



4 Questions for Jacqui Lipschitz

Q: What brought you to TBK?

A: **After we were married, left South Africa and moved to Rochester so my husband could do more training at Eastman Dental Center, we stayed with Cyril and Shula Meyerowitz. We were introduced to Eleanor Lewin, who encouraged me to teach at TBK. I was given a warm welcome at TBK and, in addition to teaching, I helped with whatever needed doing. It was like home to me. Eventually, we became members, and now I am the director of religious education.**

Q: What involvement have you had with social action and what has been most meaningful?

A: **I am drawn to Reform Judaism because of its strong commitment to social action.**

Through TBK, I've been involved with many different projects: RAIHN, Keeping Our Promise, TEMPRO, the literacy project, and others. I also support charities in South Africa.

I helped Afghan and Iraqi refugees who came to Rochester through the Keeping Our Promise organization. I took them to the bank and assisted them in opening accounts and organizing their finances. It was very meaningful to me because it was a way that I could make a difference in the lives of individuals. I'm a strong believer in the "starfish story" as being one step toward changing the world...helping one person ease into American culture is very important for that person.

Also, I loved my involvement with outreach at Federation's PJ Library, which gifts Jewish-themed books to children of all ages. At Federation, I was also director of family education.

Q: How is the South African Jewish community different from the Rochester Jewish community?

A: **In Cape Town, everyone was affiliated with a synagogue. When there was a simcha, the whole community was welcome to attend; in Rochester, we had to become accustomed to more boundaries within the community and between individuals. Also, in Cape Town, everyone was Orthodox, while in Rochester there are multiple versions of Judaism being practiced. Most children in the community are educated in Jewish day school in Cape Town, unlike Rochester, where most Jewish children attend public school.**

Q: Where do you see the future of TBK? What would you share about TBK with someone looking to affiliate?

A: **I hope that being a member of TBK will continue to mean all kinds of things, a place for everyone. TBK does a good job of being warm and welcoming, and I would like to see that continue. Our diversity is one of our strengths and is never an obstacle for our families. We know who we are and we can continue to embrace all of our neighbors. I'd like to see us continue to move beyond the walls of the building and be out there in the community.**