

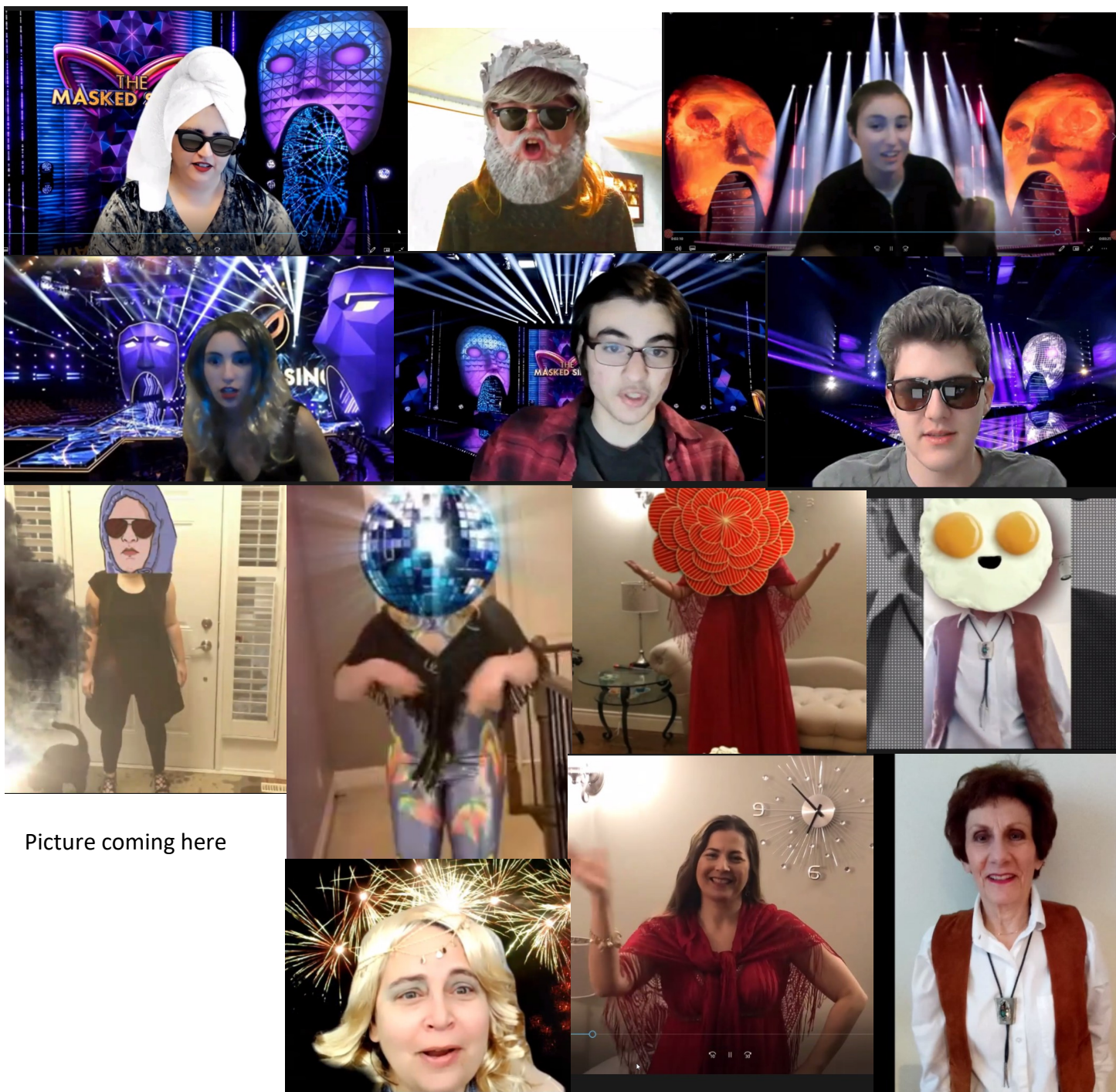


In this issue:

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What's been happening at Temple?

MASKED SINGERS & JUDGES



Picture coming here



THE LONDON CHAPTER OF CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Submitted by Tom Casler

Your local chapter of CMDA is a group of dedicated volunteers who work to support the life – saving efforts of Magen David Adom in Israel. The nation's first responders receive no government financial support and depend on donors and friends to provide the funding necessary to enable them to save lives.

We were not able to host a public event last year to raise funds because of the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 situation. Thanks to the generosity of donors and friends in the London community, your local chapter of CMDA was able to donate in your name an Emergency Medical Scooter which permits the first responders in Israel to arrive on scene within minutes to render the medical assistance needed to save lives in an emergency.

Magen David Adom is installing AEDs – Automated External Defibrillators for access by the general public throughout Israel because it is known that the defibrillators can help to save lives during the few minutes needed by first responders to arrive on the scene of a medical emergency. We will launch a campaign very soon to seek your support to help save lives. We are most grateful for donations in any amount to support this very important initiative.

With sincere thanks from your local chapter of Canadian Magen David Adom. Contact Hazel Friedman at: hazelf@rogers.com.



Two special February birthdays - David Rosner & Susan Agranove



SHALOM RAV al Yisrael amcha
tasim Folam,
ki atah hu Melech Adon
I'chol hashalom.
V'tov b'einecha I'vareich
et amcha Yisrael
b'chol eit uv'chol shaah bishlomcha.
SHALOM SHALOM — B'nefer chayim.
b'achik, v'shalom, uferanah tovah.
niacheir v'nikareiv Hanecha.
asacheir v'chol amcha bein Yisrael.
I'chayim tovim u'shalom.
Baruch atah, Adonai, oseh hashalom.
Baruch atah, Adonai,
ham'vareich et amo Yisrael bhashalom.

שְׁלוֹם רַב עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמְּךָ
תָּשִׂים לְעוֹלָם.
כִּי אַתָּה הוּא מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹנָי
לְכָל הַשְׁלוֹם.
וְטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְבָרֵךְ
אֶת עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
בְּכָל עֵת וּבְכָל שָׁעָה בְּשִׁלּוֹמְךָ.
שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם — בְּנֶפֶשׁ חַיִּים.
בְּרַחֵם וְיִרְחַם טוֹבָה,
נִיחָאֵר וְנִקְרָאֵר לְפָנֶיךָ.
אֲשַׁחֲרֶךָ וְכָל עַמְּךָ בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל,
לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים וְשִׁלּוֹם.
בְּרַחֵם אֲתָה, יְיָ, עֹשֶׂה הַשְׁלוֹם.
בְּרַחֵם אֲתָה, יְיָ,
הַמְבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשִׁלּוֹם.

PRaise to You, Adonai our God,
from whom the evening flows.
Your wisdom sets the way on which time and season glide;
Your breath guides the sail of the stars.
Creator of the tide of time and light,
You guide the current of day into night.
As heaven spans to infinity,
You set its course for eternity.
Praise to You, Adonai our God,
from whom the evening flows.

בְּרַחֵם אֲתָה, יְיָ, הַמְבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ
Baruch atah, Adonai, ham'vareich aravim.



Donations

DONATIONS GENERAL

in honour of Margie Wienburg by Peter Levitt
in memory of Rabbi Wittstein by Jeffrey & Ruth Seigel
by Randy Kissack (3 donations)
by Holly Hudes
in memory of Rose Harris' brother, Isak Irving Birnbaum, by
Walter & Linda Zimmerman
in memory of Hazel Ginsberg by Marvin & Phyllis Simner
in memory of Thelma Llewellyn's brother, Monte Llewellyn, by
Stephen State
by Stephen State
in honour of the Rabbi, Board and Office staff during Covid by
Michael Shmukler & Linda Dutsch
in honour of Stephen State by Jayne Garland

IN KIND PROGRAMMING- HHD

by John & Susan Dean

SPONSORSHIPS - BUILDING

in memory of Michael Woolf, brother of Davida Sobel, by
Ruth & Jeffrey Seigel
in memory of Michael Woolf by John & Susan Dean
in memory of Michael Woolf by Jeremy & Dinah Frank
in memory of Michael Woolf by Robert Solomon & Barbara Lent
in memory of Louise Shanfeld by Leah & Jon Fish and family
in memory of Thelma Llewellyn's brother, Everard Llewellyn by
Jeremy & Dinah Frank
by Linda Freedman
by Jeremy & Dinah Frank

SPONSORSHIPS- HHD

by Jeremy & Dinah Frank
by Linda Freedman

SPONSORSHIPS - EDUCATION & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

in honour of Neviah Frank by Jeremy & Dinah Frank
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Daniela Marciano
by Jeremy & Dinah Frank

SPONSORSHIPS - TECHNOLOGY AND WEB

by Linda Freedman
by Charles & Jill Wright
by Jeremy & Dinah Frank

FUND - EDUCATION

in memory of Tillie Yashinsky by Al & Louise Levy

FUND - BUILDING

in memory of Michael Woolf by Melody Enzel
in memory of Michael Woolf by Michael Shmukler
& Linda Dutsch
in memory of Michael Woolf by David & Shari Whitei
in memory of Michael Woolf by Jason Mandlowitz
& Daryl Fridenberg

FUND - MUSIC & CHOIR

in honour of Jake, Rabbi's future son-in-law by Jason
Mandlowitz & Daryl Fridenberg
in memory of Everard Llewellyn by Melody Enzel
in memory of Everard Llewellyn by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin

FUND - RON MARKS

in memory of Michael Woolf by Sharon Marks

FUND - LIBRARY

in memory of Michael Woolf by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Monte Swartzman by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Sheila Lewis by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin

FUND - RDF

in memory of David Tilner and Simon Tobin by
Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Everard Llewellyn by Judith Wiley
in honour of Casey and Jake's engagement by Jason Mandlowitz
& Daryl Fridenberg
in memory of Abraham Benjamin by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
by Dan & Darla Pliskow
in memory of Abraham Robinson by Leslie & Nurit Kochav
by Michael & Irina Sanatani
in memory of Joel Fried by Linda Fried
in memory of Lynda Usprich by Syd Usprich

FUND SOCIAL ACTION – FOOD BANK & SHARE THE WARMTH

by Roy Green & Sarah Morrison
in memory of Leora Swartzman's father, Monte by Jeremy
& Dinah Frank
in memory of Monte Swartzman by Barbara Lent
& Robert Solomon
by Milton & Susan Blake
in memory of Judah Reuben by Ruth and Gary Rohekar
by Rob MacDougall
by Simone Mendel
by Alisha, Nati, Noah and Sharon Marks
by Jeremy & Dinah Frank
in memory of Aaron & Fran Katzman and Muriel McMinn Dean
by John & Susan Dean
by Ari Porzecanski & Jennifer Ayers
by Marie-Pier Cantin
by Michael Shmukler & Linda Dutsch
in memory of Lisa Faden by Allan Shapiro & Leora Swartzman
in memory of Fay Rabinovitch and Eva Yashinsky by
Al & Louise Levy
in memory of Louise Shanfeld by Anne Freeman
by Anargyros Skikos & Lisa Manax
in memory of Manfred Kapp by Debra & Neil Kapp
by Linda Fried

Donations Cont'd.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

by Randy Kissack (three donations)
in memory of Monte Swartzman by Stephen State
in memory of Monte Swartzman by Walter & Linda Zimmerman

FUND - RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE

in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Sharon Marks
in memory of Rabbi Joel by John & Susan Dean
in memory of Rabbi Wittstein by Sid & Vena Presner
in memory of Monte Swartzman by Michael Shmukler
& Linda Dutsch
in memory of Chaim Shmukler by Michael Shmukler
& Linda Dutsch

Note: Donations included to February 12, 2021. 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.

FUND - RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE CONT'D

in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Desi
& Kandice Brownstone
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Richard & Jan Lubell
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein by Judith Wiley
in memory of Rabbi Joel Wittstein's yahrzeit by Jason
Mandlowitz & Daryl Fridenberg
in memory of Jan Lubell's sister, Linda Zemel, by Arthur
& Sandra Benjamin

ARZA 2020-2021

by Shmuel Farhi & Cammileah Beth

The Temple office may be closed, 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@templeisrael.ca.

SHARE THE WARMTH

Yasher Koach to the entire Temple congregation who responded to the Social Action Committee's call for donations to 5 important local charitable organizations during Share the Warmth campaign. The Temple Board decided to augment the amount to each organization by \$750, bringing final totals to:

YOU - Youth Opportunities Unlimited
\$288.50 + 750 = 1038.50

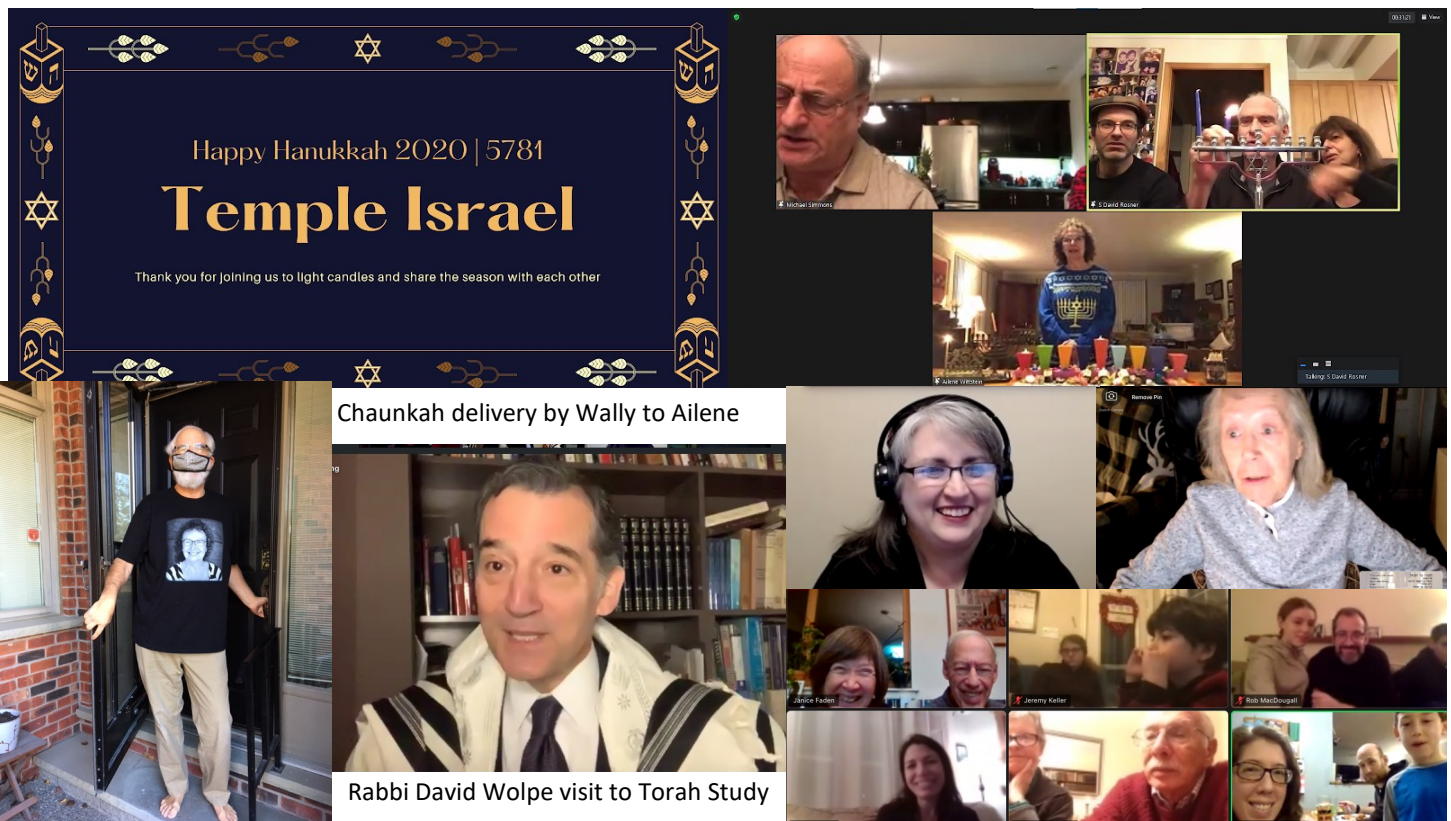
My Sister's Place
\$338.50 + 750 = 1088.50

London Food Bank
\$602.50 + 750 = 1352.50

Unity Project
\$324.50 + 750 = 1074.50

Life Spin
\$588.50 + 750 = 1338.50

Chanukah at home



ARZA CANADA: THE ZIONIST VOICE OF THE CANADIAN REFORM MOVEMENT— an update by TI ARZA rep, Judith Wiley

Because of your interest, concern and support through membership, ARZA Canada has been able to contribute to the growth of Reform Judaism in Israel. We now have more than 50 congregations across the country, and growing awareness of an alternative to the Orthodox establishment. ARZA Canada is a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the international network of the Reform, Liberal, Progressive and Reconstructionist movements, serving 1,200 congregations with 1.8 million members in more than 50 countries. We also support the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) in their efforts to promote social justice, equality, religious pluralism and the values that are important to Reform Jews, and we have representation at the parliament of the Jewish People, World Zionist Organization (WZO).

Since last fall, ARZA Canada board members have been involved in no end of exciting initiatives to support Reform Judaism in Canada as well as in Israel, beginning with the World Zionist Congress (WZC) in October. For the first time, obviously, the Congress was held virtually with hundreds of delegates from all over the world linking up for plenary sessions, “small group work” with 100 + participants, debates, presentations, consultations and lobbying. In the end, ARZA Canada had the largest number of mandates (i.e. votes) of any delegation in Canada because of our work to promote membership. You will recall that membership became automatic, unless you opted out, when you renewed or initiated your membership with Temple Israel London. The end result of days and nights of hard work at Congress was that we reached a compromise agreement that prevented the marginalization of progressive voices at the WZC. We achieved leadership of the World Zionist Organization and the Israeli National Institutions (WZO, KKL, JAFI, Keren HaYesod) will be more inclusive, and enabled important checks and balances to the right-wing parties.

The second part of Congress is to be held sometime in the early part of this year, hopefully also virtually, but we’ve had no word as yet. If you would like to know about the Israeli National Institutions, follow this link: <https://youtu.be/U3suABN76eg> - "Insight Israel 2020: The Structure of the National Institutions" on YouTube. For more information on the importance of our voice in Israel and on Israel - Does Our Voice Matter? The Role of Diaspora Zionists in Contemporary Discourse - <https://youtu.be/kaEGtUnLb0g>

In November, Lee Weisser of Temple Emanu-El in Toronto was confirmed as the new president and yours truly as Secretary. In preparation for Congress, we prepared a new video about ARZA Canada: <https://youtu.be/B7voFQUsmFg>

Recently, Lee has given leadership to two important advocacy issues:

The first is the adoption of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of antisemitism which was accepted by the Governments of Canada and Ontario, and is meant to be a guideline in identifying and combatting antisemitism in all its forms. On the ARZA Canada website, there is an informative discussion about the definition with the Honourable Irwin Cotler, Canada’s first Envoy for Promoting Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. (arzacanada.org)

The second was a joint statement with the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and the Reform Rabbis of Canada, opposing the proposal of Keren Kayemet L’Israel/Jewish National Fund in Israel (KKL-JNF) to officially purchase land for Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which would seriously undermine any efforts to negotiate a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians. Lee is very thoughtful and thorough when leading this advocacy work: she engages all board members and ensures input from across the country, making ARZA Canada a truly national organization.

Most recently, we are heartened to learn of the Israeli Supreme Court decision to recognize Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel on the basis of the Law of Return, meaning Oleh (immigrant). Those who convert in Israel can be granted citizenship without interference from the Orthodox establishment. This is a major victory for the Israel Reform and Progressive Movement after a 15-year battle and 10 petitions, and cause for hope of a more egalitarian, inclusive society in the making. That being said, there are likely to be challenges in the Knesset, especially if Bibi Netanyahu again becomes Prime Minister as a result of a coalition government with Haredi parties. Monday’s ruling only applies to conversions in Israel. A previous court decision forced the state to recognize non-Orthodox conversions abroad for purposes of immigration, but not those performed in the country.

Speaking of elections, there is a chance we will have a Reform Rabbi as a Member of the Knesset for the first time. Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Executive Director of Israel's Reform movement (IMPJ), is in the fourth position on the Labor party's list. Fingers crossed! These elections will be the fourth in two years, with every possibility of a fifth I am told. Polls say Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud party will win the most seats, but key questions include whether "Bibi" -- on trial for corruption but still highly popular -- will form a coalition and remain Prime Minister, and whether the ultra-Orthodox will retain a position of power. Stay tuned: the election will be held on March 23rd.

Israeli Programming in Canada: ARZA Canada has set aside \$250 for each congregation in Canada to support Israeli programming. Some congregations are twinning with Israeli congregations (Cheryl Englander on the ARZA Canada board is available to assist with this); some are viewing short Israeli-made films simultaneously with an Israeli audience and then following, having ZOOM assisted conversations; Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto has held two virtual tours of Israel with an Israeli tour guide, including a gift basket of made-in Israel products. The ideas are many. Wally Zimmerman, Shaul Shecter and I met recently to explore an Israeli speaker series. We are researching some possibilities, and will share information shortly. If you have ideas, or would like more information on ARZA Canada, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Upcoming Events

TI Book Club

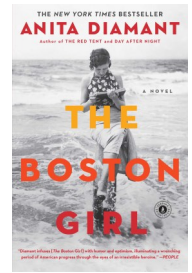
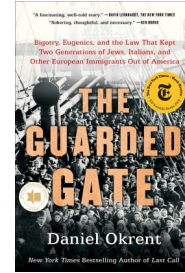
The Temple Israel Book Club meets at 2:00 pm on Saturdays

Upcoming Meetings:

bitly.com/tibookclub

March 6, 2021 - Hunting the Truth-Memoirs of Beate and Serge Klarsfeld

April 10, 2021 - The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant



The Gender Lady

"The Gender Lady: The Fabulous Dr. May Cohen", a documentary co-produced by Temple Israel member, Barbara Lent. Showing via Zoom on Sunday, March 21 at 7:00 pm. See our weekly email to register.



Passover

See the insert in your bulletin for upcoming Passover events.

News

Kol Hakavod to:

Jacob Megdell whose daughter, Anna's story was accepted by NPR and was read as part of their Hanukkah Lights 2020 series

Judith Wiley, whose name was put forward by ARZA Canada to join the Israel Leadership Network (ILN) - a network of leaders within the URJ who will work together to grow support and connection to Israel, the Israeli Reform Movement (IMPJ), and Zionism at large

Dana Phillips who defended her dissertation

Michael & Sandra Fisman, whose son David was featured in the January 18, 2021 Macleans magazine as one of 50 Canadians who are breaking ground, leading the debate and shaping how we think and live

Rabbi Debra Dressler on the engagement of her daughter, Casey Wright

Shaul Shecter for arranging the participation of our special guest, David Wolpe at the Feb. 20 Torah Study

Jim Stevens & Josh Dubitsky for their D'verei Torah in February

Correction: Shmuel Farhi & Cammileah Beth on the birth of their new son, Ocean Gal Fahri on September 28

Special Thanks to:

Barb Lent, Judith Wiley and Vivian Macdonald for joining the Religious School classes (Jan 31) to be interviewed about their experiences with Jewish Communities - "Kehillah"

Hamenstaschen bakers: Daryl Fridenberg, Shmukler Family and Tudor/Keller Family; Judges: Frank Family, Block/Lebo Family and Davis/Macpherson Family; Masked Singers: Pam Block, Dinah Frank, Susan Dean and Liam Derbyshire and especially to Linda Dutsch for delivering hamentaschen to the judges

Condolences to:

David Sobel on the loss of his brother, Michael Woolf

Leora Swartzman on the loss of her father, Monte Swartzman

Welcome to New Members:

Shaul Shecter & Judith Levine

Are you observing shloshim or a recent yahrzeit? Please feel free to share a photo of your loved one which we can include during our services.

Education

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

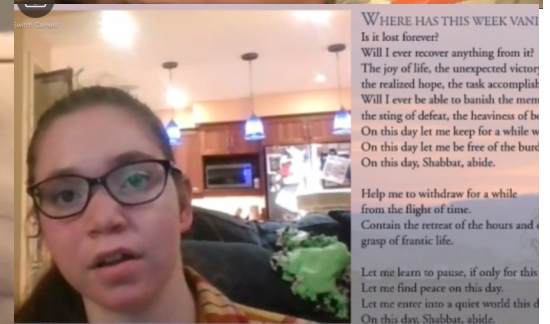
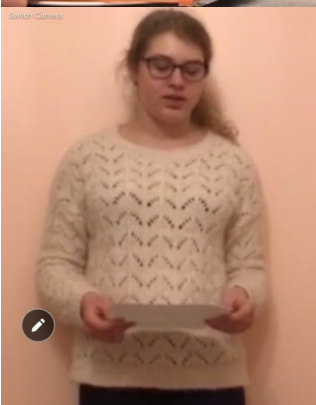
As of this writing, our students and teens are all looking forward to Purim, our Hamantaschen Bake Off and our Masked Singer Shushan Shpiel.

Since Chanukah, students have completed a unit on k'hillah and are just beginning a new unit on chesed. The Hebrew word (קהילה k'hillah) means community, a place where one often finds a strong support system. During this time of COVID isolation, focusing on k'hillah as a core Jewish value, that is, being part of groups whose members care for each other and who support each other in times of need, joy, and the days in between, is particularly strengthening.

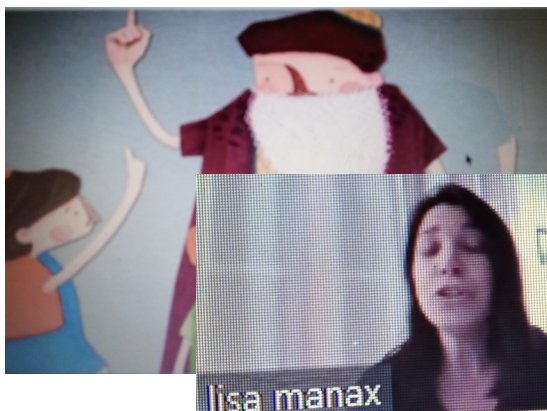
Speaking of k'hillah, our students Zoomed together with the congregation to participate in a service on Shabbat Shirah. Lisa Manax's wonderful telling of Hillel's "on one foot" story was enjoyed by all and attendees found the service particularly heartwarming.

Finally, we are very happy for Margie, but very sad for our school, to announce that she will be retiring at the end of this school year. Margie's contributions to our school community and our community at large are far too numerous to list here, but we plan to honour her properly in the near future. Keep your eyes open for a coming announcement and please share the news.

Family Shabbat Service with RS



ברוך אתה, יי, המברך את עמו ישראל בשלום.
Baruch atah, Adonai, ham'vareich et amo Yisrael bashalom.



PURIM HAMENTASCHEN BAKE OFF - CHEFS, JUDGES & MORE

