Looking Ahead

WHILE STAYING THE COURSE

Staying Safe in Uncertain Times

by Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

For the past 14 months, we have ended almost every encounter - whether virtual or "IRL" ("In Real Life") - by saying "Stay safe" to our friend, acquaintance, or stranger. We have focused on contacts, aerosols, and any imaginable transmission of the virus that has had a stranglehold on the entire planet. We have tried to carry on with the hope that vaccinations will overcome infections. Thankfully, we can see that tide turning in our daily headlines and case counts.

In recent weeks, however, "Stay safe" has taken on an additional, more sinister, cast. Just as a pandemic has amplified our vulnerability, Antisemitism has reminded us that baseless hatred is an equal threat. This threat is focused on our fellow Jews, even in the Canada that has been a haven from violence. Once again, we think about safety as we go out our doors. In this case, the headlines and counts increase at a rate that shakes us to our very core. A second vulnerability shadows us - on top of our already heightened nerves. "Stay safe," we say, struggling to accept that this is fast becoming a most disturbing "new normal."

Please join us...

as we celebrate
Margie Wienburg’s retirement
after 36 years in the Temple Israel
Religious School

Sunday, June 20, 2021
immediately following the General Meeting, which begins at 3:00 pm

To monitor the conflict in the Middle East, and its coverage in the media, consult:

- ReformJudaism.org
- ARZA Canada
- CIJA – Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Honest Reporting Canada

Please continue to "Stay safe."
When they were still in high school, unbelievably more than 60 years ago, Jan from Buffalo and Richard from Toronto enjoyed attending many of the activities organized by NELFTY, the northeastern lakes section of NFTY. Richard’s brother Michael and Jan’s sister Linda were also regular participants in what was almost a rite of passage for Jewish teenagers.

It was Michael who first met Jan at an inter-city gathering. The following summer, Jan and Richard found themselves at a NELFTY camp in Cleveland, and there the story of their wonderful long and happy relationship begins. Cards and letters and the occasional visit to each others’ universities and homes followed, although without any exclusivity or ties in those pre-computer, pre-email, pre-cellphone days. And then, several years later, Richard in medical school in Canada and Jan in law school in Chicago, they decided to make it formal and were married in June 1965, fifty six years ago.

As young parents in Oakville, Michael and Sheila were instrumental in the founding of Temple Solel and Michael was even the youth group leader for a time. As young parents in London, Jan and Richard were instrumental in the founding of the present Temple Israel. In Rochester, Linda and her family were part of the Reform congregation and its programs. And no one ever forgot the important part that NFTY played in their families’ lives.

Richard’s brother Michael and his wife Sheila were sadly the victims of the Covid pandemic in Toronto in March of this year.


For Jan and Richard, it is fitting that a fund focusing on youth development be dedicated in their siblings’ memory.

NFTY Fund Rededicated by Lubell Family

In memory of the siblings they lost this year: Linda, Michael and Sheila

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