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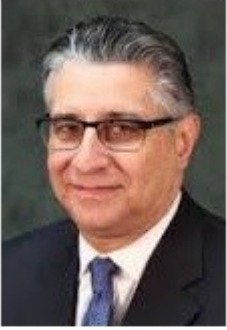
What's been happening at Temple?

After the business of the High Holy Days, we enjoyed a few weeks of calm before gearing up for Chanukah.

Many thanks to everyone who helped prepare latkes and sufganiyot for our annual Chanukah party, and to everyone who came out to celebrate and support Londoners in need through Share The Warmth. Our youngest members also enjoyed learning about Shabbat and Chanukah at our Kindergarten Experience with Ailene Wittstein.



From our President



Jason Mandlowitz

We wish you a peaceful, safe and relaxing Holiday season. As I write this message, Temple Israel is planning for our Chanukah celebration and Share the Warmth. Our Congregation has shown tremendous joy celebrating together and great generosity in responding to our broad community needs and I know this year will be no different.

Our celebration for the coming year continues as we recognize Rabbi Dressler's 10th Anniversary at Temple Israel. You will receive information about upcoming events being planned throughout the year. I hope to see you at all of them.

Our first Congregational initiative is to build on the start made during our Ritual Fund campaign to celebrate the Zimmermans' 50th Anniversary. The goal of the campaign was to finance a new Portable Ark and Torah covers for High Holy Days. We are extending this campaign to the Rabbi's 10th Anniversary celebration. I am reaching out to you to encourage your financial support. Donations should be made to the Temple Israel Ritual Fund.

We have been asked by a number of members to simplify our donations process and to make it more convenient and efficient. To do so, our Board has approved the introduction of "Donor Advised Funds".

How can you set up A Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? All you have to do is make a minimum donation of \$250.00 or more to Temple Israel. You can establish a DAF with a higher donation such as \$500.00. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation (just as occurs with the individual donations you have been making).

What happens next? After you make the initial donation, all you have to do is contact our Office and direct (by telephone, e-mail, etc.) where your funds are to go: Ritual Fund, Education Fund, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Religious School Sponsorship; Ron Marks Fund; Rabbi and Aileen Wittstein Camp George Fund. The only condition is that the minimum donation must be at least \$36.00. You can direct as many \$36.00 donations (or higher) as you wish.

What happens when you've used up your initial contribution? During the year and when you have directed donations which reach your initial contribution of \$250.00 or more, the Office will contact you. At that point you can make another donation of \$250.00 or more to "reactivate" your DAF.

When can I set up a DAF? Now or at any time. Your support for Temple Israel is appreciated.

Best wishes for the Holiday season and the winter months ahead.

Around the Property

Please use extreme caution around the stand of cedar trees near the rear of our property. Several are leaning over dangerously. It cost TI \$1,000 to remove the last tree, so we are hoping the snow load will finish the job naturally this winter. If not, we will review in the spring.

Please also avoid the invasive species buckthorn that has taken hold in the hedge along the car park as it contains sharp thorns. It has been cut out and put at the back of the car park so the berries will not sprout. It should compact itself naturally until it can be disposed of in the spring.

From our Rabbi



Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

As I write this, I have just returned from the Windy City (which was thankfully not very windy). The URJ Biennial in Chicago was actually the first biennial I had attended, as it was for my girls who attended the NFTY track. It took me a while to navigate the dozens of simultaneous programs, but even as I was retracing steps down wrong hallways, I was having a wonderful time.

For clergy and other Jewish professionals, Biennial operates on two levels. First, it's like a high school reunion, where fellow students and past congregants catch up. Our hair is grayer, our kids who were babies are grown, and there are extra babies, spouses, and grandchildren to admire. I am so grateful for a smart phone in these moments, because I never managed to keep current photos of my children in my wallet.

But professionally, Biennial, and other conferences, are an important time to step away while diving in. We set aside our everyday work, but then immerse ourselves in sessions where we can look at everything from governance, to worship, to education - the possibilities are manifold. Even getting reports from friends and colleagues about other sessions leaves one feeling like we would have happily cloned ourselves to attend them all.

I went early for an education intensive, which has given me much food for thought about congregation-based religious school - what are our goals, and how do we define success? After that half-day program, I focused my time on the four Canadian sessions. We looked at the 2018 Survey of Canadian Jews with U of T's Dr. Robert Brym, one of the co-authors of the survey, diving deeper beyond the summaries we have seen elsewhere. There is even more data to be analyzed as a result of the survey. The Canadian Reform leaders in the room pledged additional resources to pay for the continuation of this work, which will be quite interesting.

What did I learn about Canadian Jews? Far more than I can summarize in a paragraph or two. I will be sharing more in the coming weeks, as we consider the picture this landmark study paints. On the whole, I think there are two things we must conclude. First, Canada's Jewish community is different from that in the U.S. Second, London is different from the larger communities in Canada such as Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, and even Winnipeg. These two statements seem self-evident. However, when we dig deeper, the ways in which they are true have incredible bearing on how we understand Jewish London.



URJ BIENNIAL 2019
DECEMBER 11 - 15 • CHICAGO, IL

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Jewish Education

Widowhood and the Halachic Stage of a Woman's Life presented by Rabbi Dressler at the Jewish Community Centre on Tuesdays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. from January 28 to February 18, 2020. Contact the JCC to register: 519-673-3310. Early bird fee is \$75 if you register at least one week prior to the start of the course. \$85 after that time.

In Jewish law and tradition, a woman's status was defined according to her stage of life. We will explore the various halachic stages in the lives of women - daughter, maiden, betrothed, wife, divorcee, and widow - as we consider questions of agency such as employment, property ownership, and as a legal witness. We will trace the various historical examples as women moved into and out of marriage, including Ketubot, Gittin, Levirate marriage, and widowhood. From the Bible to modern-day Israel, the legal status of a woman vis a vis her father, brother, husband, or son has been a critical challenge to balancing rights and protections for women of every economic, ethnic, and religious stratum. Are we moving forward, or falling back, in Judaism's treatment of women?



Temple Israel Book Club

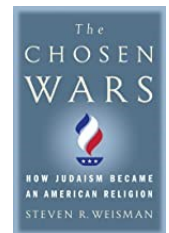
The Temple Israel Book Club meets at 2 pm on Saturday afternoons at Temple Israel. Here are the books and dates for 2019 / 2020. You'll find two copies of each title in the Temple Israel library!

The Chosen Wars, by Steven Weisman – January 25

Memento Park, by Mark Sarvas – February 22

Jumping Over Shadows, by Annette Gendler – April 18

In The Garden of Beasts, by Erik Larson, May 9



Everyone is welcome to join the discussion!

bitly.com/tibookclub

Jewish Information Class

Temple Israel's Jewish Information Class (JIC) is open to anyone who wants to broaden their Jewish knowledge. Come for one class, or join them all. Classes will run 2 – 4 pm, January 12 / 19 / 26 & February 2, resuming on March 29 after March break. Visit our website or call the office for more details.

Adult Hebrew Classes

It's never too late to learn Hebrew! Our adult Hebrew classes are underway Tuesday evenings. If you're interested in joining, contact Stephen State: stephen.state@schulich.uwo.ca



Social Action – Food Bank Sort

Join members of the Temple Israel Social Action Committee at the London Food Bank for an interfaith food sort, Wednesday January 8 & March 4, 6:30 – 8 pm.



Lunch & Learn

Bring your lunch and join Rabbi Dressler Tuesdays at noon, exploring current events as well as classic Jewish topics. Our learning runs from January 7 to March 10 with a pause for March break.



Family Services with Student Participation

Friday January 31 & February 28

6 pm Potluck Pre-neg / 6:30 Family Service

Upcoming Events Cont'd.

Kindergarten Experience

Sunday, February 9 @ 11 – Tu Bish'vat

Children in JK / SK and their families are invited to join us for a fun and interactive introduction to the Jewish Holidays! Open to Temple Israel members and non-members. Please RSVP to the office at office@templeisraelondon.ca / 519-858-4400

Shabbat Shirah

Saturday, February 8 @ 10 am

The Temple Israel choir leads us in our annual Shabbat Shirah – Shabbat of Song. This is also the 10th Yahrzeit for Rabbi Wittstein. Services begin @ 10 am followed by a Potluck Kiddush @ 11:30 and Torah Study @ 12 pm. For Torah Study, David Rosner will present some highlights of his popular AJE classes about the Psalms.

Save the Date – Purim

Sunday March 8, 12 – 2 pm

Mark your calendar for our Family Purim Program & Megillah!

Jewish Education Manna (JEM)

Mondays @ 7:30 pm, JCC.

No cost. Everyone welcome.

January 13: Reaching for Pogrom: Social Psychological Observations on the Demonization of Israel with Bill Fisher

January 20: Ray Frank: The “Girl Rabbi of the Golden West” with Jennifer Lander

January 27: Alley-Oop to Aliyah: African American Hoopsters in the Holy Land with David Goldstein

February 3: Double Exposure: The Positives and Negatives of Lower East Side Photographer Jacob Riis with Sonia Halpern

February 10: Meyer Brownstone, Acclaimed Jewish Champion of Social Justice, Peace, and Equality with Shieky Brownstone

February 24: “Beyond Anyone’s Comprehension”: Canada and the Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps with Sara Poulin

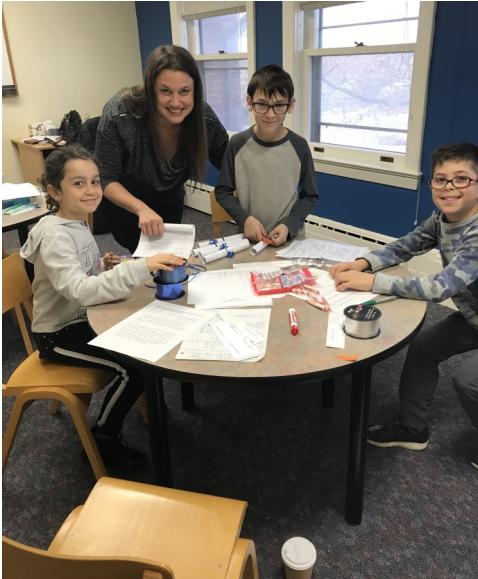
March 2: Jewish Art in a Medieval Textbook: What’s In, What’s Out? With Linda Safran

News from Union For Reform Judaism (URJ)

It's time! Voting in the World Zionist Congress Elections begins January 21, and your vote is critical to maintaining a large Reform presence in Israel and the United States! Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society as we continue our efforts towards equality, pluralism and tolerance. Voting takes place online from January 21, 2020 to March 11, 2020 and will take less than 90 seconds to participate. If you're 18+ and identify as Jewish, we hope we can count on you to vote Reform. Visit urj.org.



Education



Mandy with Natalya, Joshua and Darwin making surprise bags for Social Action



Share the Warmth



Alef Class



Teens working on mural



Fire Drill



Share the Warmth

Donations

DONATIONS GENERAL

in honour of Avery Helen Price from Duncan & Elyse Fisher
in memory of Minnie Malkis from Marvin & Phyllis Simner
from Michael & Irina Sanatani

FUND - EDUCATION

in honour of Art & Sandra Benjamin's wedding anniversary
from Andy Barak & Sally Cozens
in memory of Carl Rosenblatt from Carla Taub
in memory of Gerald Wright from John & Susan Dean
in honour of the Religious School teachers from Susan
Baker

FUND - BUILDING

in memory of Abraham Robinson from Leslie & Nurit
Kochav

FUND - MUSIC AND CHOIR

in honour of Ron Wexler's 75th birthday from John &
Susan Dean, John & Naomi Stoffman and
Richard & Jan Lubell

FUND - RON MARKS

in memory of Gerald Wright from Rael & Margie Wienburg

FUND - LIBRARY

in memory of Gerald Wright from Arthur & Sandra
Benjamin

FUND - RDF

in memory of Gerald Wright from Clive & Brynah
Schneider-Friedman
in memory of Abraham Robinson from Leslie & Nurit
Kochav

FUND - TZEDAKAH

in memory of Hannah Reuben from Gary & Ruth Rohekar
in memory of Judah Reuben from Gary & Ruth Rohekar

RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE

in memory of Rabbi Wittstein from Melody Enzel & Brian
Kurtzman
in memory of Pepa Livingstone from Melody Enzel & Brian
Kurtzman

SPONSORSHIPS - RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

in memory of Gerald Wright from Michael Shmukler &
Linda Dutsch

Note: Donations included to December 15, 2019. 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.



News

Kol Hakavod:

To Ana Porezecanski and family for assuming the mantle on latke making this year.

To David Rosner for leading services on December 14.

To Stephen State for leading services on December 28.

Welcome to new or returning members:

Stefani Silberstein

Elyse & Duncan Fisher

Pam Block and Matthew Lebo

Louise & Al Levy

Condolences to:

The Wright family on the loss of their husband, father & grandfather, Gerald Wright.

Ruth Seigel on the loss of her mother.

The Shanfeld family on the loss of their wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Louise Shanfeld.

TI Board

2020 Meeting Schedule

All members of Temple Israel are welcome – and encouraged – to attend our Board meetings. Here's our schedule for 2020:

January 5 – Executive @ 2:30 / Board @ 3 pm

February 23 – Annual Meeting @ 4:30 pm *please note, this date was changed to accommodate Marcus & Associates' schedule

March 29 – Executive @ 3 / Board @ 3:30 pm

May 13 – Executive @ 6:30 / Board @ 7 pm

June 24 – General Meeting @ 7 pm

Please note that Board members and TI members are not required to attend the Executive meeting. All meetings are held at Temple Israel.

Interested in joining our Board? We are looking for people to serve as VP Programming and VP Finance, Treasurer. If you'd like more information please contact Jason Mandlowitz at

Please let the office know when you're celebrating something that you'd like us to put in the next bulletin.

Join the Temple Israel Facebook page

If you're on Facebook, please "Like" our page at facebook.com/Temple-Israel-of-London-Ontario. As we continue to work on our new website, we'll also be using Facebook to share the latest news about upcoming events at Temple Israel, as well as news from around the community and articles from URJ.

