Temple Israel of London

Winter 2022

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What’s been happening at Temple - Winter

Online Chanukah Candle Lighting - December 2021

Tot & Family Shabbat Service with Musical Accompaniment by Paul Tumarkin, Dec 3, 2021

Minecraft “Golem’s Latkes” Created by Eli & Darwin Dec 5, 2021

getting home wasn’t easy latkes blocked most of the streets
From our President

Jason Mandlowitz

Sincerest thanks to our Rabbi, Board, Choir, and staff who keep Temple Israel a vibrant, inclusive, and engaged community as the pandemic persists. Services, Torah study, education programs, and holiday celebrations have continued virtually and in-person stressing compliance with public health direction. We are taking measures to make the return to our building safe and while we will remain closed for now, I want to encourage all of you to consider returning to Temple as soon as we are able. You are missed.

We had a wonderful Chanukah celebration which included daily family candle lighting. Our December 3 family service was well attended. Our hybrid services on December 4 reached over 30 congregants. Share the Warmth resulted in many donations (gift cards) and congregants picked up Chanukah gift bags. Starting in the New Year, our Membership Committee will begin to meet to set a strategic direction for 2022 under the leadership of Ailene Wittstein.

Our next major Temple calendar event is the January 23, 2022, Annual Meeting which will be conducted virtually.

Looking at the broader London Jewish community, the annual UJA campaign has just concluded. A Jewish London Leaders Meeting was held on December 6. You will soon be receiving more information about a number of community-based initiatives from Jewish London which focus on community engagement. A Newcomer Program involving the Federations of London, Hamilton and Windsor has been started to promote our communities as places to live, work and worship. The Life and Legacy Program (Harold Grinspoon Foundation) application from London and Windsor has been completed and submitted.

We must not lose sight, however, of the challenges we face. Reports coming from a variety of organizations across Canada continue to point to high levels of hatred and racism; Islamophobia and Anti-semitism which have especially escalated online. A recent study by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (reported in The Globe and Mail, December 11/21) found 58% of Canadians believe that racist online content is a major problem in Canada. About 80% of those surveyed support legislation to combat harmful online content. Interestingly, 56% are worried about the impact of hate speech and racism compared to 21% who are concerned about limiting the right to free expression and protecting the privacy of online users. Research supports that Canadians also want concrete action for offline content, as well, with 72% advocating for hate crime units within local police forces. The alternative, doing nothing, is not an option. The article concludes: “We can, however, think about the country and the society we want to be and start that journey.” May it be so!

Best wishes for a peaceful, safe and healthy 2022. Hope to see you soon at Temple Israel events.
From our Rabbi

Rabbi Debra Stahlberg Dressler

As I write this, Winter Break is a few short days away. This much-needed respite for Canadians of all ages has quickly become overshadowed by Omicron - a Covid variant 15 letters into the Greek alphabet. Much like the years when named hurricanes exceed the alphabet A-Z, these continuing disasters easily make us feel like our world is spinning out of control.

But there has been much to celebrate in recent months, and it is easy for this Covid downturn to obscure our joys and successes. At Temple, chief among these has been our successful re-launch of in-person Religious School classes. We have learned on our feet how to make this much-awaited “pivot” back to a small amount of normalcy - masking, Covid screening, HEPA filtration, ventilation management - all while our favourite activities like singing, cooking, and eating have necessarily been eliminated. We have swapped in Minecraft, Lego, Kinetic Sand, and other craft materials to reinforce our lessons - from learning the Hebrew alphabet to exploring the stories of our Torah. We just can’t eat our results!

We have also set up the technology and training to experiment with some limited in-person worship. Although the future of this type of gathering is less certain due to additional ventilation issues, we are now far down the learning curve on holding these “hybrid” services. Consequently, we can easily add dates as desired in the new year. And on Zoom, another great cohort of JIC students and an interfaith book study have been quite wonderful.

So my wish for all of us is that the headlines don’t overwhelm us, the break refreshes us, and safely executed time with family and friends nourishes us. Although I am saddened by the sudden constraints we face, I guess I will try to appreciate what I gain. Not only will it be easier to avoid a season full of diet-busting food and drink (hah!), I will never regret another Covid-induced “quiet time.” When the world slows down to ride out another pandemic wave, it can be an opportunity to focus on the people and pursuits most precious to us.

Congratulations Graduate!

A hearty congratulations and mazel tov to Jane Jacob, our Temple staff member! Jane recently received her Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (affiliated with Brock University). Her studies all being online were a first for the seminary. Pictured are Jane, her family, Dr. Winger and Pastor Manna.
DONATIONS GENERAL
from Randy Kissack
from Linda Freedman
in memory of Ezekiel Reuben from Ruth & Gary Rohekar
in memory of Judah Reuben from Ruth & Gary Rohekar
from Michael & Irina Sanatani
in honour of Richard Lubell's special birthday from Ronald & Denise Wexler
in memory of Art Ender from Desi & Kandice Brownstone
in memory of Minnie Malkis from Marvin & Phyllis Simner
in memory of Ursula Miller from James & Daphne Stevens from Paul Fink

IN KIND - BUILDING
from Jeff & Cindy Monger

IN KIND - PROGRAMMING - CHANUKAH
from Rabbi Debra Dressler

SPONSORSHIPS - WEB & TECHNOLOGY
from Linda Freedman
in honour of Denise and Ron Wexler from Barbara Lent & Robert Solomon
with appreciation for the Torah study from Stuart Selby

SPONSORSHIPS - BUILDING
from Linda Freedman

SPONSORSHIPS - HHD
from Linda Freedman

SPONSORSHIPS - EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
in memory of Ursula Miller from Jason Mandlowitz & Daryl Fridenberg

GAYLE A. HOOVER MEMORIAL FUND
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Chris Kronick
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Desi & Kandice Brownstone
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Doug Mishkin & Wendy Jennis
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Walter & Linda Zimmerman
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Shoshanah Conover & Rena Singer
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Elizabeth Teevan
in memory of Gayle Hoover from Peter & Kerry Rubinstein

EDUCATION FUND
in memory of Moya Kennedy from Jason Mandlowitz & Daryl Fridenberg

RON MARKS FUND
in memory of Ron Marks from Desi & Kandice Brownstone

LIBRARY FUND
in memory of Pepa Livingstone from Melody Enzel & Brian Kurtzman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (RDF)
in honour of Rabbi Dressler from Congregation Beth El Windsor
in memory of Fay Tomaszewski from Syd Usprich
in memory of Abraham Robinson from Leslie & Nurit Kochav
from Michael & Irina Sanatani
in memory of Moya Kennedy from Elizabeth Teevan & Bonnie Teevan
in appreciation of Rabbi Dressler on the occasion of the B'Not Mitzvah of Ainsley & Quinn Shanfield from Simon Shanfield
in memory of Ursula Miller from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin
in memory of Rita Robinson from Leslie & Nurit Kochav
in memory of Ursula Miller from John & Susan Dean
in memory of Ursula Miller from Josh & Kay Dubitsky
in honour of Rabbi Dressler from Nancy Wright

RITUAL - ZIMMERMAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY
from Walter & Linda Zimmerman

FUND - SOCIAL ACTION
from Randy Kissack

FUND - RABBI WITTSTEIN CAMP GEORGE
from Linda Freedman
in memory of Bob Cherniak from Arthur & Sandra Benjamin

Note: Donations included to December 15, 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.

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@templeisraelondon.ca.
Lunch and Learn
Returns weekly on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 1:00 pm

TI Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Jewish Information Class
Series 2 - Sunday, January 30, Feb, 6, 13 & 27, 2022 at 1:30 pm
Registration required

Food Bank Sort
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Volunteers needed - contact the office

Upcoming JEM Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Speaking the Same Language? Addressing the Relevance of Holocaust-Survivor Scholarship in Contemporary Social Movements Speaker: Darren Marks
Watch weekly emails for more information

A Blast From the Past
The December 2021 issue of The Jewish Standard Magazine included this article, taken from their 1930 edition. Do any of you London-born folks recognize the names listed?

(Editor’s Note - Susan Dean): My mother’s name appears in the April 25, 1930 article - Fanny Packer!
News

Kol Hakavod to:
Jeff & Joyce Phillips on the birth of their new grandson, Zak
Janet Merrill & Alvin Segal on the birth of their new grandson, Harrison
Mike & Penny Lander on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Gabi
Janie Rother on her retirement from the London Chamber of Commerce
Wally & Linda Zimmerman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Henry

Special Thanks to:
The members of the choir who lit Chanukah candles in their homes for our online service
Stephen State and Josh Dubitsky for providing D’var Torah in December
Stephen State and Elizabeth Teevan for leading/hosting the December 24 online Shabbat service

Condolences to:
Vivian Macdonald on the loss of her partner Moya Kennedy
Randy Kissack on the loss of his cousin Thomas Kissack

Welcome to New/Returning Members:
Francee Ender
Tetchya Loewen
Ryan Goldenberg, Rachel Goldenberg, Miles & Julian
Rob & Samara Angus, Logan & Alex

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.

Social Action Committee

This year the Social Action Committee was unable to meet in person, and we felt the loss of that community-building that we so value. I hope that in 2022 we are able to meet again with refreshed spirits and bodies to work together.

We are pleased however, that even with reduced activity, we were able to support the London Food Bank during our High Holidays Food Drive. Some of us were also able to support the Food Bank by helping to tend and harvest fresh produce in three greenhouses located at St. Aidan's Church, and some of us have returned to help sort food in person at the Food Bank. We're so proud to be associated with this organization.

We were also able to once again plant trees with the London interfaith community and ReForest London. We were particularly grateful to be able to strengthen our relationships with our Muslim neighbours after a year marked by violence and pain.

Recently, our community came together to provide gift cards to the families supported by LifeSpin, with a total of $2,000 raised after funds were matched by Temple! We can hope that this provides some comfort during a difficult year.

I hope that the year ahead is an easier and brighter one for all of us, and I look forward to being together again.

Nancy Davis