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What's been happening at Temple

HHD September 2023



CIBC Run for the Cure October 2, 2023



From our President



Jason Mandlowitz

We are all watching and praying that the situation in Israel resolves peacefully. Our Rabbi and Board are following the events closely. For both London and international news, check the Temple Israel website and information provided from Jewish London. If you are not receiving e-mails from Jewish London, you may wish to be added to their contact list.

At Temple Israel, we are starting our strategic planning process in November. Part one is on Operations: our building and grounds. On November 6/23 we are conducting a full review and audit which will lead to the Board receiving a report on priorities for the short term and beyond. This part of the strategic plan will be coordinated by Jim Stevens (VP Operations) and Cindy Monger (VP Finance). Feel free to contact them (e-mail the office) with your suggestions.

As the strategic plan unfolds, we will be addressing a variety of issues including financial sustainability. A central component of our sustainability plan is your participation and support for the Life and Legacy Program. Year one of the program ended in late-June/23 with Temple Israel reaching the goal of eighteen (18) signed Letters of Intent. As a result, we will be receiving a grant of \$5,000.00 US. Many thanks to our 2023 participants. The 2024 campaign is now underway. If you are interested in learning more about Life and Legacy or wish to complete a Letter of Intent, please contact Jason Mandlowitz (President).

I'm happy to report that our 2023-2024 financial position will be assisted by cashing the Government of Canada CEBA grant/loan of \$20,000 which will be added to our financial statement together with the Life and Legacy grant (noted above) and a \$7,500 Government of Ontario grant for security and anti-hate initiatives.

As we look to next year, our Board passed at the October 24/23 meeting, to approve the establishment of a Nominating Committee whose task is to prepare a slate of Directors and Officers for presentation at our next General Meeting for June/24. If you are interested in joining the Nominating Committee or if you wish to be considered as a Board member, please contact Susan Dean (VP Communications).

Temple Israel is planning a number of programs focusing on reconciliation, pride/solidarity and Share the Warmth. A Life and Legacy Shabbat is being scheduled for early 2024.

Keep well, safe and engaged.





Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

"There are no words..." I spoke this phrase during the JCC vigil follow the attacks of October 7. The massacre of over 1000 Israelis, the brutalizing of innocents, and the devastating impact of over 200 hostages taken into captivity...words fail us we grapple to make sense of what happened.

Events in the weeks that have followed render speech inadequate as well. The realities of an urban ground war, enormous civilian casualties, and no movement on our hostages' return - words fail us daily as we brace ourselves to navigate the latest headlines and social media.

"There are no words..." it seems, yet silence isn't an option. As difficult as it is to communicate with each other when there is no consensus on a way forward, communicating is the only way to begin. Silence means we have given up, to fear and anger, to despair. Although silence can be better than hate, remaining silent denies our obligation to struggle through the unknown, to contemplate a better circumstance.

The Jewish people are called "Yisrael" - the ones who have struggled. Our origin story is the story of struggling with God, struggling with community, and struggling with ourselves. Millennia of Jewish history are punctuated by often existential struggle. It may be our destiny, but it doesn't mean our demise.

"There are no words..." We strive to articulate these moments that comprise a watershed event unseen in post-holocaust timelines. But "words" aren't really what we seek. Right now, only one word remains truly elusive. The word that becomes more difficult to speak as every painful hour unfolds? That word is HOPE. Hope is seemingly short in supply, yet hope is the only viable remedy the overwhelming darkness that assaults us.

The Ottawa antisemitism conference in mid October was months in the making, yet it took on a poignant urgency following the October 7th attack. The enormity and brutality of the slaughter was still coming to light. On October 6, we were afraid because of the steady march of Antisemitism that was reaching a fever pitch, especially for our youth on campuses, and especially on viral social media. Many of us had registered for the conference to learn about today's challenges combating one of the oldest and most pernicious forms of hate. But in reality, as we looked around the room at experts at peers, there was really only one thing we were seeking. On October 6, we were alarmed at what we thought was the worst challenge we could face; after October 7, we despaired. We didn't fully realize it in those moments of fresh trauma, but each one of us in that conference centre was desperate to find a reason to hope.

Hope may have been the most elusive quarry of the Antisemitism conference, but Irwin Cotler brought a dim light forward to us. Cotler addressed the conference as he was honoured for his work as Canada's first Special Envoy Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. In his remarks, Cotler made a powerful statement rejecting the despair whose shadow had fallen over us. He urged us to recognize that 2023 is not 1943. Cotler pointed out that in 2023, every G7 leader had spoken out to condemn Hamas' attack. In 1943 rabbis didn't have access to meet with FDR and world leaders. In 1943, it was easier to emigrate to Canada if you were a Nazi than it was if you were a Jew.

Cotler urged us to hold on to hope, because "Whatever 2023 is, it is not 1943."

'There are no words...' because there is only one word we desperately seek right now, Hope. We must search unendingly to find Hope. We must cling to our ability to Hope.

And we must be that Hope.

Around the Property



- The sign by the road was cleared of covering branches, the Rabbi's parking space was cleared of the cedar hedge that obscured it.
- The furnace has been turned on and the AC unit in the office has been covered on the inside.
- The door lock has been oiled so the key does not stick and a number of other chores have been done.
- The peeling paint on the main stairs and in one classroom was caused by a roof leak. Until we are sure it no longer leaks it will not be repainted.

Photos (l) - Jim Stevens' helper Beth, putting up the Succah and cleaning the cover after being taken down.

Religious School

Our religious school has been off to a great start! Families participated in our recent family Shabbat service on Nov 3. Our first kindergarten session was in October and the kids learned more about where their Hebrew name comes from and creating letters out of natural materials. Our youth group had its first session of the year in October as well. Some of our teens will be turning our old Hebrew workbooks into new recycled paper in the next few weeks.



Tot Shabbat October 2023



News

Yasher Koach to:

Mel Foerster on her recent conversion to Judaism

Condolences to:

Neil Kapp, on the loss of his mother Esther Kapp

Elinor DeVries, on the loss of her husband Camiel

Todah Rabah to:

The Temple Israel Choir

Desi & Kandice Brownstone and Naomi Stambler for the donation of flowers

Congregants who participated in the HHD Services

Nevia Frank for her assistance with HHD and children's programs

Shalom to: Jane Jacob, who, after six years of working at the Temple office, has accepted a position at Western University in the Physiology & Pharmacology Department. Best of luck, Jane!



Shalom to: Melanie Foerster who has recently joined the Temple staff, in Jane's position. Welcome, Mel!



Milestone Birthdays & Anniversaries



December Milestone Birthday

December 12 Maryke Morris



January Milestone Anniversary

Jan 5 Michael and Sandra Fisman's 60th

WAYS TO HELP - BY RABBI DRESSLER

I have been asked what are the best ways to help financially in this time of crisis in Israel. Here are a few recommendations I can share:

- *Jewishfederations.org* - I have heard directly from Reform leaders both in North America and Israel that the money from the JFNA campaign is reaching organizations on the ground, irrespective of politics and ideologies (Reform, Orthodox, secular, etc.)
- *CMDAI.org* (Magen David Adom) - MDA is unparalleled in their impact, funding critically needed ambulances, medical equipment, and blood supply resources.
- *Womenwagepeace.org.il* - Co-founded by Canadian Israeli Vivian Silver, who was tragically murdered by Hamas on October 7, WWP (with partner organizations) brings a non-partisan, holistic view to urgent issues of security, beyond military and political security to economic, education, and personal safety.

For more ways to help (in addition to financial support), visit "How You Can Support Israel During These Challenging Times," at URJ.org.

"B'makom she-ein anashim, histateil lihiyot ish," Hillel taught. "In a place where there is no humanity, strive to be human."

Donations

GENERAL DONATIONS

on the occasion of my great niece's engagement from
Nancy & Ivan Cohen
in memory of Minnie Malkis from Marvin & Phyllis Simner
in memory of Yolán Pal and in honour of the HHD from
Leslie & Nurit Kochav
from Yuri & Lara Rybak
from Randy Kissack

IN KIND DONATION - BUILDING

Susan & John Dean

SPONSORSHIPS - BUILDING

from Sharon Marks

SPONSORSHIPS - EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

from Neville Suskin & Helen Ettler
from Alex & Ana Porzecanski
in honour of Stephen State from Debbie Rosenzweig
in honour of Michael Shmukler's milestone birthday
from Walter & Linda Zimmerman
from Sharon Marks

SPONSORSHIPS - HHD

in appreciation of HHD services from Jessica Fishbein
from Jerry Ugar
from Lisa Manax and Anargyros Skikos
from Michael & Irina Sanatani
from Sarah White
from Vivian Macdonald
from Sharon Marks
in appreciation of HHD from Mary MacKenzie

EDUCATION FUND

in memory of Lillian and Saul Presner from Sid & Vena Presner
in memory of Mary, David and Joseph Blustein from
Sid & Vena Presner

UNRESTRICTED FUND

from Charles & Jill Wright

BUILDING FUND - RAMP PROJECT

in memory of Henri Charles Barik from Arthur
& Sandra Benjamin
In memory of Pauline Benjamin from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Sylvia Frazer (Dubitsky) from Thomas Casler

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (RDF)

from Michael & Irina Sanatani (2 donations)
in appreciation of Rabbi Dressler from Allen & Carole Gumphrich
from Neville Suskin & Helen Ettler
in memory of Marion Kalin from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
from Charles & Jill Wright
from Alex & Ana Porzecanski
in memory of Eleanor Ender from Bob & Cindy Miles
from Doug Harefeld
in appreciation of Rabbi Dressler from Francee Ender
from Helene Berman & Mark Flink
from Randy Kissack

RITUAL (ZIMMERMAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY FUND)

from Susan Agranove
in memory of Sylvia Frazer from Thomas Casler

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

from Randy Kissack

RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE FUND

from Alex & Ana Porzecanski

SOCIAL ACTION FUND - FOOD BANK

in honour of Michael Shmukler from Michael Lander
from Pam Block and Matthew Lebo
from Allan Shapiro & Leora Swartzman
from Anonymous
from Roy Green & Sarah Morrison
from Jeffrey & Marion Rogers
from Simone Mendel
from Shari Brenner
from Alex & Ana Porzecanski
from Michael Shmukler & Linda Dutsch
from Jeremy & Dinah Frank

Note: Donations included to October 31, 2023. If we have inadvertently missed an acknowledgement on your behalf, please let the office know so that we include your kindness in our next publication.

The Temple office may be open for limited hours, but the office remains open virtually. If you would like to make a donation, please call the office and leave a message at 519-858-4400 or email: office@templeisraelondon.ca.

Do you have some happy news to share with the TI family? Please send a message about your Simcha to the Temple Office.

Interfaith Tree Planting - Oct. 22, 2023



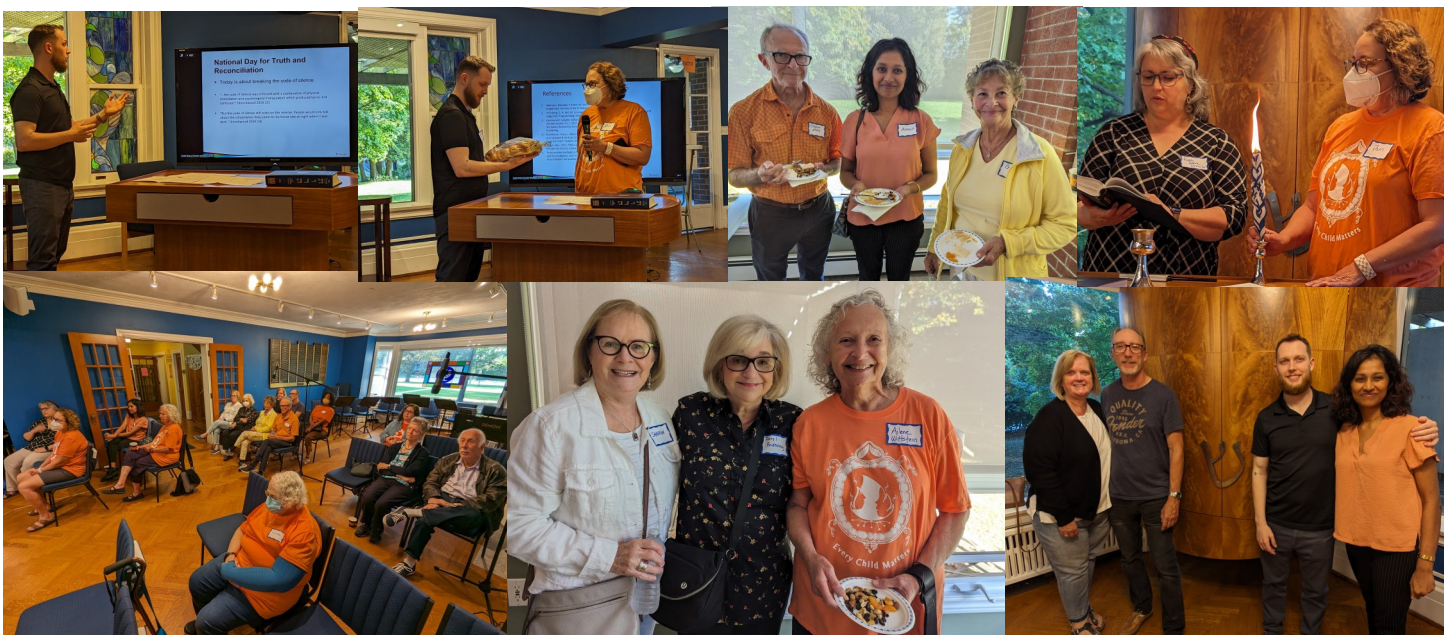
Shabbat visit by Cong. Beth El Windsor Sept. 2023



London-Chatham Selichot Service & Dinner- Sept. 9, 2023



Wade Paul visit - Reconciliation Shabbat Sept. 30, 2023



Melanie's Giyur - Oct. 28, 2023



Rosh Hashanah Family Service - September 17, 2023



Grushka Bar Mitzvah - October 21, 2023



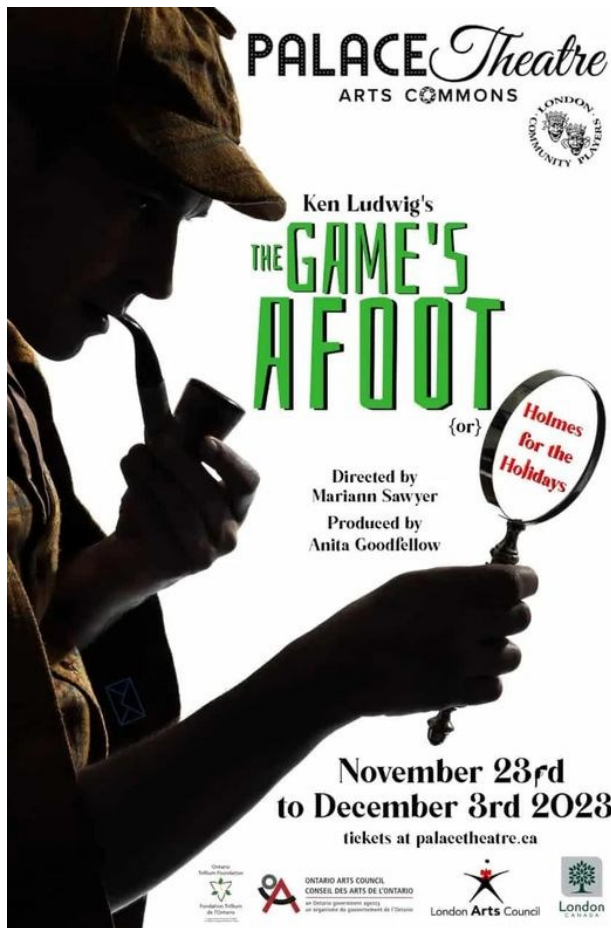


Musicians: Off

Mi Shebeirach for Captives and Soldiers

מי שברך אבותינו אברהם יצחק ויעקב שרה רבקה רחל וְלֵאָה, הוא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת חֵילִי צְבָא הַהִגָּנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, הַעֹמְדִים עַל מִשְׁמַר אֶרְצֵנוּ וְעַרֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִגְּבוּל הַלְבָּנוֹן וְעַד מִדְּבַר מִצְרַיִם, וּמִן הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל עַד לְבֹא הָעֶרְבָה וּבְכָל מְקוֹם שֶׁהֵם, בִּבְשָׁה בְּאֵוִיר וּבָיִם. תִּאָּזְרֵם חֵיל לְהַשִּׁיב אֶת הַנִּעְדָּרִים וְאֶת הַשְׁבוּיִים בְּעֹבוֹר שֶׁהִקְהֵל הַזֶּה מִתְפַּלֵּל בְּעִבְרוֹם, הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִמְלֵא רַחֲמִים עֲלֵיהֶם, וְיוֹצִיאֵם מִחֶשֶׁךְ וְצִלְמוֹת, וּמוֹסְרוֹתֵיהֶם יִנְתֵּק, וּמִמְצוּקוֹתֵיהֶם יוֹשִׁיעֵם, וְיִשִּׁיבֵם מִהֲרָה לְחִיק מִשְׁפּוֹחוֹתֵיהֶם. וְיִקְרֵם בָּהֶם מִקְרָא שְׂכֵתוֹב: "וּפְדוּיָהּ ה' יִשׁוּבוּ וּבָאוּ צִיּוֹן בְּרִנָּה וּשְׂמִחַת עוֹלָם עַל רֹאשָׁם. שִׁשּׁוֹן וּשְׂמִחָה יִשִּׁיגוּ וְנָסוּ יִגּוֹן וְאֲנָחָה", וְנֹאמַר: "צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפְדֶּה וְשִׁבְיָהּ בְּצִדְקָה." וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

May the One who blessed Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah bless the soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God, from the Lebanese border to the Egyptian desert, from the Mediterranean Sea to the approach of the Aravah, and wherever else they are: on land, in air and at sea. Help the soldiers return those who are missing and in captivity, as this congregation prays for them. May the Holy Blessed One have compassion on them, and bring them out from the darkness and the shadow of death. May God break their bonds, deliver them from their distress, and bring them swiftly back to their families' embrace. May this verse be fulfilled in them: "Those redeemed by God will return; they will enter Zion with singing, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" (Isaiah 35:10). And it is written: "Zion will be redeemed through justice, and those among her who return, through righteousness" (Isaiah 1:27). And let us say: Amen.



Join TI member Susan Dean and her fellow castmates for a romping, fun, whodunit murder mystery, “The Game’s A Foot” at the Palace Theatre, running from November 23 to December 3. Matinee and evening tickets still available at www.palacetheatre.ca.

We hope to see you there!!

Join us at the Grand Theatre for a special gathering of the Jewish community to celebrate playwright and TI member, Jordi Mand, who is the daughter of TI members Jason Mandlowitz and Daryl Fridenberg. Come to Jordi’s show “In Seven Days” on Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets available at www.grandtheatre.com

