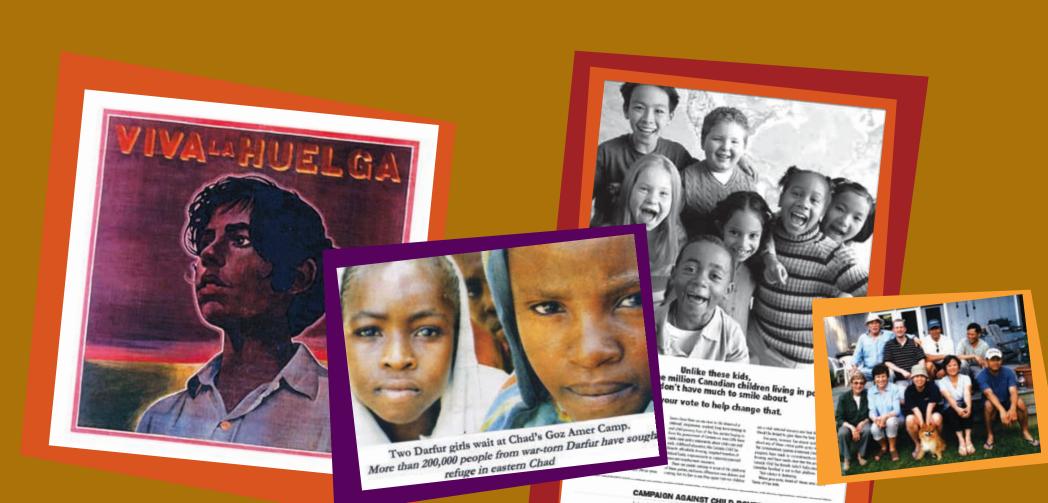
# TEMPLE EMANU-EL

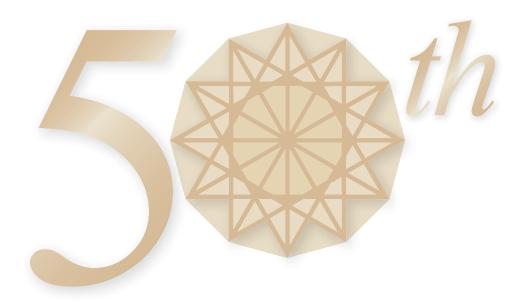
SOCIAL ACTION RETROSPECTIVE





### TEMPLE EMANU-EL SOCIAL ACTION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This retrospective is the remarkable history of how one small congregation responded to world events with compassion, energy, and generosity over the past fifty years.





50th Anniversary SOCIAL ACTION RETROSPECTIVE



# **SOCIAL ACTION RETROSPECTIVE**

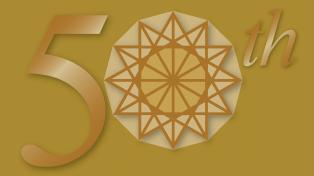
Shortly after coming to Toronto from Chicago in the late 1960's, I asked a friend to help organize a collection of food and clothing for the Vietnam War draft resisters living in the downtown area of the City. "No problem", he replied, and in little more than a day a caravan of cars was streaming down Bayview Avenue loaded with coats and jackets, scarves, socks, and a variety of pastries schnorred from local bakeries before they closed on Christmas eve. The hundred or so forlorn men and their families huddled in their centre on Huron Street were predictably grateful for this gesture of largesse from the passel of Jews who had descended on them from somewhere in the great frozen wilderness north of Bloor Street.

If they were appreciative, I was overwhelmed by the quick response to the new rabbi's appeal, especially at a time when many Canadians were unsure whether these people were refugees or deserters from a war supposed to save the southeast Asian nations from falling like dominos into the lap of the Soviet Union and China. Years later I was recounting this story to one of the Temple members who had participated in the event. He expressed great puzzlement at my interpretation and responded: "Oh, no, Rabbi. You have it all wrong. We thought you were a bit of a wacko! But you were the new American rabbi, and we Canadians were too chagrined to tell you so!"

Forty years later I find myself wondering whether they or I have changed appreciably. If the past is prologue, then, perhaps, many of our good deeds are the unmeant outcomes of our earlier patterns of thought and behaviour. The greatest consequences of our efforts frequently defy our intentions, or bend them toward purposes little imagined in their infancy. Ask any parent, or any husband or wife to reflect honestly on what they anticipated and what they achieved in their marriage. Ask any rabbi what he or she intended for their congregation and what they accomplished. The rabbinate, like the family, is an act of faith. Our vision may be faulty, our motives obscure even to ourselves; but if, in the end, a student or a child blesses us for giving them hope in time of doubt or a spark of inspiration at a crossroads in their lives, then dayenu – it is enough. Whatever we intended has been redeemed, and we can pray with some conviction: *Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohenu Melech Haolam, she' chechiyanu v' kiyimanu, v' higiyanu lazman hazeh*.

Blessed are You, *Adonai Elohenu*, Sovereign of the Universe, for giving us life, and sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld



50th Anniversary
SOCIAL ACTION
RETROSPECTIVE



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL PERSPECTIVE

This is not a museum retrospective nor a lifetime achievement award nor an act of self-congratulation. We are not looking back at our history simply to celebrate our "greatest hits." This is an act of remembrance to provide instruction on the call of engagement. Let me explain: In its fifty years of history, Temple Emanu-El has not been reticent to act in the name of the Jews. Temple Emanu-El Jews have been engaged in this world. Engagement is not a stance; it is not a view; it is not ideology--it is, in its essence, action, urgent action. Tirelessly, this congregation has responded to the innumerable ways in which our broken world has cried out for healing. This work never ceases. And so, the work of this congregation shall never cease. We assert that in some small way, we are strengthening the divine presence in this world and that this is the necessary work of the Jews. To all those who have led this congregation in its work in the past with the deepest devotion, to the great and gentle neshamas of Helen Poizner and those who currently constitute our social action committee, and to all those who shall in days to come lead us in ways beyond our imagining: I offer my gratitude.

This congregation is blessed for the work of your hearts and your hands. B'ezrat HaShem, may you always know blessing.

Rabbi Debra Landsberg



50th Anniversary SOCIAL ACTION RETROSPECTIVE



# **SOCIAL ACTION VIEWS**

Social Action continues to be an important aspect of Temple life. The Social Action Committee meets monthly and has a group of active members who work to provide programming opportunities in areas of political advocacy, community involvement and volunteerism. Interested members are invited to attend. We bring issues of *Tikkun Olam* forward for consideration and invite the congregation to participate in a variety of meaningful projects throughout the year.

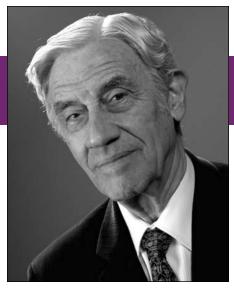
Putting this project together has been a labour of love. When the committee decided to present a retrospective, as our contribution to the anniversary events, I called together our past leaders in social action, to discuss plans for how we might best implement the task. This group of inspiring individuals has undertaken some amazing projects over the years, all now recorded in these pages along with their photos. After a wonderful evening of reminiscences we realized that more than anecdotal memories were required for this job. We needed to gather archival materials and information to reflect all the areas of activities covering the past fifty years. The group went to work, looking in the back of their closets to find long lost files and newspaper clippings. We located and read old bulletins going back to the founding of the temple, searching high and low for any bits and pieces that might be pertinent. We spoke to many temple members asking for their social action memories. Slowly material was gathered, text was developed, and presentation boards showcasing the history were assembled.

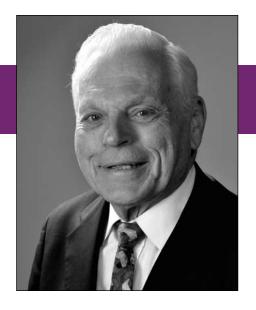
The production of this book is the culmination of our 50th anniversary year. The boards, initially viewed in the social hall, have now found a permanent home mounted in the north corridor. Long after the presentation boards have been replaced by other temple projects on display, this book will be available in the temple library as a legacy for future generations. It is the remarkable history of how our small congregation responded to world events with compassion, energy, and generosity over the past fifty years.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who helped in the realization of this project, particularly my brother, Ken Caplan, President, Kenneth Caplan and Associates Limited for his guidance and support, and whose expertise and talent made possible the design and production of this book. My thanks as well to David Morris, David Morris Photography for the portraits of our Leaders in Social Action, and his valuable assistance in assembling the presentation boards.

Helen Poizner, Chair Social Action Committee December, 2008









ESME GOTZ ELLY GOTZ HAROLD CHAPMAN MARY CHAPMAN

### **LEADERS IN SOCIAL ACTION**







Sy Landau

Barbara Landau

MARTHA ROSENBERG

### **LEADERS IN SOCIAL ACTION**







CAROL TATOR

Renée Bouthot

EDITH BLAKE (deceased)

### **LEADERS IN SOCIAL ACTION**









LYNDA WISE SHELLY CANDEL TONY DEMARTINES SANDY WEINBERG

SOCIAL ACTION
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2007-2008









Anne Moorhouse

BERNICE LEIPCIGER

CYREL BERNE

**ELIZABETH SHIELDS** 

SOCIAL ACTION
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2007-2008









FRANKIE ROSE JUDY COHEN KATHY ROTTMAN

LAURI SUE ROBERTSON

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007-2008

YOU are not obliged to finish the task

nor
are you
free to
neglect it.



## 50 YEARS OF SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action has always been an important aspect of Temple Life. Whether in political advocacy, community involvement or volunteerism, our legacy is rich in meaningful experiences. The following is a history of the many causes and groundbreaking tasks undertaken by a small congregation dedicated to *Tikkun Olam*.

#### 1968

A socially conscious group of members collected and delivered food and clothing to a community centre on Huron Street in aid of draft resistors from the United States.

### 1969

Meetings with CHAT (Community of Homophiles Association of Toronto) who were invited by the congregation to speak at a Shabbat service.

### 1970

The pulpit served as a forum for Caesar Chavez, organizer of the United Farm Workers, as congregants boycotted Californian grapes and lettuce at the local supermarkets.

### 1971

A visit to the Harold King Farm, a post release guidance centre for ex-convicts.

#### 1972

Temple Emanu-El became on the first groups to show concern over the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. Advertisements were placed in newspapers urging citizens to write to the Prime Minister of Canada to exert pressure on the USSR to liberalize its emigration policy for Jews. A campaign was mounted to relay phone messages of solidarity into the homes of Jewish families in Russia. These culminated with the broadcast of a phone call into the sanctuary during High Holy Day services.

### 1978

Meetings were attended with the Interfaith Task Force on Racism and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

### 1979

The newspapers were filled with images of frightened people clinging to decrepit boats in the South China Seas. Indochinese refugees, desperate to flee the political violence in Southeast Asia were drowning, being attacked by pirates and murdered. Many were in crowded refugees camps. The Canadian

Government provided the opportunity for ordinary citizensto sponsor these refugees and our congregation rose to the challenge by bringing to Canada, 27 families containing over 100 Vietnamese Boat People!

### 1982

In Argentina, at the time of military dictatorship, (1976-83) 325 Jewish political prisoners were being held without charge by the Argentine government. Our temple undertook to sponsor all these prisoners should they be able to emigrate. Because of our commitment to each name, the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires was obligated to go and locate these 325 people. Sources have indicated that all on the list survived!

Rabbi Bielfeld joins Energy Probe Research Foundation as the congregation sends letters to the government and places advertisements in the Canadian Jewish News supporting a moratorium on the sale of Candu Reactors.

### 1983

Formed the Temple Committee on Disarmament and Peace; joined forces with The Interfaith Program for Public Awareness of Nuclear Issues (IPPANI).

#### 1985

A fundraising campaign was held in support of Ethiopian Jewry.

#### 1986

Mazon, the Jewish response to hunger, is founded. Mazon raises funds primarily from the Jewish community and distributes those funds on a non-denominational basis to Canadian organizations battling hunger on the front lines.

### 1988

Fundraising was held in support of Jews in Syria.

### 1990

A new Environmental Committee is formed with a focus on a policy of environmental protection, and recycling. A family from Honduras is sponsored by the congregation.

### 1991

Casey House, a hospice for Aids patients, is founded, and supported by the congregation. Members raise funds to support New Israel Fund Social Service Agencies, and the Leo Baeck Day School Fund Drive.



### 50 YEARS OF SOCIAL ACTION

### 1992

Religious School wins prestigious Irving J. Fein Award for Social Action for their donations to food program for those less fortunate. The congregation along with Energy Probe takes an anti-nuclear stance, and a critical position on Ontario Hydro in a letter writing campaign.

#### 1993

The congregation fund raises to sponsor the Fogl family from Bosnia.

### 1995

Constitutional change to extend membership including gays and lesbians.

### 1997

The Campaign Against Child Poverty is founded.
The concept was formulated around our board table, but soon grew too big to be handled within our boundaries. With Rabbi Bielfeld and the late June Callwood as co-chairs, CACP became a national grass roots organization bringing the facts of child poverty to community and governments.

#### 2000

Arranged a 'Caring for Kids' Concert in support of Campaign Against Child Poverty. A free Mother's Day Concert in honour of Toronto's child care community with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts was organized. Sponsor support raised funds for CACP. A *Mitzvah* Day, focusing on social service agencies was held, with June Callwood as guest speaker.

#### 2001

Donations to the Out of the Cold Program at Holy Blossom Temple Support of Maquila Solidarity Network's'No Sweat' campaign against sweat shop Abuses. Letters to the government regarding affordable housing. Organized and promoted funding for TSO Music Mentors, a program for inner city students in need of financial assistance for music lessons and instruments. Members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra donated their time and talent.

A High Holy Day Food Drive was organized, to become a yearly event.

# 2002 Gordon Wolfe, executive director of the Jewish

Gordon Wolfe, executive director of the Jewish Family and Child Service speaks to the congregation about the changes in family life. A Walkathon is held in support of JF&CS and \$4500.00 is raised.

Temple members raise funds, shop, cook and deliver a dinner for 75 people, to the Out of the Cold program at Temple Har Zion. This becomes an annual event.

#### 2003

The Temple made a commitment to 'Adopt A Family', an organization dedicated to helping victims of terrorism in Israel. Funds were raised for the Korman family, a young couple with two small children, who had both been injured during a powerful bomb attack. Phone calls, emails and financial assistance were sent by way of support. Members of the congregation met with the family during a Temple trip to Israel in 2004. Social Action participated in an Israel Fair, promoting and fundraising for 'Adopt A Family'. Support was offered to the new immigrants of the Argentine Jewish Community in Toronto.

### 2004

A relationship was formed with Ve'ahavta, a service organization doing work with street people in Toronto, as well as international projects. A winter clothing drive for Ve'ahavta has become another yearly event. This year also saw the formation of The Bayview Corridor of Synagogues, an affiliation of synagogues located along Bayview Avenue which includes Temple Emanu-El, Kehillat Shaarei Torah (Orthodox), Beth Tikvah (Conservative), Temple Har Zion (Reform) and Beit Rayim (Conservative). These inter-denominational congregations joined together in an amazing initiative of co-operation that caused quite a buzz in the Jewish community. A committee of representatives continue to meet regularly in order to combine the strength of the congregations in group social action projects. A joint Blood Donor Clinic was the first project undertaken, followed by the recruitment of members to work on a Habitat. Homes for Humanity Build. These have become yearly events with other projects to follow.

A *Chanukah* Toy Drive, in support of JF&CS was initiated, and has become part of our yearly calendar of events. Members attended at a "Never Again" Crisis in Sudan rally. This was the beginning of our involvement with the complicated situation in Darfur.



## 50 YEARS OF SOCIAL ACTION

#### 2005

The congregation supported the National Council of Jewish Women Passover Food Drive. An information campaign was embarked upon in the bulletin, regarding the horrific conditions in Darfur, urging members to write letters to government on this issue.

A Mother's Day Gift Bag project in support of 'Sistering' was initiated. Congregants were asked to save and donate sample size bath products and cosmetics, which were packed into gift bags and delivered to 'Sistering' for their Mother's Day lunch event. This is also remains on our yearly list of projects.

#### 2006

An evening focused on the Crisis in Darfur was held, with speakers Dr. Norman Epstein, and Dr. Acol Dor. Rabbi Bielfeld acted as moderator. Through promotion to the community, the event was well attended. Timing was excellent as a rally announced that evening, was planned for the following Sunday at Queen's Park.

Planning was put in place to initiate a new volunteer program at Baycrest in conjunction with the Bayview Corridor and other partners in the community, utilizing a unique program called SPARK. SPARK is a Jewish learning service program that integrates community service, volunteer skill development, Jewish text study, and opportunities for reflection and exploration of public policy and activism.

A campaign was launched to engage the entire Jewish community in awareness, advocacy, and action to conserve energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The centrepiece of the program is to take immediate action by changing to energy efficient, cost effective compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Part of the campaign was to install CFL bulbs as a community during *Chanukah* 2006. The Social Action committee arranged for CFL bulbs to be distributed to members during *Chanukah* celebrations.

#### 2007

The Bayview/Spark/Baycrest project is now up and running successfully. New participants are currently being recruited. Our yearly calendar of projects continue, with a joint *Mitzvah* Day planned for the spring of 2008 in conjunction with the Bayview Corridor.

## César Chávez

César Estrada Chávez



César Estrada Chávez (March 31, 1927 – April 23, 1993) was a Mexican American farm worker, labour leader, and civil rights activist who cofounded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the

In the early 1970s, the UFW organized strikes and boycotts to protest for, United Farm Workers. and later win, higher wages for those farm workers who were working for grape and lettuce growers. During the 1980s, Chavez led a boycott to protest the use of toxic pesticides on grapes. These pesticides were usually sprayed ion the fields while the farm workers and their children were working, exposing them to the poisons. Bumper stickers read "NO GRAPES" and "NO UVAS" (the translation in Spanish) were widespread. He again fasted to draw public attention.

UFW organizers believed that a reduction in produce sales by 15% was sufficient to wipe out the profit margin of the boycotted product. These strikes and boycotts generally ended with the signing of bargaining

He is hailed as one of the greatest American civil rights leaders. His birthday has become a holiday in four U.S. states. Many parks, cultural centres, agreements. libraries, schools, and streets have been named in his honour in cities across the United States.

DECEMBER 4, 8:30 P.M.

# CARNEGIE HALL

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR THE CALIFORNIA GRAPE WORKERS

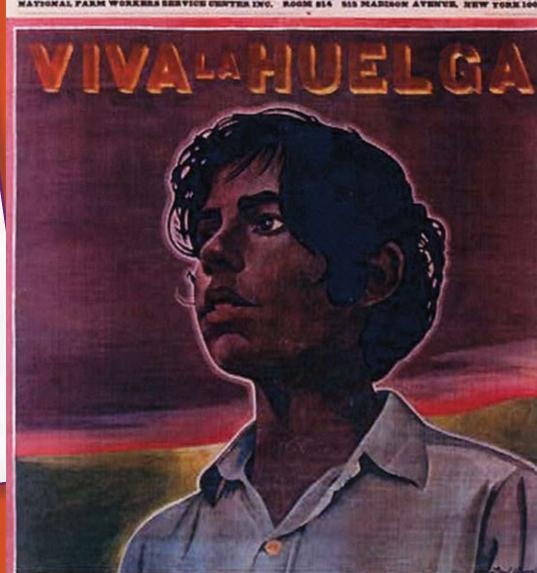
ALAN KING

PETER, PAUL & MARY

AND MOR

TICKETS: \$3, \$5, \$15, \$25, \$50

TICKETS & DONATIONS: YAX DEDUCTERS AND PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA



# California Grape Boycott

Cesar Chavez was the leader of the protest movement in the early 1970s against the agribusiness giants (PepsiCo, etc.) who were exploiting their immigrant workers, mainly in California. Their pay was very low, they had no health benefits, their children couldn't attend school, there were no toilet facilities in the fields, and airplanes sprayed pesticides on them while they worked.

Our Social Action Committee decided to support the workers by asking Temple members and others to boycott California grapes and other produce. Chavez and several of his key union colleagues decided to come to Toronto, because Toronto was a huge market for California produce. We arranged meetings for them with potential allies, and Temple members visited local food stores, encouraging them to join the boycott.

Chavez also spoke at the Temple at a *Shabbat* evening service and showed a touching movie illustrating their plight.



# alk about guts!

Russian Jews are defying a powerful and oppressive government.

Do Canadians have the conscience and concern to mail this petition today?

## Talk about guts?

Imagine yourself defying the most powerful se force in the world today. Imagine yourself risking your your children's educational opportunities, imprisonment death in order to retain your religious and cultural ident

Well, Jews in Russia have risked these dangers by to disappear and become non-persons - lost in the

Soviet Citizenry

### Talk about

Witness the 83 Mo ter in the New York Tir only minority in Russia of dissolve, to disappear an ready suffered some of th

### Talk about

Witness the 11 Rus



### TEMPLE EMANU-EL PHONES THE OSTROVSKYS IN LENINGRAD

Temple Emanu-El has made telephone contact with the Ostrovskys, our adopted Refusenik far Members of the Committee for Soviet Jewry placed the call to Leningrad on May 8 to coit with the eight birthday of Marsha, the youngest member of the family.

While the Ostrovskys are in good health Zinovy, the husband, was disheartened becau

December 30, 1970

We have just returned from Nathan Phillips Square are many of our members participated in the mass rally in sport of Soviet Jerry, and where 1,000 copies of our newspaper partisements were distributed.

The response of our members and friends to our tele-appeal for funds to place these advertisements has been

Enclosed is a copy of the advertisements which appeared the Toronto Star and Telegram on Tuesday, December 29,

The reaction of the general community and the Canadian Congress were extremely favourable. We have contributed significant way to the world-wide protest on behalf of

Toronto Jews protest Russian sentences We must pay the newspapers immediately. Temple general funds have not been allocated for this purpose.

If you have already made a pledge by phone, and have not yet mailed it in, please send it to the Temple TODAY, marked "AD." A tax-deductible donation receipt will be issued.

Committee could not reach them. We know that many more of you donations have ranged in the amounts of \$100.0 \$400.

If you have not yet been contacted by the telephone committee, now is the time to add your donation to those made by our temple members and friends. Mail it in TODAY.

Please don't delay.

Many thanks.

Harold Chapman hu Harold M. Chapman

# 1972

# Organize rallies

# The Refuseniks' plight was horrendous. As soon as they applied to leave Russia, they were fired from their jobs; because the government is the only employer in Communist societies, it became impossible for them to find other work. Many Jews throughout the world sent the Refuseniks money, a hefty percentage of which the government confiscated.

Although many Refuseniks were highly educated, they often had to accept whatever jobs were offered them (for example, cleaning streets at night) to avoid being arrested as "parasites" (a Soviet classification for any able-bodied person unemployed for two months). Yosef Begun, a Jewish mathematician who taught an underground Hebrew class, was fired from his job when he applied to live in Israel, then convicted for not working and exiled to Siberia.

# Soviet Jewry

Temple Emanu-El Soviet Jewry Committee and members engaged in an active role to free Soviet Jewry.

- Rallies were organized.
- Money was raised for effective advertising exposing the plight of Soviet Jewry.
- Phone calls to Refuseniks were made from the Temple and from the homes of members.
- Members visited the Soviet Union and clandestinely brought in Hebrew books and Prayer books.
- Members brought out secret material to be used to aid Refuseniks in their attempts to leave the Soviet Union and reach Israel.

At a time of rising international anti-Semitism, coupled with a heightening siege of Israel, there's plenty of work to be done for those who wish to speak up. But, as in 1967, the key question is whether they will - as did their predecessors - choose again not to be silent.

The challenge is to teach a new generation that it must find its voice, just as its predecessors did.

# TCISCIES (ind its voice, j



# 1979

inadequate food, water and fuel. They were drowning, being attacked by pirates who pillaged their possessions and in some cases murdered them. The lucky ones languished in crowded refugee camps. Few countries were willing to accept them.

The government of Canada began to experience public pressure to take action and rescue some of the refugees from the camps in Southeast Asia. The plan that eventually developed was that the government would allow for private sponsorships by legally incorporated organizations such as churches and synagogues, etc. The Rabbi, board and executive determined that the congregation would formally apply for immigrant status for refugee families on behalf of sponsoring groups of families in the congregation. (The groups could also include family members and friends who were not members.) 25 groups were formed with approximately 10 congregational families.

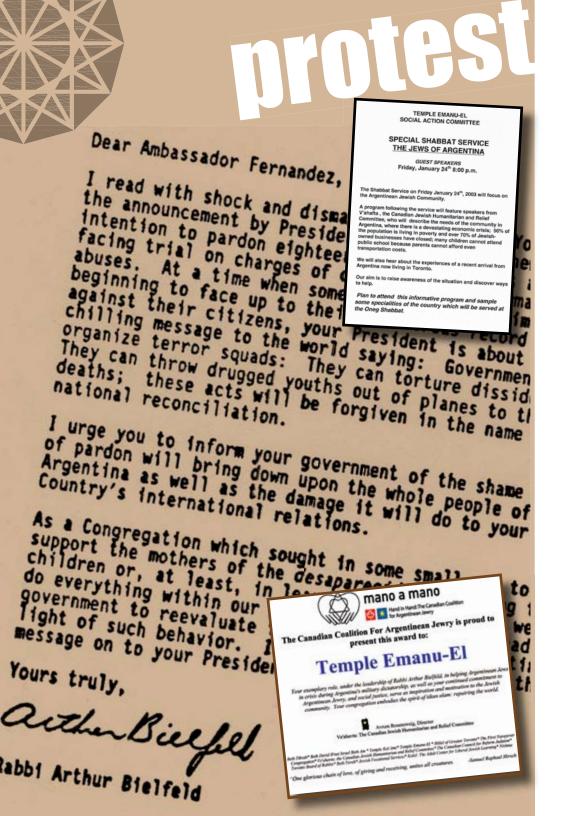
Edith Blake, who passed away in September, 2007, was the primary initiator of this enormous undertaking. Her legal expertise and dogged determination helped the groups wishing to sponsor refugees to overcome the huge red tape from many government agencies. We were one of the first organizations to undertake such an ambitious plan.

We guided our sponsored families through the minefields of a new country, including culture, language, weather, job search, health and school issues, shopping and travel. At the same time they were coping with the terrible loss of home, cultural roots, family and friends. Many came from small villages and towns and had never seen a big urban metropolis or a subway. Operation Lifeline led by Howard Adelman helped to identify and co-ordinate resources in the community, such as language classes and acculturation programs.

One sponsor group welcomed a young couple with a nine-month old daughter. (In 2005, the sponsors were invited to this baby's wedding.) They settled quickly with housing and a job but their hearts were heavy. They missed their extended family of parents, grandparents, siblings, and nephews who remained in a Hong Kong refugee camp. Might it be possible, they asked, to bring their family to Canada? In a few weeks' time, with some extraordinary help from the Department of Immigration, the young couple and sponsors assembled at the airport to receive all twelve family members, an overwhelming experience for all. One sponsor commented "it felt as though the hand of God had reached down into that refugee camp, plucked this family out and carried them across the ocean!"

In the first year, 1979, the government set as a goal 50,000 refugees. By 1980 they agreed to allow another 10,000 to come to Canada. Temple Emanu-El, a small congregation in suburban Toronto, had sponsored 27 families whose members numbered well over 100 people.

It was one of the most cohesive, co-ordinated and participatory events in our congregation's social action history - an expression of *Tikkun Olam* in its finest moment.



# Argentine Jewish Community

Our Temple has a history of association with the Argentinean people. At the time of military dictatorship, (1976-83) hundreds of political prisoners were being held without charge by the Argentine government. Many of those imprisoned during that period, had been abducted, tortured, and some simply "disappeared". In 1981, when the late Edith Blake, lawyer, activist and Social Action Chair, attended a meeting of the Canadian Jewish Congress, she learned there were Three Hundred and Twenty- Five Jewish individuals who were among those being held. They were in desperate need of help. Edith and her committee set about investigating the situation, and discussing what action might be taken. Upon further research, with the help of Bnai Brith in New York City, a list containing the names of these Jewish prisoners was obtained. A plan was devised enlisting the assistance of the Canadian government through the federal Department of Immigration. In an unprecedented motion, the board of Temple Emanu-El undertook to sponsor all 325 people, should they be able to emigrate. It was understood that chances of bringing them here were negligible. It was hoped that by having the Canadian embassy in Buenos Aires apply by name for these people, the government leaders responsible for their disappearance would think twice before destroying them. Miraculously, several of those applied for did reach Toronto, and according to some sources, all on the list survived!

In 1989 the Temple welcomed Renee Epelbaum, a founding member of the Association of Mothers of Plaza

# 1981

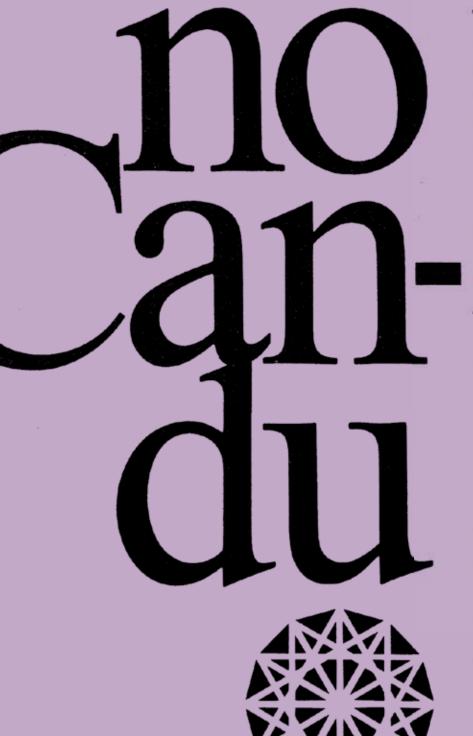
de Mayo, who lost her three children during the time of the military Junta in Argentina. Events propelled her into the bloody centre of her county's political activity where she fought for justice, together with other mothers of the 30,000 "desaparecidos", the tragic victims of the Junta. At the time of her visit, 18 retired generals and admirals who were facing trial on charges of committing hundreds of human rights abuses were pardoned by President Carlos Menem. She described the political situation in Argentina and spoke about what could still be done to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. Following Renee Epelbaum's presentation, letters of protest were sent to the ambassador of Argentina in Ottawa, expressing deep concern over the amnesty. The President was urged to reconsider his actions in the light of public opinion and the message it would send in striving to prevent further oppression in the future.

Years later, in the early 2000's, there were again major problems for Jews in Argentina, and many young families immigrated to Canada, some choosing Toronto for their new home. In January, 2003, a Shabbat Service, focusing on the Argentinean Jewish Community was held. We welcomed about 20 Argentineans to a program featuring speakers from Ve' ahavta and B' nai B' rith. The needs of the community in Argentina were described, and the needs of the recent community of arrivals from Argentina to Toronto, helping to raise awareness of the problems both here and there. There was a flurry of networking and passing of business cards, and many connections were made with our guests over coffee. As a follow-up, an invitation was extended to these families to attend the next family dinner and *Shabbat* Service, and we looked into ways to help with job placements by posting resumes. We also joined the Jewish Coalition for Argentinean Jews in order to participate in their relief committee.

In June, 2003, the "Klezmer Buenos Aires" duo gave a sparkling concert to raise funds for pharmaceuticals and other pressing needs for Jews in Argentina. The concert was organized by *Ve' ahavta* for the Canadian Coalition for Argentinean Jewry and raised over \$11,000 after expenses.

During that evening Temple Emanu-El was honoured with an award, for "your exemplary role, under the leadership of Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, in helping Argentinean Jews in crisis during Argentina's military dictatorship...." (1976-83). The award is on display in the Temple Board Room.

Sharon Weintraub, a political activist during that period, presented the award to Rabbi Bielfeld and Edith Blake. Most in the audience were surprised to hear the story of our previous involvement, and Sharon's direct connection with the events. She tied the story together by relating how she had travelled to Buenos Aires as a member of the Group for the Defence of Civil Rights in Argentina in the early eighties. At the Canadian embassy an official showed her a drawer full of the 325 names of the Jewish desaparecidos sponsored by our Temple, commenting with astonishment on the remarkable action of a small congregation! Although this episode occurred some 20 years ago, Sharon felt the concert event would be an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the support that had been offered during the time of the "Dirty War", to a group of Jewish political prisoners, from concerned members of Temple Emanu-El. The applause from the concert audience was prolonged. Everyone recognised the significance and the impact made by a small group of Jews in Toronto, and that by participating in the evening of fund raising, we were all continuing a tradition of caring and assistance.



The Board of Temple Emanu-El is deeply concerned about weapons and Canada's involvement through its sale of CAN totalitarian regimes. Proponents of these sales are neither ca that suitable restrictions can be placed on this technology to governments for military purposes or to prevent its falling i organizations.

No known system of restraint on commercial reprocessing prevent its use as weapons grade material. Every form of exnuclear fuel cycle can be fuel may vary in their di these difficulties. Becau nuclear time-bomb.

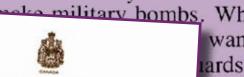
For these reasons, Te our government at this

- 1. To stop all sales of
- 2. To take vigorous wo moratorium on the t time as genuinely ef

We call upon our sig Toronto Jewish Congre opposition to the sale Minister, the Minister community.

## Temple Ema

120 Old Colony Road Willowdale, Ontario M2L 2K2 Telephone (416) 449-3880



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

May 27, 1985

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Dear Rabbi Bielfeld,

Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld Chairman

100 College Street

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 1985, in which you elaborate on the concerns that lay behind the telegram that Energy Probe sent in December 1984 to Prime Minister Ozal of Turkey regarding Turkey's possible acquisition of a Candu reactor.

I appreciate having your views on this matter and I have noted your reaffirmation of Energy hatter and I have noted your reatisimation of knergy Probe's support for an inquiry into the Canadian nuclear industry. Since Canada's bilateral relations with Turkey fall within the purview of the Scretary of Crata for External Affairs, the Bight Monographia with Turkey fall within the purview of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, I have forwarded a copy of your letter and my reply to him for his information. On the question of an inquiry into Canada's nuclear industry, I understand that your Energy Probe colleagues have already has in communication with the Minister of nd thr already been in communication with the Minister of ongres Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Pat Carney, on this matter. I have, therefore, also forwarded a copy of your letter and my reply to her for her consideration.

ommu er of I

1982

# plea to government

# moratorium

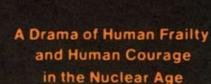


# **Candu Reactors**

In May, 1982 Harold Chapman addressed the Plenary session of the Montreal Biennial of the Canadian Council of Liberal Congregations, with a plea for the Reform leadership and congregations to become leaders in humanity's battle for our survival, by supporting the "No Can-Du" resolution from our Temple Board which urged our government to stop all sales of Candu reactors to unstable or totalitarian governments, and to take vigorous world leadership in promoting international proposals for establishing a moratorium on the transfer of nuclear technology to sensitive areas of the world, until such time as genuinely effective safeguards could be established. We distributed our "No Can-du resolution to our sister congregations throughout Canada, the Toronto Jewish congress, and the Canadian Jewish Congress.

# Dark Civele

A Film
by
Judy Irving
Chris Beaver
Ruth Landy
The Independent
Documentary
Group



AWARD WINNING FILM

including:
Grand Prize:
U. S. Film & Video Festival
Blue Ribbon,
American Film Festival
Gold Medal,
Houston Int'l Film Festival
Special Merit Certificate

DARK CIRCLE

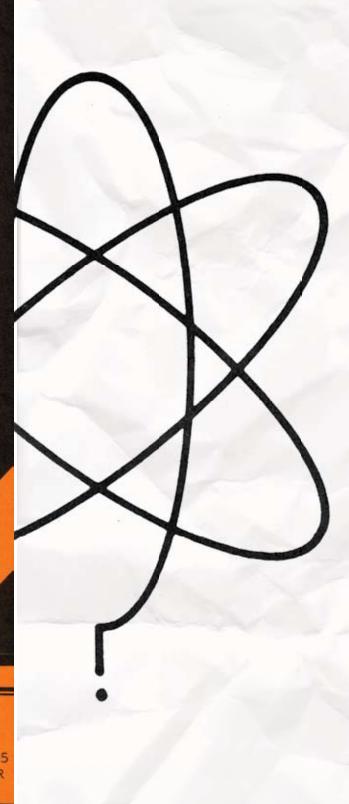
WILL BE SHOWN AT SHABBAT SERVICES ON

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH 1983

AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL

120 OLD COLONY ROAD WILLOWDALE ONTARIO

SHABBAT SERVICE 8:30pm. FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER



# disarm program

# **Nuclear Issues**

## The Interfaith Program for Program For Public Awareness of Nuclear Issues (IPPANI)

From February 1983 to February 1985 Harold and Mary Chapman co-chaired the Temple Committee on Disarmament and Peace, which included present members Henry Blumberg, Barbara Goldman, Rhoda Goldstein, Alan Koretsky and Janice Segal. Our activities included education, support of and participation in programs and activities to avert the threat of nuclear war, and to encourage mutual and verifiable disarmament. We worked with various organizations including the Toronto Disarmament Network; the Canadian Disarmament Information Service; the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign; The Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament; our Religious School and Youth Groups; The Leo Baeck Day School; Holy Blossom and the Inter-Synagogue Council; politicians and cabinet ministers; The Toronto Shalom Disarmament Group; The Canadian Congregation of Liberal Congregations; and The Interfaith Program for Public Awareness of Nuclear Issues (IPPANI).

Our efforts were also directed to the support, through our participation together with our Rabbi and other clergy and lay people, for the public hearings into Canadian Nuclear Policies conducted by IPPANI, which we participated in founding. We sponsored an IPPANI Oneg Shabbat which featured the former moderator of the United Church, and included representatives of the Baha'i Community, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, the Anglican diocese, and the Toronto Jewish Community. The hearings provided a forum for many diverse parties to submit and discuss comprehensive briefs under the careful probing and scrutiny of nationally known and respected panelists. Members of our Congregation were active in the distribution and mailing of peace literature, fund-raising, staffing the hearings, and advertising the activities in the media. The resulting reports were distributed through the religious denomination's educational networks.

Thoughtful spokespersons such as Sister Rosalie Bertell, Doctor Frank Sommers, Mr. Norman Rubin, Mr. Douglas Roche, M.P., and Mrs. Dorothy Rosenberg, addressed us on the complex nuclear and disarmament issues facing our society. We showed the film "If You Love This Planet" at a Shabbat for Peace program, and invited Temple members to join the "Against Cruise Testing Coalition" demonstration. The Toronto Jewish Congress participated in funding these hearings in the amount of \$5000.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak C/o Knesset Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

There are still thousands of Beta Israel in Ethio Government to bring the Quara Jews to Israel as Moses or Solomon. We also ask the governmen charged with completing this task.

Please take immediate action on behalf of the Fal from hunger, malnutrition, and disease. We ask t following:

immediate food and medical assistance

a census of the Falas Mura, both in the refugee camps and in their home villages, to determine how many people are eligible to make aliya 3.

provision of necessary personnel in the Israeli government to ensure expeditious screening of those who seek entry under the Law of Return, and expeditious emigration for those who qualify 4.

review the Law of Entry and its application, through a record politicians, leading intellectual

Temple Emanu-El Mr. Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld 120 Old Colony Road Willowdale, Ontario M2L-2K2

Dear Mr. Rabbi:

We had received your letter which was written on November 22, 1984. We did not really think that our such small gift has had the honour and meaning to be placed in the Temple like that. Thank you very much for thinking about us. We had just visited our sponsor Dr. Bob Stein and

Edie. In the conversation we were taking about the new in the Temple; and we were told that the Temple has called Members to help the African People who have been suffered so much about Famine. Therefore, we would like to sent a small donation as a volonteered contribution to the fund. It is very small but very big in what it means. We wish that we could help more, but for the time being right now, we hope this will be acceptable. We feel very sorry for them, because they are so unfortunate compare to us, for we were so lucky to have the Sponsors in the Temple, and from there we gradually have a very good life in this country. Final we would like to wish you all the best wishes, because of all the good things that you bring to others, you deserve to be lived in the greatest happiness in life.

We hope to see you soon in the Temple.

Vinh & Bich

aeli of Opera will be

gee can

# aid relief GSGUG

Beginning in 1978 Temple Emanu-El embarked upon a program of financial and moral support for Ethiopian Jews. In 1984, their situation and the situation of millions of black Africans had reached disastrous proportions.

The Ethiopian Jews or *Beta Yisrael* as they call themselves, also known as the Falashas (which means stranger or landless one) as they are called by other Ethiopians, are an ancient Jewish community residing primarily in the northwestern Ethiopian province of Gondar. Once a thriving kingdom of perhaps as many as one million people, at that time only an estimated 8000 Jews remained in Ethiopia, while a number languished in refugee camps in the Horn of Africa. By May, 1984 over 6,500 Ethiopian Jews had been rescued and brought to Israel. Through previous rescues, approximately 14,000 were estimated to be in Israel.

In 1984 the daily newspaper and television reports brought the horrifying realities of starvation and death in Ethiopia and the Sudan into every one of our homes. The Canadian Council of Liberal Congregations, (our Canadian Reform Movement) established a Task Force to co-ordinate an emergency appeal for funds for Ethiopian relief.

# action

# **Ethiopian Relief**

Over \$30,000.00 was raised by our congregation in assistance to Africa's victims of famine and religious persecution, contributing to the relief, rescue and rehabilitation of these unhappy people. In an interesting side note, a donation was received from a Vietnamese family, who had been sponsored by members of our congregation, offering support "for the African people who have suffered in the famine".

A large van, purchased by contributions from Temple Emanu-El and Holy Blossom Temple was put into use by the Ethiopian Absorption Centre of *Ramat Gan* to meet the needs of hundreds of *Beta Yisrael* who were arriving daily in Israel. A portion of the funds was allocated to the UHAC Relief Fund, dedicated to general Ethiopian relief, and to OXFAM Canada, who were also involved in relief operations.

In a 1999 letter to the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, signed by Renee Bouthot, Social Action Chair, Barry Goldlist, President, and Rabbi Bielfeld, concern was raised regarding the thousands of *Beta Yisrael* still remaining in Ethiopia. The Israeli government was urged to take immediate action on behalf of these Ethiopian Jews before people started dying in the refugee camps from hunger, malnutrition and disease. Temple Emanu-El continued to indicate its commitment to the Jews of Ethiopia.



mazon (mah`zohn), n.

1. Hebrew for food, nourishment, sustenance

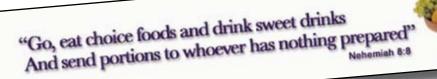
# mazon A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

# "sending a cheque made me feel like a mensch"

## Mazon

Eighteen years ago, a small group of prominent Canadians gathered in the living room of Peter Bronfman's downtown duplex to hear a well-fed rabbi speak about hunger. The inspiration for the rabbi's comments was an article by Leonard Fein in Moment Magazine laying out the rationale for the founding of MAZON in the United States.

Mazon's premise was simple: Jews would perform the mitzvah of feeding the hungry, whoever and wherever they were, by contributing three percent of the cost of their food- related simchas to MAZON.





"Let all who are hungr THE PASSOVER HAGADAAH

1986

# feed the hungry

It sounded like an elegant idea. But would it fly in Canada? There was a palpable skepticism in the air. Canadian Jews, it was argued, were different from their American counterparts. Our communities were more organized, more cohesive, more inwardly focused on our particular needs.

That first year of *MAZON* Canada's operation grossed the grand total of \$25,000. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, *MAZON*'s activities expanded beyond the synagogue-catered event to embrace a larger vision of Jewish life -- from family celebrations of birthdays and wedding anniversaries to corporate donations related to their in-house food costs. Letters poured in from children and parents alike. One father-of-the-bride wrote: "I felt guilty blowing thirty-thousand dollars (SIC!) on my daughter's wedding. Sending this cheque to *MAZON* makes me feel like a mensch."

Perhaps the most heartening aspect of these responses was the sheer joy reflected in the opportunity to support soup kitchens and food banks all across Canada. *MAZON* never lost sight of its obligation to the Jewish hungry. Over the years, many hundreds of thousands of dollars have helped Jewish organizations from Newfoundland to British Columbia supplement their budgets to provide food the year round for their clients. Yet, *MAZON* has always held fast to its original mandate, to feed the hungry whoever and wherever they are

because, this, too, is a great mitzvah.

Since *MAZON*'s founding, the number of food banks in Canada has grown at a dizzying pace from 94 to more than 630, and this during a period of remarkable economic growth. The recent World Hunger Day report by the Canadian Association of Food Banks paints a dismal picture of the present reality. Calling the level of hunger in Canada a "national disgrace", it notes that in one month alone food bank use reached more than three-quarters of a million people, a number larger than the entire population of New Brunswick. An astounding seven million pounds of food were distributed; more than two and a half million meals were served. Last year, forty percent of all food bank users were children, accounting for more than three hundred thousand individuals.

We Jews have always prided ourselves as being "rachamim b' nai rachamim - merciful children of merciful parents." We trace our lineage back to our Creator who we call upon as Av Harachamim — our Merciful Parent; and to Avraham Avinu who did not stop to ask whether his visitors were Jews before he fed them. As MAZON Canada approaches its Chai anniversary, may we continue to rededicate ourselves to the inspired exhortation of our Haggadah: "Let all who are hungry come and eat!"

The Environmental Committee of Temple Emanu-El in conjunction with The United Nations and World **Environment Day** presents:

## An Environmental Sabbath

Focus on global and grass roots issues.

Friday evening service June 2, 1989 8:00 P.M.

## he Planet Under A

With special guest speaker

## Stephen Lev

Former Canadian Ambassador to the United Na noted radio and television commentator, and passionate environmentalist.

Environmental Sabbath With Stephen Lewis Friday, June 2, 1989, 8:00 P.M.

unday morning breakfast ne 4, 1989 30 to Noon

## e Price of Prosperity"

Ministry

Accepting responsibility for our environment.

## The Globe and Mail

June 20,

Mr. Sy Landau, 76 Truman Road, Willowdale, Ontario, M5V 2S9.

Dear Mr. Landau:

The only reason The Globe does not us newsprint is because there is not an

of it in Canada at the present time. other Ontario newspapers are working with I manufacturers and the Ontario government to greatly increase the supply of used newsprint for recycling and to increase the amount of recycled newsprint.

At the present time the Blue Box program is collecting more used newsprint than the manufacturers of recycled newsprint can process. New equipment will be coming on stream in 1990 and I expect that we will then

Mr. Sy Landau Chairman, Environment Committee Temple Emanu-El 76 Truman Road

Willowdale, Ontario M2L 2L6

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 1989, ozone-depleting ontario's proposed legislation to control response. I apologize for the late

My Ministry will be working towards implementing the targets identified in the enclosed Facts sheet. Rest assured that if the technology in the development of alternative chemicals or processes more quickly than currently anticipated, then was will accelerate the timetables where possible.

Thank you once again for taking the time to individuals on these important matters.

June 29, 1989

Enclosures

# living ecologically

## PIOPOSE Infidte

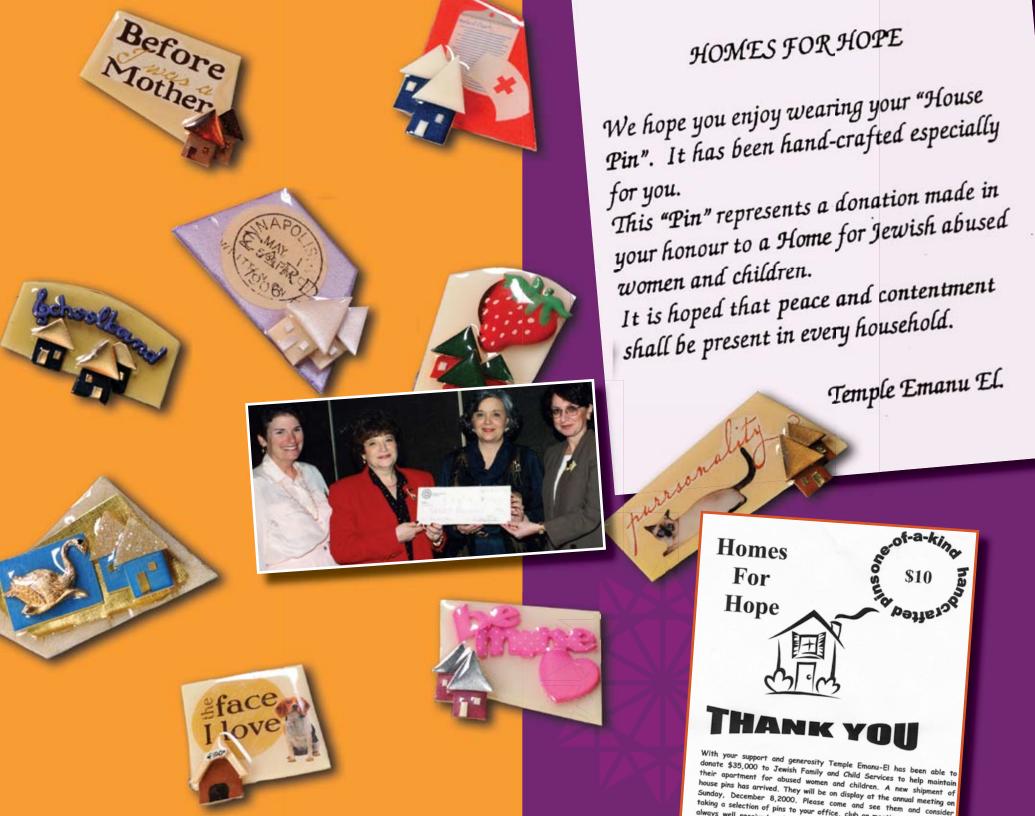
## Environmental Committee

In 1989 the Temple had established an Environment Committee to propose energy initiatives on both a local and a global scale. Many of these initiatives were on the leading edge of community awareness.

- Communicating with Toronto newspapers and encouraging them to increase the use of recycled paper.
- Encouraging government to ban ozone-depleting substances, to cease financing of projects that destroy the rainforests, etc.
- Supporting an Environmental Bill of Rights.
- Banning smoking in the Temple.
- Setting up a fine paper recycling program for Temple members.
- Encouraging members to buy organic foods.
- Helping members obtain alternatives to plastic bags.
- Holding an environmental fair to show families how to live ecologically-sound lives.

On Friday June 2, 1989, Temple Emanu-El held an Environmental Sabbath, as part of the United Nations and World Environment Day. Our guest speaker was Stephen Lewis.

supporting an environmental Bill of Rights



## Give Shelter

## **Homes for Hope**

In the early nineties, when I was involved with *Chaverim*, we were invited to a sisterhood meeting in Hamilton to represent Temple Emanu-El. Marlene Landa and I agreed to go see what it was all about. We met a very interesting group of women from all the surrounding areas. We learned what the various synagogues were doing for programming and fundraising. The one thing that caught our attention were the beautiful one-of-a-kind house pins that one group was selling. We learned that they represented a donation to a shelter for abused women and children and this group had found a supplier in London, Ontario instead of importing from the USA. Marlene and I were very eager to get involved with

these "Homes for Hope". We got all the information and came back to our treasurer (my husband Ernie) to ask for funds to get our first shipment. Ernie was very reluctant to spend *Chaverim* money on these pins. "What will we do with them if they don't sell? How will we get our money back?" Wow, did we ever prove him wrong! We got our first shipment of 50 pins on a Friday and we were all sold out by Sunday. Ernie still shakes his head when we remind him of this. One of the conditions of receiving these pins was that we had to sign a contract agreeing that all profits would go to a shelter for abused women and children. We felt it appropriate to donate to a Jewish shelter so we have given our money to Jewish Family & Child Services to support ASTA. This is the apartment that was started by lewish Women International to provide a place where women can find a safe shelter when needed. To date we have donated over \$30,000. This has been a very rewarding project as the pins sell themselves. I have continued to sell these pins at different events and have people asking me for them on a regular basis. If you haven't seen them yet stop by the Temple office and see for yourself.

## Homes for hope

## JIAS STATEMENT ON BOSNIAN RESETTLEMENT

In recent years, it has been with great horror that the world, and especially the Jewish community, witnessed news footage of starving prisoners interned in concentration camps in the war-ravaged region of former Yugoslavia. As a community, we promised ourselves "Never Again". It is happening again and it is time to act.

The Federal government has appealed to Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS) and other immigrant aid agencies to organize sponsorships for Bosnian refugees. These individuals have been recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as Convention Refugees in need of resettlement in a third country. Some have been interned in camps, others have suffereo multiple rapes. They have been victimised because of their ethnic identity. Many cannot live in the former Yugoslavia because they are inter-married. Some have Jewish roots, some have Serbian roots, some have Croatian roots, and some are Musiim. They are all human beings who have suffered persecution.

In response to the appeal from the Federal Government, JIAS is seeking acrove support and participation from the Jewish community. From 1978 into the early 1980's, the Jewish community respon

Today, JIAS is urging our commun Services of Canada (416) 630-9051.

#### APPEAL FOR COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS OF **BOSNIAN REFUGEES**

sponsoring a refugee family, please The Federal Government has appealed to Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS) and other immigrant aid agencies to organize sponsorships for Bosnian refugees. JIAS, in turn, is seeking active support and participation from the Jewish community. From 1978 into the early 1980s, the Jewish community responded to a similar appeal for the "Boat People". Today, we urge our community to respond again. If you are interested in getting involved in this important humanitarian effort, please contact Jackie Kott at JIAS (416) 630-9051.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL BULLETIN

Page 8

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL REFUGEE COMMITTEE

### NEW YEAR'S UPDATE ON THE FOGL FAMILY

What a year! It is hard to believe that the Fogls have been in Canada for over 12 months now. They have a beautiful apartment, they can speak, read and write English at a functional level, and they have been doing cleaning on a part-time basis. Presently, they are looking for full-time employment as a superintendent couple. Both Harvey and I must commend this congregation for the excellent job it has done resettling this family. The congregation raised \$20,000.00. The money was used to cover rent and living expenses for a 9 month period and it covered Mr. Fogl's 10 week Janitorial and Maintenance Program at Goodwill Industries. This experience helped Julius improve his English and it gave him Canadian Educational Credentials. To those people who gave money, we thank you for your generous contribution. To those people who gave material items such as clothing, a sewing machine, dishes, pots, pans, sheets, skates, bikes, a rug, a telephone answering machine, tools and many other household items our thanks go out to you. Our congregation also gave ever so generously of its time. People prepared meals for the Fogls, they helped the family look for an apartment, moved their furniture, helped them get their children into school, took the family to meetings with various government officials, made sure that, at no cost to the Fogls, they joined the local YMCA, and ensured that Bojan attended a soccer club. They also helped the parents prepare and look for work. A special member of our congregation also gave free dental services to the Fogl family. To all these people for their time, concern and caring, we thank you. And there is more, congregants provided various members of the Fogl family with work: babysitting, house cleaning, painting, gardening, etc. We hope that members of our congregation will keep the Fogls in mind should they learn of any openings for a superintendent couple. This has been a major undertaking and with pride, we want to say THANK YOU FOR ny full or part-time job opportunities. Home phone: 733-9759. A JOB WELL DONE.

Please contac

Harvey Adelm

#### BOSNIAN CRISIS FACT SHEET

Since 1991, the former Yugoslavia has witnessed genocide and other atrocities unseen since World War II. Despite our promise to "never again" let atrocities of this magnitude occur, Bosnia and Herzegovina has borne the brunt of a wave of ugly nationalism

- Nearly 250,000 have died, with thousands more unaccounted for.
- More than 1,000,000 of the country's pre-war population of 4.5 million are
- Tens of thousands of women have been raped.
- Hundreds of thousands of citizens have been victims of ethnic cleansing and subjected to forcible eviction, expulsion from their homes, extortion and confiscation of their property and possessions.
- Thousands of citizens have been seized for detention in "work camps" and compelled to do forced labor. Prisoners have been routinely beaten, executed, raped, starved, humiliated and subjected to other horrendous abuses.
- Tens of thousands of innocent citizens continue to be subjected to calculated forms of genocide, including mass raping, summary executions, destruction of civilian homes and cultural objects, ethnic cleansing and other atrocities.

The innocent victims of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina rely heavily on the international humanitarian aid community for their daily survival. In most instances, food, medicine and other necessities must be transported overland and through hostile territory. The demand for medical and humanitarian aid will increase dramatically as winter approaches. Food, medicine, fuel and other supplies need to be stored now in anticipation of another harsh winter in this war-torn country.

## sponsorship

#### **Sponsorship of A Bosnian Refugee Family**

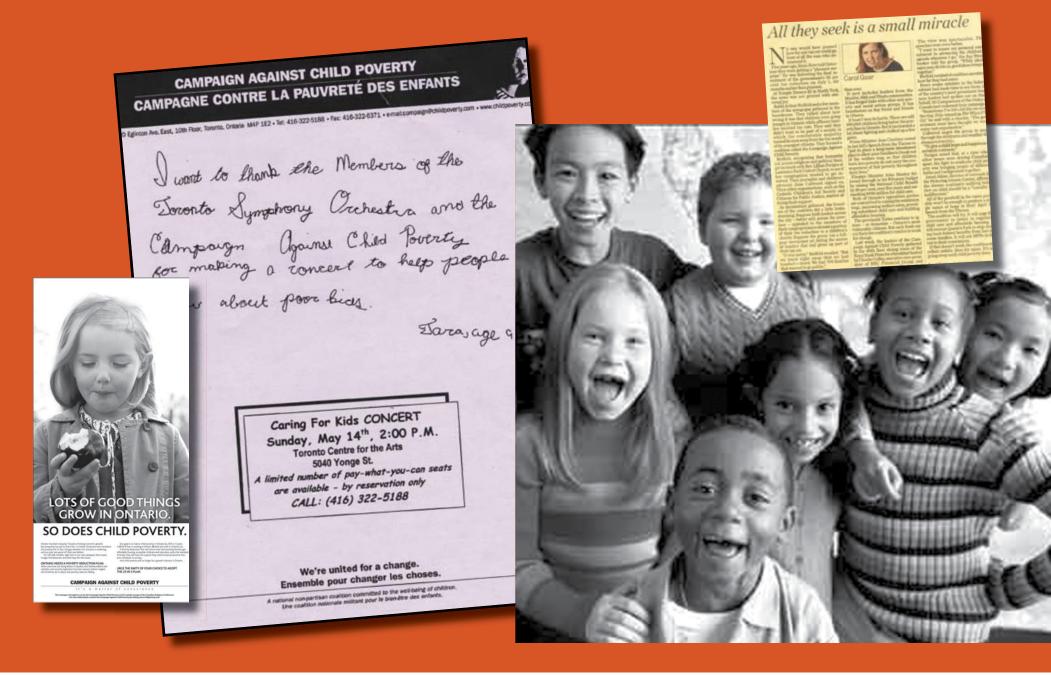
In the fall of 1995 the government of Canada issued a press release indicating its commitment to helping a minimum of 500 refugees from the war-torn former Yugoslavia in response to a UN appeal. "Resettling refugee families through this sponsorship project is a concrete way for Canadians to make a difference for the victims of ethnic cleansing and civil war in former Yugoslavia....Individuals can make a difference".

# resettling a family

## Bosnian Refugee Family

The federal government appealed to the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services to organize sponsorships for Bosnian refugees. In their presentation to the Social Action Committee, chaired by Martha Rosenberg, and attended by other interested members, JAIS stated: "In recent years, it has been with great horror that the world, and especially the Jewish community, witnessed news footage of starving prisoners interned in concentration camps in the war-ravaged region of former Yugoslavia. As a community, we promised ourselves "Never Again". It is happening again, and it is time to act."

In response, The Temple Emanu-El Refugee Committee was formed, co-chaired by Marina Fink and Harvey Adelman. In short order, sponsoring groups were put in place, donations collected, and application had been made to bring a family to Toronto. By end of 1995, Julius Fogl, along with his wife Ivana, daughter Vedrana and son, Bojan had arrived. The congregation helped to settle the family into their new lives by preparing meals, gathering household items, looking for housing, schooling and re-training opportunities. The congregation raised \$20,000.00 which was used to cover rent and living expenses as well as a training program for the first year in Canada.



## campaign against child poverty

#### **Campaign Against Child Poverty**

When the Mike Harris government decided in 1998 to deliver a 30% tax reduction, Rabbi Bielfeld and the Social Action Committee raised the issue of how wrong it was for affluent individuals to receive tax cuts while children in Ontario were going hungry. Discussions were held about how to help those most in need, the children growing up in poverty. After reaching out to other individuals and faith groups, a coalition was formed to educate the public about the facts of child and family poverty. This new entity quickly outgrew the confines of our boardroom to become The Campaign Against Child Poverty.

Almost from its inception the campaign was energized by the presence of television journalist June Callwood, one of Canada's great social activists, joining with Rabbi Bielfeld as co-chair. June unlocked doors to board rooms and government ministries, enabling the campaign to assume a prominent role in the fight to shape public opinion to significantly reduce child poverty. Following her death in 2007, the name of the organization became The June Callwood Campaign Against Child Poverty. This cause became her last unfinished business which continues to be pursued in her memory.

#### Who We Are

The Campaign Against Child Poverty is a national, non-partsan coalition of citizens from faith groups, social justice groups, charities, child welfare organizations and others concerned about the unacceptably high levels of child and family poverty in Canada. We are also concerned about the hazards to the future educational, social, physical, developmental and employment success of those children presently living in poor families.

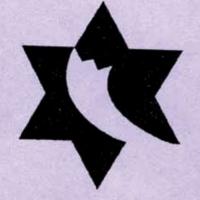
We are affiliated with no political party, and our only special interest is to reduce the numbers of children in Canada. We are funded by private citizens across Canada, by foundations, faith communities and NGO's, all of whom share our vision of a poverty-free country. Partner organizations of the CACP and members of the Steering Committee are: the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, B'nai Brith Canada, Campaign 2000, Canadian Association of Food Banks, Canadian Association of Social Workers, Canadian Catholic Religious Conference of Ontario, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, Canadian Feed the

## **Child Poverty**

Children, the Catholic Children's Aid Society, Citizens for Public Justice, Family Service Association of Greater Toronto, Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada), the Hope for Children Foundation, Jewish Family and Child Services, *MAZON* Canada, Pickering Islamic Centre, The United Church of Canada, United Way of Greater Toronto, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

## Members of the Steering Committee, Campaign Against Child Poverty:

Campaign Against Child Poverty: Javed Akbar, Director of Outreach, Pickering Islamic Centre Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Emanu-El, Toronto. Beth Bruder, Dundurn Press, June Callwood, C.C., O.Ont. (deceased) Ron Chapman, President, Brandworks International Inc.Caroline Di Giovanni, Past Executive Director, Hope for Children Foundation. Cheryl Englander, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, Ted Glover, Representative from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Paul E. Hansen C.Ss.R. Representative for Canadian Religious Conference, Peter Harris, Representative from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto; Past Executive Director of the Christian Children's Fund of Canada. Professor Roger Hyman, Past Chair, MAZON Canada. Greg de Groot Magetti, Citizens for Public Justice, Fiona Nelson Professor Marvyn Novick, The Rev. Dr. Lillian Perigoe, Representative from The United Church of Canada Ahilia Persad, Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada) Walter Pitman, O.C., O.Ont. Simon Rosenblum, Canadian Jewish Congress, Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator, Campaign 2000; Director of Social Action, Family Services Association of Toronto, Barney Savage, the United Way of Greater Toronto, Charles Seiden, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Food Banks, Norman Tobias, Gerald Vandezande, C.M.



### **ANNOUNCING** THE THIRD ANNUAL

## **TEMPLE EMANU-EL** HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

IN SUPPORT OF

## THE NORTH YORK HARVEST FOOD BANK

## HERE IS YOUR GUIDE TO D IT IS AS EASY AS 1, 2

- 1. BAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FOLLOW! MORNING SERVICE
- 2. FILL THE BAG WITH ITEMS LISTED LIST

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR BABY

DIAPERS (LARGE SIZE) BABY FORMULA **CANNED FISH FLOUR** FRUIT JUICE RICE **CANNED FRUIT CANNED VEGETA POWDERED MILK** CEREAL PASTA **KIDNEY BEANS** 

Ms. Helen Poizner North York ON M2L 2K2 Still fighting hunger after 20 years Temple Emanu-El 120 Old Colony Road

FOOD BANK

On behalf of the North York Harvest Food Bank, I would like to thank the members of Temple Emanu-El for raising and densiting 3,500 lbs. of food their your recent food drive. We appreciate the hard work and please congrandate all on the great results!

Now in our 24th year of service, the North York Harvest Food Bank works towards the relief of hunger in communities throughout northern Toronto. The Food Bank supports emergency food programs, partners with perinatel programs, advocates for change on emergency passi programs, parimers wan perimina programs, manususes per crange i issues affecting food bunk inc and works with like-minded organizations to develop insensitive and respectful ways for our clients to access culturally oppropriate and personally acceptable food at no cost.

The North York Harvest Food Bank collects, sorts and distributes food to a network of more than 60 community programs that provide food to apprecimately 25,000 people normally. Located throughout northern Toronto, these programs include emergency food programs, operating in religious testinations and community health centres; community blichout, drop-in centres; prenatal and early purenting programs; before, and afterschool snack programs; compas food banks; and sletters for youth and worsen. More than 1300 volunteers aexist the North York Harvest Food Bank in supporting these programs each year.

Please enjoy resulting our newsletter which is printed free of charge by our corporate donors. Thank you once again for your generous contribution and for supporting our work to help those in need and to reduce hanger,

rece ace Loren Freid (Mr.) Executive Director

OUR MILLION STATISHENT: "TO FIED THOSE IN NIED AND WORK TO REDUCE MOS

640 LIMBORE ANNER WILL TORONG ON HARO MISA 181 TRUMONE (415) 633-7771 FAX (416) 633-5599 TO COMMUNICA PITTEDS 2495 RE COCH

#### FOOD BANK QUIZ

WHO WILL WE BE HELPING IN THE GTA?

- People in GTA using food bank monthly?
   a) 75,000 b) 100,000 c) 140,000
- Of this number, children are:
   a) 10% c) 40% d) 50%
- The percentage of females using food banks is: a) 27% b) 47% c) 57%
- 4. Medium after-rent income daily of person using Food Bank is only:
- 5. Percentage of GTA residents who go hungry at least one time a) 37% b) 47% c) 57%
- 6. Percentage of GTA children who go hungry at least once monthly:
- 7. Percentage of food bank users who are employed: a) 10% b) 15% c) 20%
- How many recipients have post-secondary education
   a) 25% b) 34% c) 38%
- 10, 25% have 15 years work experience: True or false?
- How many people with disabilities use food banks?
   30% b) 40% c) 50%
- 12. Seniors using food bank going hungry at least twice weekly is 1 in

2. (b) 3. (c) 4.(a), price of a cappuccino 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. 38%

alse (50% have 15 or more years experience) 11. (b) 12. True.

## North York Harvest

## Food Drive

# relief of hunger

A new tradition was launched in 2001 by Rabbi Debra Landsberg, of a High Holiday Food Drive. The food drive supports the North York Harvest Food Bank, an agency working towards the relief of hunger in communities throughout northern Toronto. The North York Harvest Food Bank collects, sorts and distributes food to a network of more that 60 community programs that provide food to approximately 25,000 people monthly.

Paper grocery bags provided by the food bank are distributed following the Rosh Hashona morning services, to be filled with suggested food items and brought to the morning *Yom Kippur* service. Members donate between two and three thousand pounds of food every year. A volunteering opportunity is also offered to members should they wish to donate their time to the food bank.

The annual food drive has become part of our High Holiday experience at Temple Emanu-El.

part of our High Holiday experience at Temple-Emanu-El



Temple Emanu-El Helping Ourselves Helping Others FAMILY MATTERS

#### WALKATHON

IN SUPPORT OF JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

Sunday, May 5, 2002 Meet at 9:15 for Registration at THE BANBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE Kick off at 9:30 am

Prizes \* Fun \* Refreshments

Rain or Shine!

Family Event \* Everyone invited Youngest to the Oldest Run, walk, stroll, push a baby carriage Short Route and Long Route up to 7 Km. THROUGH BANBURY PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA

Donation form available from the Temple Office Start Collecting Pledges NOW!

All proceeds go the Jewish Family and Child Service, and will be used to help families in our community. Sponsored by the Social Action Committee For more information call the Temple Office

May your heart carry your feet -



Temple Emanu El Ourselves Helping Others FAMILY MATTERS

### WALKATHON

rt of Jewish Family & Child Service Sunday, May 5, 2002

Meet at 9:15 for registration at NBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE

120 BANBURY ROAD

Prizes \* Fun \* Refreshments

Rain or Shine!

Family Event \* Everyone invited Youngest to the Oldest

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAY MAY 5TH





Over \$4500.00 was raised at the "Family Matters" Walkathon held Gordon Wolfe, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Child Service is seen accepting the sponsor contributions from Helen Poizner and Cindy Buim, co-chairs of the Social Action Committee, who were pleased to make the presentation on behalf of the congregation.

## **Jewish Family and Child Service**

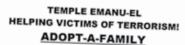
# Walkthetalk

## **Walkathon**

On Sunday, May 5, 2002, a cool day made for walking, more than a hundred Temple Emanu-El members turned out to the Banbury Community Centre to participate in the "Family Matters" walkathon to raise money for the Jewish Family and Child Service. Family members of all ages and sizes, including our pets walked the 5km route through beautiful ravines and neighbourhood streets. Over \$4,500 was raised and the event was a great success!







SOCIAL ACTION JOINS FORCES WITH THE ISRAEL COMMITTEE

SPECIAL ISRAEL SOLIDARITY EVENT -

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2002 Breakfast in the Social Hall at 9:30 a.m.

The Social Action Committee and the Israel Committee invite you to attend a special event on Sunday morning December 15<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be served in the Social Hall at 9:30 a.m., followed by a program entitled "ONE HOUR, ONE PRAYER, ONE PURPOSE", organised for the purpose of showing solidarity with Israel. The morning will include a video presentation that speaks about the terror that Israelis are currently experiencing. An information kit containing ideas about ways to become pro-active in the support of Israel will be distributed.

The launch of an important new project will be announced, concerning the adoption by our congregation of an Israeli tamily victimised by terrorism.

Come to hear information about THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM which atches Israell terror victim families with synagogues in the Diaspora, to ow those families that they are not alone .

in to attend this important program. Invite your family and friends, arn how you and your children can participate in the forging of links reen our community and a shattered family waiting to hear that people oncerned about what has happened to them.

## Temple Emanu-El



Adopt-A-Family Raffle

Date of Draw May 15th, 2003

PRIZES PRIZES

PRIZES

Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

• Nikon Lite • Touch Zoom

- 70WS Camera Dinner for FOUR provided by Encore Caterers
- Movie Poster "CHICAGO" from Movieposter.com
- Gift basket of goodies from Nutcracker Sweets
- Facial by Naturally You Health & Beauty Clinic
- Fashion Sunglasses by Perfect Optical Canada Ltd. ♦ Three 1 Hr. voice lessons
- with Cantor Anna

Winners to be contacted by phone and announced in the June Temple Bulletin.



## HELPING TERROR VICTIMS REBUILD THEIR LIVES

#### The Adopt-A-Family program matches Israeli terror victim families with synagogues, individuals or other groups throughout the United States and Canada to create a significant and lasting bond between the two communities. Through a careful process that takes into consideration the character and needs of both the American and Canadian community and the Israeli terror victim family, the program sets into motion an unprecedented partnership. The community "adopts" an Israeli family that has sustained loss of life or limb through terrorism, in order to provide long-term financial and emotional support. This commitment enables the terror victim family to begin to rebuild their shattered lives with some security above and beyond what the Israeli government, their own friends or family, or other support networks might provide.

In 2002, Temple Emanu-El made a commitment to be part of this important program, and we were matched with the Korman family.

Moshe and Pazit Korman, who live in *Rishon Letzion* are a young couple with two small children, daughters Shir, then age 4 1/2 and Liron age 1-1/2. Prior to the attack Moshe worked as a taxi driver and Pazit worked as a clerk. This is their story.

On May 7, 2002, Pazit, 26, and Moshe, 30, went to the Sheffield Club in the industrial area of *Rishon* for a night

# financial support emotion

## **Adopt-A-Family**

out. At about 11:00 PM, a terrorist entered the unlicensed club with a suitcase filled with explosives and spiked with shrapnel and nails. He detonated the bomb, murdering sixteen people and wounding an additional 55 people, many of them seriously. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Pazit's body was riddled with shrapnel and she was taken to Wolfson Hospital. Moshe was admitted to Tel Hashomer Hospital in critical condition. He suffered severe lung damage, due to smoke inhalation and a piece of shrapnel had penetrated his jaw and lodged itself in his spinal column. In addition, he suffered burns over a large portion of his body, especially on his face. Moshe underwent surgery on his jaw, but it was decided not to remove the shrapnel, as the doctors were afraid that the operation could cause Moshe to become paralyzed. His main artery was injured and the nerves which control swallowing and the voice box were paralyzed. Moshe was forced to receive sustenance through a tube directly into his stomach.

Temple members generously donated \$12,000.00 over a two year period, primarily by monthly contributions. Money was also raised through activities such as an Israeli fair and raffle, and the showing of the film "Relentless". The funds, as well as telephone calls from members, offered support to the Korman family through a very difficult period in their lives. Individual members of the temple visited with the family during trips to Israel and offered private donations. The group travelling on the temple mission in 2004 met with Moshe, Pazit and their daughters, presenting them with gifts sent by the congregation.

## Bayview Corridor of Synagogues

**MEMBERS:** 

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

TEMPLE HAR ZION

KEHILLAT SHAAREI TORAH

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE



## Sunday, April 6, 2008

Be part of the Bayview Corridor Group's first Community Mitzvah Day

## Projects and Activities for All Ages taking place at various locations

For a list of activities and registration see the Registration Booklet or register online at

www.bayviewcorridor.org

For information contact the Social Action or Hesed Committee at your synagogue or mitzvahday08@bayviewcomidor.org

















# guiplinc

In 2004 a new spirit of co-operation began to develop in the northern suburban reaches of the city. This area is now referred to by several Jewish congregations representing different branches of Judaism as the "Bayview Corridor of Synagogues." Encompassing the geographic areas of Willowdale, Thornhill and Richmond Hill, not only are they connected by a long ribbon of asphalt but also by the Jewish concept of *Tikkun Olam* which supersedes any philosophical differences in the way each congregation expresses its Judaism.

When the Social Action Committee at Temple Emanu-El proposed holding a Blood Donor Clinic, Canadian Blood Services indicated their population was too small for such an event. It was decided to look to the surrounding neighbourhood to see if any other organizations might be interested in joining forces. Contact was made with Beth Tikvah Synagogue, who by co-incidence was in the process of planning their own Blood Donor Clinic and were delighted to include another synagogue in their plans. The notion was then developed of the "Bayview Corridor of Synagogues" to include: Beth Tikvah (Conservative), Temple Har Zion (Reform), Beit Rayim (Conservative), Kehillat Shaarei Torah (Orthodox), and Temple Emanu-El (Reform). After joint planning meetings were held, a Pikuach Nefesh (Save a Life) Blood Donor Clinic was promoted at all the participating synagogues. This took place at Beth Tikvah Synagogue on Sunday, October 24th, 2004. There are plans to make this a yearly event.

Flushed by the spirit of success and co-operation Temple Emanu-El proposed a new venture involving Habitat Homes for Humanity. This non-profit, charitable organization is dedicated to improving the lives of economically disadvantaged people through home ownership. Because most community builds are held on *Shabbat*, Habitat was asked if it was possible to arrange for a build on a Sunday. Recognizing the religious needs of the group, a Sunday was arranged.

## **Bayview Corridor**

On June 5th, 2005 members of Temple Emanu-El, Kehillat Shaarei Torah and Temple Har Zion volunteered to work on a construction site in Scarborough in support of Homes for Humanity. In doing so, congregants affirmed that decent, affordable housing is a basic human need and that community can help to build not only dwellings but unity and hope. In the spirit of sound Jewish values this project proved to be another successful joint venture bringing people together for the goal of serving the community.

An innovative partnership was launched in 2006 between the Bayview Corridor and Baycrest combining Jewish learning and community service, called the Spark Heart Action Program. Volunteers from member synagogues come to Baycrest one Sunday morning a month where they study Jewish text, visit with residents, followed by time together to reflect on the experience. This has become a successful ongoing program.

In 2007 Shaar Shalom, a conservative congregation situated at Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue, joined the coalition, making six the number of participating synagogues. The Bayview Corridor Group now boasts a logo and web site, and members meet regularly to share ideas. A joint neighbourhood *Mitzvah Day* was held April, 2008.

As it is said... "Who is occupied with the needs of the community, is as though they occupied themselves with Torah". (Jerusalem Talmud)



### Sistering's Mission Statement

Sistering is a women's organization that offers practical and emotional support to women through programs which enable them to take greater control over their lives. Guided by the principles of Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, Sistering works to change social conditions which endanger women's welfare.

### Our Services

Practical help - daily hot meals, laundry and shower facilities, clothing, ID clinics, banking support, pre-employment programs, health workshops, a mailing address, shiatsu treatments...

Crisis intervention and prevention support for women dealing with trauma and abuse

Information and referral - to housing, education, health care, therapists, drug and alcohol treatment, legal services, other community agencies and organizations

Advocacy and support - assisting women to access appropriate programs and government services in their communities, working with other groups and coalitions on issues that affect women at Sistering

Transportation - assisted transportation in our wheelchair accessible van for women at the Outreach Program who are in our catchement area

Social and recreational - trips in and out of the city, arts & crafts, videos, speakers



For over 20 years Susering has been sdressing the needs of the increasing num of women in Toronto who are bouseless or underhoused, living in poverty and isolation.

Sistering is a community-based agency which offers a Deop in Centre and an Outreach ogram for women who are living in

table circumstances. We offer a place women from Toronto's diverse nies can feel safe and welcome.

#### You can make a ifference in women's lives by ...

\_volunteering ...donating money, clothes, food giving this brochure to a friend

Call us Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:30 for information

Sistering's Administrative Office INVANCEUR OFFICE OF HARMAN AND THE SISTER OF HARMAN PART THE SISTER OF TELL (415) 225-3762

EAV. (434) D.V. 1923 FAX: (416) 926-1932

EMAIL: general info@sistering.org WEBSITE: www.sistering.org

## Make a place for our sisters, ourselves Sistering offers a sanctuary from abuse and homelessness. Too bad it can't find a home for itself

Vou Should Know



MARGARET WENTE



Adrienne, left, and Angela Robertson, executive director of Sistering: The staff there does what all good sisters should do - list

## TIHHHH

# support celebrate

## **Sistering**

SISTERING is a community based agency which offers a drop-in centre for women who are living in unacceptable circumstances. It provides a safe and welcoming environment for women who are homeless, living in poverty, socially isolated and those who are suffering from abuse, along with chronic physical and mental problems. Women receive practical and emotional supports enabling them to take greater control of their lives. They are offered meals, showers, laundry facilities and the opportunity to upgrade their job skills.

As part of SISTERING'S programming, a Mother's Day brunch is held, attended by approximately one hundred women. Temple Emanu-El's Social Action Committee

provides gift bags filled with toiletries such as soap, toothbrushes, hand lotion and cosmetics which have been donated by members of our congregation and various manufacturers. Temple mothers and daughters are recruited to package the donated items in pretty gift bags for delivery to SISTERING. The bags are distributed at the Mother's Day celebration, helping to make the occasion an extra special event.

The Social Action Committee continues to support SISTERING as it provides essential social services to women from diverse communities who are coping with difficult situations. This project has become an annual event.



## justice

## **Darfur**

#### Darfur. The historical drama behind these images.

Sudan's western province of Darfur (means: home of the Fur) has been the site of an extremely violent conflict between the province's nomadic, Arab tribes, called the Janjaweed, backed and financed by the government in Khartoum, and the native Black African farming tribes. This deadly conflict started in February 2003.

Arab and African communities in Darfur have, from time to time, clashed over land and resources, but this conflict began when two rebel groups, The Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) demanded that the Sudanese government stop arming the Arab groups in Darfur and address long standing complaints over underdevelopment in the region. Human Rights Watch found that the military has indiscriminately bombed civilians, while both government forces and militias were systematically destroying villages and conducting brutal raids against these oppressed ethnic groups. The government has recruited and armed over 20,000 militiamen of Arab descent and operates jointly with these militias, in attacks on civilians mainly from the Fur, Masaalit, and Zaghawa ethnic groups. During these years, nearly one million civilians have fled their rural villages. Most are displaced into towns and camps where they continue to be looted and murdered by the Janjaweed and their women brutally and continuously raped.

The UN and the international community failed miserably for four years, so far, to assert itself by deploying peacekeeping forces in Darfur or to apply effective diplomatic and economic pressure on Sudan's government and its senior officials. Sudan's President, Omar El Bashir continues his lethal military campaign, has committed mass murder of hundreds of thousands civilians, while only paying lip service to his government's many promises to disarm its Janjaweed militias and otherwise cooperate with the U.N.

The Social Action Committee of Temple Emanu-El conducted a campaign, by alerting the congregation by e-mail and through our Newsletter, of this urgent issue. They were asked to pressure our government, by sending our parliamentary representatives specially designed post cards, to initiate effective, new measures at the United Nations to end this deadly conflict. A good number of our congregants participated in a protest rally at Queens Park and also at the Save Darfur rally on September 17, 2004, at Ramsden Park with keynote speaker Lt. General Romeo Dallaire and Justin Trudeau. On April 27, 2006, the Social Committee of Temple Emanu-El held our own protest meeting with over a hundred people present and with speakers, Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, Dr. Ochel Dor of Sudan, Daniele Dale, Dr. S. Epstein and Judy Cohen.



## helping the homeless

## **Out of the Cold**

The Out Of the Cold program provides homeless individuals with a hot meal and a place to sleep for the night at various religious institutions and social agencies across the city. A brown bag lunch and bus tickets are offered on the following morning. Temple Har Zion has been a member of the Out of the Cold Coalition for many years, operating this program for eight weeks during the winter months. Each December, the Social Action committee at Temple Emanu-El assists Temple Har Zion by preparing a dinner in our kitchen. Temple members make contributions towards the costs of this project, and Nortown Foods has been generous in

supporting our efforts by donating twenty-eight pounds of ground beef which we transform into delicious Shepherd's Pie. We provide the remaining ingredients and organize a meal for 75 homeless guests which includes salad, vegetables, dinner rolls, drinks, and frozen sherbet (supplied by Chapman's Ice Cream, Markdale, Ont.) with cookies for dessert. Following the delivery of the dinner to Har Zion it has become a custom for the cooks to enjoy a lunch together. This is the fifth year of our involvement, and we are so pleased to be able to help out.



