



Rabbi's Message

-Rabbi Michal Shekel

The end of 2018 -and the beginning of the Jewish year 5779 – was quite an eventful time for our small community. In August we marched the Torah scrolls to our new facility and dedicated our new sanctuary and ark. In September we celebrated our new home by affixing the mezuzah and with a ribbon-cutting ceremony officiated by the mayor. In October we were dazzled by the creativity of the participants at our intergenerational challah bake. In December, we brightened the dark winter with our communal Hanukkah candle lighting and dinner.

November was different. This was our first service after the massacre at the Pittsburgh synagogue. We got together on a cold Shabbat morning to remember, to mourn and to show that, no matter what, the Jewish community perseveres. What made this service different was the support we received from other faith groups in our community. The Interfaith Council of Peel organized a “Ring of Peace” outside our new home, as a symbol of support and security. Members of various faith groups, Muslim and Christian, then joined us at our service as did our local MP. Beforehand, we had received emails and phone calls from different government officials, candidates, and the police, all offering condolences and support.

While representatives of the groups who provided the “Ring of Peace” spoke at our service, it was the comments at the kiddush that were the most revealing. Some of the Muslim participants noted how very similar the themes of our prayers were to the thoughts expressed in their worship; the only difference being the language. A Christian participant told me that he was taking a group to Israel and how he would like to learn Hebrew. Many of us got to know our neighbors for who they are, people who share our fears and our fervent desires for our family, community and the world. It is my hope that we continue to develop these ties, getting to know our partners in faith better, without waiting for a tragedy to bring us together again.

What does the rest of 5779 – the new secular year 2019 – hold for us? We have many events to look forward to. On February 23 we will be installing our new board as part of our Shabbat morning celebration. We have Shabbat and holiday services, kiddush luncheons and a Shabbat dinner, Tikvah tots, Tu BiShvat and a Pesach model seder in the school, an “Ask the Rabbi” session for adults in the spring, as well as a movie night.



The sentiments we express when we complete a book of the Torah and look forward to the next book apply to our entire congregation: Hazak hazak ve-nithazek, may we go from strength to strength.

President's Message

-Randy Kerman, President

Hello Har Tikvah.

The year is flying along, the good part of that is winter is too, hopefully!

It has been quite the challenge trying to get the final work done at our new home. We are now at the final stages even though we have been able to make use of the location. The final partition wall is now being manufactured and should be installed within a few weeks once completed.

Many of you attended our short efficient Annual General meeting in which our new (same people) were elected for new terms. As promised as soon as the construction is complete an accounting of the renovations will be provided to the whole membership. The financials on the Sale and short-term mortgage that was provided to the purchasers of the Torbram location will also be sent at the same time.

One of the questions that came up at the meeting was if we have the monies from the sale, why do we need to continue to do bingos. If we stopped doing the bingos, we would run out of funds rather quickly as the rent for our new location is a fair amount. We will be discussing with the city of moving our bingos to the other hall in town as it is easier to run (no selling and only two people needed for 2 1/2 hours) and the proceeds of the pooled monies is significantly larger than our current location. This will make it easier for all members to volunteer and reduce the number of bingos to be done.

So, in the mean time, please sign up for bingos and if you are at all interested in the leader position, which doesn't require much more work, please let us know as the few that are doing that are running out of steam (and short handed as I recover from my surgery).

Lastly, thank you to all those who continue to volunteer for the various activities in and around Har Tikvah. For without you, things would not be done and missed.

Shalom



Upcoming Events



Saturday Feb 23

Shabbat service

Saturday Mar 23

Shabbat service

Saturday Apr 27

Shabbat service

Friday May 10

Family Yom Haatzmaut

Sunday Jun 9

Shavuot & Yizkor

Congregant News !



- From **Nancy Kastner**
(nkastner81@hotmail.com)

I'm fundraising for Canadians affected by MS and I'll be walking at MS Walk. It's my way of doing something about Canada's disease.

Canada has the highest rate of MS in the world. Every day three more Canadians are diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable illness that affects vision, balance, memory and mobility. We don't know what causes MS and there is no cure, but with your help we can change this.

Your donation to my fundraising efforts for MS Walk will go to research to find the cause, better treatments, and ultimately a cure for MS.

Thank you in advance for joining the fight to end MS. Your donation could end Canada's disease.

Click here to visit my personal page.

If the text above does not appear as a clickable link, you can visit the web address: <https://bit.ly/2CviVMp>

- Mazel Tov to **Sidney Brejak** for getting a very good mark on his LSAT exam.
- Stan Shabason** used to be a member of Har Tikvah. On January 4th there was an article in the Toronto Star about his son entitled: "Toronto musician turns his mother's reflection on her Parkinson's disease into new album". Here's a link to the article if you are interested.
<https://bit.ly/2U4aFKt>

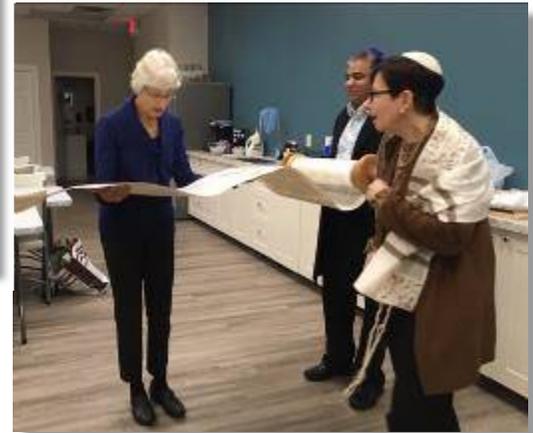
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Past President	Lawrie Bloom
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Director	Jeannie Brejak
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Phone Committee	Esther Zimmerman, Chair Esther Zimmerman, Liaison
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Shiva	Mike Silbermann, Chair Lawrie Bloom, Liaison
Cantorial Soloists	Lawrie Bloom, Chair Susan Eichler, Liaison
Jewish Observance	Maureen Rich, Chair Jen Marcos, Liaison

Har Tikvah in Pictures



Har Tikvah in Pictures



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