



Q: How did you come to Rochester and then to TBK?

A: I came to Rochester as a graduate student and received my PhD from the University of Rochester. I joined the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at U of R and I retired as professor emeritus. For ten years I was a member of Temple Beth David, I was on the ritual committee, I served as president of the board and I was a regular Torah reader. I came to TBK, drawn to the Reform tradition of social justice, because it is a core Jewish value. I joined TBK when Rabbi Stein came as Senior Rabbi.

Q: What social action work have you participated in at Temple?

A: At TBK, I attended my first URJ convention in which RAC (the Religious Action Center) was very prominent. Our TBK delegation pledged Tikkun Olam, taking on three things - work to alleviate poverty, support refugees, and make Women of the Wall visible. Rabbi Stein and Daniel Mendelson invited me to be the Chair of the Social Action committee. Our committee supported TEMPRO, shepherded the partnership with Keeping Our Promise, participated in RAC-NY advocacy and supported Tzedek, any activity for justice, including racial justice.

Q: What was your most valued work?

A: I have infused my professional life with social justice values. I took up a suggestion made by one of my students to work with inner city minority kids and as a result I created the *Seeds for College Foundation*, which brought Black students from Rochester to the UR campus several times a year, to inspire them to finish high school and go to college. Also, with historian Peter Eisenstadt and my Israeli writer sister, Matia Kam, I founded *The Jewish Pluralist*, a digital publication, where people of diverse opinions can have conversations about Jewish and non-Jewish life in Israel and in America. <http://thejewishpluralist.net/>

Q: What direction do you hope to see the Temple follow in the future?

A: One area that I would like to see raised as a critical concern at TBK is racial justice. In our long Jewish history of diaspora we used to be that Other, the "Black people," so to speak, and I can't be a Jew and not identify with Black people and all other marginalized and excluded. I hope to see us do more repair work with the Black community, deepening our existing efforts in that regard. I also hope that we can all work on being able to talk to one another about human rights in a non-confrontational and non-hateful way. Social justice, Tzedek, is not like a jacket that we can put on and take off. It is who we are.