From our President

Jason Mandlowitz

From Daryl, myself and our family, we hope you were able to share the Passover celebration with your family and friends.

For months leading up to Passover, we have watched the events taking place in Israel. While the Government’s proposed legislation was paused, it is highly expected that the future of Israel as a nation state and democracy will occupy our attention for many days to come. This Bulletin is primarily dedicated to providing information to you, which we hope will assist in better understanding the conflicting issues in dispute.

For my part, I want to provide some highlights from our Board meeting on Thursday, March 30 and community involvement.

The Board was presented with our DRAFT financial statements up to June 30, 2022. When finalized, the Financial Statements will be presented to the congregation at an Annual Meeting to be scheduled soon. Recognizing the importance of our Jewish Reform affiliates, the Board approved a donation of $1,000.00 from the Rabbi Joel and Ailene Wittstein Camp George Fund and ongoing support for Arza Canada.

At each Board meeting (on Shabbat and at congregational events), an update on our Life and Legacy program commitments are reported. As you may know, our goal is to reach 18 signed Letters of Intent from members by end-June 2023. We were pleased to report that we have reached and exceeded our first year goal: we have 19 letters. See the list of our Life and Legacy donors provided in this Bulletin. Temple Israel sincerely thanks you all for your commitment, support and vision for a sustainable Reform community in London.

On behalf of the Board, I also want to thank a number of our lay leaders. Thanks to Wally Zimmerman who provides Temple Israel update articles and photos to the Jewish London magazine. Thanks to Judith Wiley for her representation on the Arza Canada Board. Thanks to Pamela Block for enhancing our programming. Thanks to Gail Bass for co-ordinating a hilarious and much needed Comedy Night. Thanks to Stephen State, Josh Dubitsky and David Rosner for leading Shabbat services. And thanks to our Choir members who make our Shabbat services so enjoyable.

Special thanks to Rabbi Dressler, Susan Dean and Jane Jacob for their daily work on our behalf and to Elizabeth Jacob for assisting with Shabbat service Kiddush.

Stay up to date by signing up for newsletters on these websites or follow them on Twitter or other social media platforms.
Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

I had the opportunity to join my colleagues from the Reform Rabbis of Canada last month in Ottawa. We were on an “Advocacy Mission,” whereby we would meet with members of the Canadian Government and others who support Jewish interests at home and abroad.

When we planned this event months ago, little did we know what a consequential few days we faced on our arrival. After weeks of protests, Prime Minister Netanyahu had only hours before “paused” the controversial judicial reforms his government had proposed.

Our Federal government had announced that the Budget presentation would occur on the day we were already scheduled to visit Parliament for Question Period. So this was a fascinating civics lesson on the machinations of our Federal government on top of everything else on our agenda.

We met with CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs), and they facilitated our meetings with a variety of officials. We were privileged to have the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, key staffers from the PMO, MPs from each of the 3 major parties (both Jewish and non-Jewish), and the Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Morocco. We also had the opportunity to tour the National War Museum and the very compelling National Holocaust Memorial (est. 2017); I recommend both of these on your next visit to Ottawa.

Our final evening, our group was hosted for dinner by the Israeli Ambassador to Canada. Although Ambassador Ronen Hoffman resigned earlier in the year, he will continue to serve until this summer. He was joined by his wife and the First Secretary for Public Diplomacy. Although we were all quite relieved that the tensions in Israel had been mitigated by PM Netanyahu’s “pause” in the days prior, there was much to discuss about the situation in Israel, and how we in the diaspora can provide meaningful support to Israel, reflective of our Reform Canadian Jewish values, both now and as subsequent legislation is proposed.

As Canadian Reform Jews, I would highlight the following priorities in the months ahead:

- Judicial Reform in Israel - I came to the meetings with concern that any “Reform” would require compromises that would clash with our values for Israel’s democracy. I learned that there are reforms that can and need to be made; it is important to educate ourselves on the details of these issues.

- Hate Speech and Anti-Semitism in Canada - This is an absolutely critical issue, and it continues to grow alarmingly. My colleagues shared far too many painful and frightening experiences from members of their communities, especially those of teens and young adults online. There are a few pieces of legislation coming, and each of the parties has a different approach in how to address this burgeoning crisis. It is important to study the nuances of each approach, and then to advocate for these badly-needed solutions.

- Additional domestic and international priorities - Housing costs in our cities have a direct impact on the sustainability of Jewish communities, and Reform/Progressive rights and funding in Israel continue to be threatened. Please follow the organizations on page 2 to ensure that you have the information you need to stay up-to-date on the many critical developments that will unfold in the months to come.

We pray that as Israel soon celebrates its 75 years of independence, that she can live up to its aspirational values articulated in the 1948 Declaration of Independence, “freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel...[to] ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex.”
How to Help

IMPJ & IRAC Emergency Campaign
Securing together an Israel we are proud of.
*Please designate your donation to IMPJ – IRAC Emergency Campaign by clicking that option or adding a comment in the space provided* https://arzacanada.org/

News

Yasher Koach to:
Stephen State for reading the Torah and sharing remarks at Shabbat Shirah
Pamela Block for her presentation on Disabilities Shabbat & for organizing the Reconciliation Shabbat

Condolences to:
Leora Swartzman, on the loss of her mother, Roslyn Swartzman
Penny Lander on the loss of her sister, Ricky Mandel
Ivan & Nancy Cohen on the loss of their nephew, Max Jacob Cohen

Todah Rabah to:
Josh Dubitsky for leading a Shabbat service
Gail Bass for producing Comedy Night 2023
Mel Foerster & Marie-Pier Cantin for their assistance during services

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

Life & Legacy

A Gift That Will Last for Generations!
Jason Mandlowitz and Jeff Phillips, Co-Chairs of Temple Israel’s Life & Legacy Campaign, are very pleased to announce that we have met & exceeded our first year goal of enlisting a minimum of 18 Temple members to sign a Letter of Intent. This will benefit Temple for a future endowment contribution and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our organization. Next year, we are hoping we have another 18 participants to register in order for Temple to receive our maximum benefit from the program.

The following TI members have committed to the program with signed Letters of Intent:

| Terry Sicular | Jan Lubell | Kandice McKee | Robert Solomon |
| Jason Mandlowitz | Richard Lubell | Desi Brownstone | Barbara Lent |
| Daryl Fridenberg | Linda Zimmerman | Jeff Phillips | Clive Schneider-Friedman |
| Susan Dean | Wally Zimmerman | Vivian Macdonald | Brynah Schneider-Friedman |
| Anonymous | Anonymous | | |

Special thanks to Sandford Levin for his commitment to TI.

Life & Legacy is a legacy/gift giving program from the Harold Greenspoon Foundation that was launched last fall in London, partnering with four Jewish London organizations. If you would like more information about it or are interested in participating, contact Jason Mandlowitz at jem@mandlowitz.com.
Donations

GENERAL DONATIONS
from Shlomit Acciaroli
in honour of Rabbi’s work with Hillel from Katie Goldig
in honour of Stephen State from Yuri & Lara Rybak
in memory of Louis Starnbach from Marvin & Phyllis Simner
in memory of Hazel Ginsberg from Marvin & Phyllis Simner
from Randy Kissack (2 donations)

IN-KIND DONATIONS - PROGRAMMING—SHABBAT
from Rabbi Dressler

SPONSORSHIPS - EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
in memory of Mitchell Bondy, beloved grandson of Judy and Dave Frank from Carole Gumprich
in appreciation of the Shmuklers from Rael & Margie Wienburg
in honour of Rael Wienburg from Peter Levitt

EDUCATION FUND
in memory of Tova Blitz from Andy Barak & Sally Cozens

BUILDING FUND - RAMP PROJECT
in memory of Martin Bass from Beverley Zaifman
in memory of Peter Tilner, father of Sandra Benjamin and Harold Tilner from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
from Clive & Brynah Schneider-Friedman
from Ruth & Jeffrey Seigel
in memory of Sandra Benjamin and Harold Tilner's grandparents, Simon Tobin and David Tilner from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Penny Lander's sister and Leora Swartzman's mother from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
from Alex & Ana Porzecanski
in memory of Abraham Benjamin and in honour of Rael Wienburg from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
From Bonnie Teevan (2 donations)

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND (RDF)
on the occasion of the Zoom Seder from Elizabeth Teevan
from Michael & Irina Sanatani
in honour of Stephen State from Randy Kissack
from Randy Kissack (2 donations)

SOCIAL ACTION FUND - FOOD BANK
in memory of Roslyn Swartzman from Robert Solomon & Barbara Lent

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
in memory of Roslyn Swartzman from Walter & Linda Zimmerman
in memory of Leora Swartzman's mother from Randy Kissack
from Randy Kissack (2 donations)

FUND - RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein from Stephen State
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein from Linda Freedman

MARTIN BASS MEMORIAL COMEDY NIGHT
from Sharon Marks
from Lorna Brooke
from Debby Albin
from Eunice Diamond
from Josh & Kay Dubitsky
from Deborah Good
from Joel Hurwitz
from Louise & Al Levy
from Richard Rodney
from Allan Shapiro and Leora Swartzman

Note: Donations included to March 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.

Martin Bass Memorial Comedy Night - April 1, 2023
In view of recent changes in public health guidelines, the Temple Israel Board has voted to suspend the requirement of proof of COVID vaccinations for attendance at in-person services and events. In view of health vulnerabilities of some members of our community, however, the Board strongly encourages full vaccination for members who attend in-person Temple activities, and more generally encourages compliance with public health guidelines. We hope to see you in person at services and events.

Milestone Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Milestone Birthdays

April 6  Coralia Tudor
April 10 Daphne Stevens
April 15 Sandra Fisman
April 16 Jacob Megdell
April 23 Audrey Sambrano
April 24 Dan Pliskow
April 26 Jonathan Grushka
April 28 Anargyros Skikos

May Milestone Birthday

May 12  Allison Price

May Milestone Anniversary

May 20  Josh & Kay Dubitsky
        50th anniversary

June Milestone Birthdays

June 1  Ruth Seigel
June 11 Allan Shapiro
June 16 Casey Wright

June Milestone Anniversary

June 11 Ron & Denise Wexler
        55th anniversary