere thank you is extended to everyone who has so generously contributed to Temple Israel since our last Bulletin.

If we have inadvertently missed an acknowledgement on your behalf, please let the office know so that we may include your kindness in our next publication.

Tzedakah Fund

Linda Fried, in memory of Bernice Fried

General Operating Donations

Linda Freedman, in memory of Sam Freedman

Art Fund

Melody Enzel, in loving memory of her sister, Candace Nefsky

Adult Education Fund

Andy Barak and Sally Cozens, in memory of their nephew Enosh Gaster

Please note: we inadvertently left Sally's name off of this previous memorial donation, and we extend our apologies.

Jayne Garland, to thank Temple Israel for Adult Hebrew Class 2017

Elizabeth Teevan, to honour another enriching year of Adult Hebrew with Stephen State

Building Fund

Phyllis and Marvin Simner

- in memory of Phyllis's father, Louis Starnbach
- in memory of Phyllis's step-father, Edward Malkis
- in memory of Phyllis's aunt, Hazel Ginsberg
- Tom Casler in honour of Jason Mandlowitz and Daryl Fridenberg, in recognition of the work they

Social Action Fund

Nancy Davis, in memory of Florence S Davis

Religious School Sponsorships

Michael Shmukler, Linda Dutsch and Family, in memory of Leah Shmukler, mother of Michael and grandmother of Hannah and Lillian

Ruth and Gary Rohekar, to thank Stephen State for conducting Beginner's Hebrew class 2017

Religious School Sponsorships, cont.

Jason Mandlowitz and Daryl Fridenberg

- in memory of William Casler, father of Thomas Casler
- in memory of Jennie Ender, mother of Arthur Ender and grandmother of Francee Ender
- in memory of Lily Jerome, mother of Laurence Jerome
- in memory of Shirley Schneider, mother of Brynah Schneider-Friedman
- in memory of Maurice Seigel, father of Jeffrey Seigel
- in memory of Frances State, mother of Stephen State
- in memory of Tova Blitz, mother of Andy Barak
- in memory of William Scott Macdonald, husband of Nancy Macdonald
- in memory of Peter Tilner, father of Sandra Benjamin and Harold Tilner

do for the Temple Israel community

Rabbi Wittstein Camp George Fund

Desi and Kandice Brownstone, to support Camp George

Choir Fund

Melody Enzel, in loving memory of my parents, Samuel Nefsky and Sonya Sydell

Janice and Richard Lubell, to honour Ron Wexler's amazing recovery

Gerald and Nancy Wright, to honour Ron Wexler's recovery and to wish him well

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Arthur and Sandra Benjamin, in memory of Sandra's sister, Peggy McCormack

Sandra Benjamin and Harold Tilner, in memory of Peter Tilner, their father

Randy Kissack, with gratitude to Rabbi Dressler

Jason Mandlowitz and Daryl Fridenberg, to honour Rabbi Dressler for leading our Passover Seder 2017

Carole and Allen Gumprich, in appreciation of Rabbi Dressler

Arthur and Sandra Benjamin, in memory of Pearl Tilner, grandmother of Sandra Benjamin and Harold Tilner

Ana and Alex Porzecanski, in memory of Olga Acerenza, mother of Ana

- in memory of Mary Blustein, mother of Vena Presner
- in memory of Harold Kochberg, father of Ferne Kochberg
- in memory of Molly Simmons, mother of Michael Simmons
- in memory of Carlos Acerenza, father of Ana Porzecanski
- in memory of Bona Zimmerman, mother of Walter Zimmerman
- in memory of John Farro, father of Joyce Phillips
- in memory of Daniel Fisman, father of Michael Fisman
- in memory of Bill Levitt, father of Margie Wienburg
- in memory of Pearl Michaels, mother of Allan Michaels
- in memory of Howard Phillips, father of Jeff Phillips
- in memory of Selma Leonard, mother of Linda Zimmerman
- in memory of Morris Rosenberg, father of Hersch Rosenberg
- in memory of Harry Schneider, father of Brynah Schneider-Friedman
- in memory of Diana Farro, mother of Joyce Phillips
- in memory of Clara Fendrich, mother of Peter Fendrich
- in honour of James and Daphne Stevens, on their anniversary
- in honour of Neville Suskin and Helen Ettler, on their anniversary
- in honour of Josh and Kay Dubitsky, on their anniversary
- in honour of Allan and Ruth Michaels, on their anniversary

New digital bulletin coming:

We're working hard on redesigning a new digital bulletin to be launched this summer. In the meantime, please enjoy this new format featuring the many events, programs and activities happening at Temple.