



Kol Tikvah

Har Tikvah Congregation of Brampton

www.hartikvah.org

Spring
2017



Rabbi's Message

We are at the point in the Jewish year when much of our focus is on Israel. This begins in late winter with Tu B'Shvat celebrating the new year of trees when it has become traditional to plant trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund. Both Pesach and Shavuot are tied in to the agricultural calendar of ancient Israel: Pesach is at the time of the early Spring barely harvest, while Shavuot occurs at the time of the late Spring wheat harvest. Between these two biblical festivals we observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day and rejoice in Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day. This is followed by Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day. This year will mark fifty years of the reunification of this holy city. Lastly, during the summer we observe a period of mourning recalling the siege of ancient Jerusalem culminating three weeks later with Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the month of Av, commemorating the destruction of the Temple.

Nor do we neglect Israel the rest of year: Our siddurim contain prayers for peace for Israel and all her inhabitants.

Jewish ties to Israel are unshakably strong. This is something we need to be vocal about in the face of recent United Nations attempts to erase Jewish connections to Israel and Jerusalem.

A greater internal challenge for us is the ties between Israel and Reform Judaism. A [recent poll](#) exploring Israeli pluralism gave Israelis nine choices for self-identification as part of secular and religious streams. Tellingly, this poll omitted either Reform or Conservative Judaism as possibilities. One could argue that this is because liberal Judaism is such a small minority in the country, making up just 5-8% of the population. Yet the poll included the possibility of identifying oneself as a member of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish stream that is less than 1% of the Israeli population.

This oversight points to an ongoing problem: The Israel we love and support continually ignores us. It also sets obstacles to practicing as a Reform Jew.

Despite this challenge we remain strong supporters of Israel. Local studies show that in the GTA the biggest supports of Israel are the Orthodox and the Reform communities.

How can we show our love for Israel as Reform Jews while helping Israelis who want to live as Progressive and Reform Jews? The simplest way is by supporting [ARZA-Canada](#), the Reform Zionist organization. All it takes is a donation of \$36 to send a strong message and to help facilitate the growth of

Reform in our beloved Israel.

My colleague Benjie Gruber, an Israeli rabbi currently in Toronto has explained it in this way: As Jews who love Israel we have supported the establishment and miraculous growth of the State of Israel. Now, as Reform Jews we can help shape the character of the state. In this spirit, I urge all of you to make that double-chai (\$36) family membership donation, or chai (\$18) single membership donation to ARZA-Canada and strengthen religious pluralism in Israel. You may do so at [here](#).

Rabbi Michal Shekel



President's Message

Hello to all. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful Spring weather.

So much has happened since the last newsletter that I am unsure where to begin, so I will start with our present status.

This past Sunday the new Board was voted in. Thanks to all of the new Board for volunteering to sit on the Board. I look forward to working with all of you over the remainder of the term.

Our property was listed on the open market as directed at the April 9th meeting. Prior to the presentation of the offers, a "straw vote" was taken to see how many people would support staying at our present site. Only 3 out of 42 votes were in favour of staying. Of the 3 offers to purchase, the direction from the congregation was to re-

ject the 2 lowest offers and to work with the highest offer of \$2.1 million. Four (4) conditions were attached which included a building inspection, financing, due diligence and no Fire Inspection issues. Our agent will be working with the highest bidder to meet all of the conditions. At our June 11th meeting, the congregation will be asked to vote on the sale of our property.

As well, at the Sunday meeting, we received an update on the status of the retrofits to meet the Fire Inspection. Three major items remain: Installation of Fire rated doors, meeting the Fire Code for the Furnace room and enclosing the entrance to the balcony. Barak Marcos has been working diligently on meeting these conditions. A Consultant will be hired to present options to the Fire Dept. to meet the conditions

at the most economical cost to Har Tikvah. As well, the consultant will be updating the Fire Safety Plan, a requirement of the Fire Code.

At the April 9th meeting, direction was given to find a new home for Har Tikvah. After an exhaustive search of potential properties in Brampton, our agent has provided us with a viable option at 456 Vodden Street (Lakeridge Mall). The unit is a rental at the east end of the mall. It is 2,000 square feet and will provide space for a sanctuary and school. A number of people in the congregation who have seen the unit feel that it will meet our needs. A Draft rental agreement has been prepared and our agent is in discussion with the Landlord and the Board. Rent is approximately \$60,000 per year.

It is my hope that at the

June 11th meeting, our congregation will vote to support the sale of our property as well as the rental of the unit at 456 Vodden Street.

Please do your best to attend the June 11th meeting at 10:00am. Of course, bagels and refreshments will be served. Please remember to send in your Proxy if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Thanks to Kris Brannan and Brian Batchelar, our Real Estate agents for all of their work on our behalf.

*Lawrie Bloom
President*



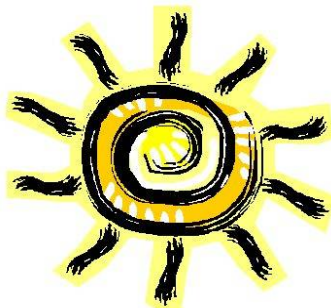
Sunshine News & Special Announcements

Some great news. Henry Montgomery Bart, came into this world. A first son for Anna Lee and David Bart. Zaddie Michael and Bubbie Wilma Silbermann wish to make a donation of fruit trees to Israel on this wonderful occasion.

Mazel Tov to Jillian and Cory Penney on the birth of their baby girl Jayden Anne, who was born on June 1, 2017. Proud Buby and Zaidy Farber are over the moon!

Judy Liss celebrated her 75th birthday on May 8.

Best wishes and speedy recovery to Colin Rich and Mike Klopot from their back surgery



Editor's Desk



The Spring newsletter usually is sent out by mid-May. We decided to postpone it until after The Congregational Meeting that was held on May 28th.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. A reminder that this is the last issue of the newsletter for the 2016/2017 season. The next newsletter will be the Fall issue. Have a great summer everyone!

*Ron Brejak
Editor*

Editor's Desk



We need more people to volunteer to work bingos.

Even working a bingo or two monthly will help us out a lot

Please help us out.

We need Bingo, and Bingo needs YOU

Mike Klopot

Calendar

**Sunday June 11
10:00 am**

Congregational Meeting

Board Members

Executive

President Lawrie Bloom
 Past President Mike Silbermann
 Vice President Randy Kerman
 Treasurer Shelly Jourard
 Secretary Esther Zimmerman

Directors

Jennifer Marcos
 Ziva Marcos
 Jeannie Brejak
 Louis Eichler



Committee Chairs and Board Liaisons

The following are our committee chairs and their corresponding board liaison member. If you are not already involved, please strongly consider contributing to Har Tikvah in one of the open positions.

Education

Susan Eichler, Chair
 Maureen Rich, Liaison

Bingo

Mike Klopot, Chair
 Ziva Marcos, Liaison

Youth Group

Jeannie Brejak, Chair
 Kathryn Tobe, Liaison

Building

Mike Silbermann, Chair
 Paul Brannan, Liaison

Social

Ellen Farber, Chair
 Maureen Rich, Liaison

Welcoming Committee

Maureen Rich, Chair

B'Nai Mitzvah

Esther Zimmerman, Chair
 Susan Eichler, Liaison

Website

Gary Sternklar, Chair
 Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Phone Committee

Kathryn Tobe, Chair
 Danny Gordon, Liaison

Newsletter

Ron Brejak, Chair
 Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Membership

Louis Eichler, Chair
 Jerry Fink, Liaison

Social Action

Bette-Ann Goldstein, Chair
 Maureen Rich, Liaison

Service Kiddush

Maureen Rich, Chair
 Ziva Marcos Liaison

Cemetery

Bette-Ann Goldstein, Co-Chair
 Sally Ann Kerman, Co-Chair
 Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Shiva

Mike Silbermann, Chair
 Lawrie Bloom, Liaison

Cantorial Soloists

Lawrie Bloom, Chair
 Susan Eichler, Liaison

Jewish Observance

Bette-Ann Goldstein, Chair
 Maureen Rich, Liaison