



# Temple Israel of London

605 Windermere Road, London, Ontario N5X 2P1

Phone: 519-858-4400 E-mail: Office@TempleIsraelLondon.ca

Fax: 519-858-2070 Website: <http://www.TempleIsraelLondon.ca>

June, 2020

Dear friends -

Heraclitus of Ephesus (6th century BCE) is famously paraphrased as stating that change is the only constant in life. The statement is ascribed to him, *"Cold things grow hot, the hot cools, the wet dries, [and] the parched moistens."* Never has daily life been the archetype of his doctrine of "flux" like it has been in 2020.

Heraclitus' change constant is predicated on his belief that humanity's task was one of "becoming" - perpetual flux may be inevitable, but it is also the means by which we improve. We are never at a point of exhausting possibility. He is further paraphrased, *"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river, and he is not the same man."* **We can change, the world will always change, and it follows that we serve our human potential when we harness that change for good.**

In a post-pandemic world, we are eager for change, so that we may return to the comfort and security of the lives we used to live. Yet, the world will be forever changed by what we have experienced. It is incumbent upon us to re-establish community and connection by whatever means become available. It is also our duty to ensure that the vulnerable among us, especially the elderly and at-risk, are protected so that our freedom never comes at the expense of their safety.

In a world painfully mired in the pernicious crisis of racism, the last thing we should seek to do is return to a status quo that was inequitable to the point of being lethal. We must recognize that our world is still very much in need of "becoming" - harnessing what is possible to do what is urgently necessary. *"Justice, justice shall you pursue,"* our Torah instructs us in the form of a twice-stated command. To fulfill the sacred duty of ensuring justice for all of humanity, we must take positive action to change persistent and systemic racial bias. And then we must do it again, until the work is complete.

Heraclitus also wrote, "Panta rhei," or "everything flows." **The current of change surrounds us.** Let us direct that current to serve the inherent rights of all of God's creatures, both in crisis and in equilibrium.

(over)

**Rabbi**  
Debra Stahlberg Dressler

**President**  
Jason Mandlowitz

**Past President**  
Bonnie Teevan

**VP Finance  
Treasurer**  
Vacant

**VP Communications  
Secretary**  
Nicole Laidler

**VP Operations**  
Jim Stevens

**VP Programming**  
Vacant

**VP Education**  
Elizabeth Teevan

**Directors**  
Barbara Lent  
Vivian Macdonald  
Sharon Marks  
Jeff Phillips  
Terry Sicular  
Aileen Wittstein  
Judith Wiley  
(ARZA Canada Liaison)  
Ana Porzecanski  
(Member-at-Large)

**Honourary Life Member  
and URJ Liaison**  
Ailene Wittstein

**Honourary Lifetime  
Board Member**  
Karen Ross



In the months ahead, you will learn about the ways Temple Israel will enhance our on-line programme offerings, with an eye to the High Holy Days in the fall. You will also hear about our efforts to evaluate any future reopening plan. As always, your feedback is encouraged, either through me or through the board. Additionally, if you have time available, volunteers continue to be needed to help us make phone calls to stay connected with all of our members. This personal connection is more important than ever.

Warmly,



Rabbi Debra Dressler

---

A VIRTUAL TAKE ON OUR

# SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ

Feast at home with a Challah for your family from Rabbi Dressler and butter tarts from the Marks family in Ron's memory

Friday, June 19, 2020:

3pm to 6pm - "Socially distant" drive-thru pickup\* in the Temple parking lot

6:30pm - Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY JUNE 17TH  
[OFFICE@TEMPLEISRAELLONDON.CA](mailto:OFFICE@TEMPLEISRAELLONDON.CA)

\*DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME IS AVAILABLE

