SHIR TIKVAH

Av-Elul 5780 August 2020

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Rabbi's Message

This summer, the Shir Tikvah community lost a giant. Rabbi Leo Wolkow, *z*"l, served the B'nai Yehuda community, with distinction, for more than three decades. And for more than two decades following his retirement, we were privileged to have him remain among us. Rabbi Wolkow and Helen welcomed me warmly when I first arrived here in 2013, and even hosted me for one of Helen's famous Shabbat dinners. And Rabbi Wolkow called

me often, just to check in and see how things were going. He was incredibly generous, always offering to help whenever and wherever he could, and he did, indeed, participate in several programs and life-cycle events over the past decade. He taught his famous "Learn to Read Hebrew in Four Sessions" class shortly after my arrival in Homewood, and he shared some beautiful and poignant words, remembering his congregants and friends, at a number of funeral services. Rabbi Wolkow led Shabbat morning services for our Reform community as often as he could, and Helen and he even joined us for High Holiday services last year, a rare year when they weren't travelling. In his time in the south suburban community, Rabbi Leo Wolkow interacted with thousands of people, and influenced so many for the better. He sent hundreds of children to summer camp at Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc, WI, and he helped to instill a love of Torah and Israel in so many over the years. He was a warm, caring, fun-loving, and wonderful Rabbi and person, whose influence will long be felt in our community. It was my honor to call him my Rabbi Emeritus, and my pleasure to get to know him even better throughout the past seven years. As the summer (Continued on page 2)

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Our next publication will be issued in a few weeks and include schedules for High Holiday Services

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of 2020 draws to a close, we pause to remember Rabbi Wolkow, and all the goodness that he brought into our congregation and the world. May we, his students, carry on his legacy into the future. May we study Torah and Hebrew in his name and may Rabbi Wolkow always be remembered for a blessing.

תהא נשמתו צרורה בצרור החיים

May his soul be bound up in the bonds of eternal life.

May he rest in peace.

~Rabbi Carmit Harari



President's Message

Shir Tikvah is a combination of four prior congregations. Congregation Beth Sholom and Temple B'nai Yehuda (TBY) merging to form BYBS, now joined by Congregation Am Echad. Together we have many memories of rituals, events, and the many people we have met over the years. With the passing of Rabbi Leo Wolkow, we have lost an iconic figure who served our communities for years and will be missed by all. For me, he was my Rabbi for most of my life.

In 1964, Rabbi Wolkow came to Chicago from the Boston area, to interview with a small congregation on the south side. Originally, the Hyde Park Liberal Congregation was formed by German refugees who escaped Nazi Germany. The congregation kept many of their traditions practiced in Germany. As a young man, Rabbi Wolkow won over this very close-knit congregation. A relationship was formed that would continue for the next 37 years.

The congregation relocated to Homewood in 1971 and shortly thereafter built our current building on 183rd Street. My family moved to Homewood in 1970 when I was ten years old. We were looking for a congregation and TBY was building a new synagogue just a short walk from our house. Rabbi Wolkow had a personality larger than life and made us all feel welcome. We joined TBY and began my family's long association with the congregation.

My parents were both fond of Rabbi Wolkow and enjoyed talking with him. I was a little kid going to Sunday School, but I also got to know the Rabbi. Rabbi Wolkow made a point to spend time with the children of the congregation. This could be bouncing a basketball or tossing a football with us after class. Not to mention his love for telling stories. The Rabbi was fun to be around and his personality kept children involved.

The Rabbi's involvement with the youth culminated with his recruitment of children to spend the summer at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI). Rabbi Wolkow was a well-known member of the OSRUI faculty. At OSRUI, the children were immersed in a Jewish experience, while enjoying an outdoor adventure. This was especially true for children from the South Suburbs who did not have as many Jewish activities compared to the North side. This experience helped the kids build a solid Jewish identity. The Rabbi was immensely proud of the level of TBY participation at OSRUI. TBY had one of the largest contingents at the camp. Although the congregation was small (300-400 members!), due to the Rabbi's effort TBY brought as many children as much larger congregations. Thanks to Rabbi Wolkow's effort hundreds of children enjoyed the experience of OSRUI.

Everything, however, was not all fun and games with the Rabbi. The year before your Bar Mitzvah, you would begin Bar Mitzvah lessons with the Rabbi. It was quite intimidating as a young kid, to go into the Rabbi's office and sit in the chair facing his huge desk. The Rabbi with his long black beard and glasses, papers and magazines stacked everywhere, a cigar somewhere, would say "Let's see what you got kid"!

Although, I was a good student in school, this did not translate to the effort I put into my Hebrew lessons. This did not sit well with Rabbi Wolkow, who told my mother that Bar Mitzvah planning might be premature if I did not get my act together. This was the nudge I needed, although two weeks before my Bar Mitzvah his comment was "still needs work". Of course, once I was motivated by Rabbi Wolkow, I knew all my prayers and had a nice Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Wolkow always encouraged us to continue our Jewish education with Hebrew High School and confirmation. Even after we left for college, Rabbi Wolkow continued to stay in touch. While I was at NIU he sponsored a dinner at the Hillel house. Even a beer was allowed after dinner. The beer was good, but more important was the feeling of connection to my Jewish identity.

Several years later, I joined TBY as I was starting my own family. With both my brother and sister on the Board, it was not long before I was recruited

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for my first stretch as treasurer. Now I was working with Rabbi Wolkow and enjoyed getting to know him as an adult. Of course, on occasion, I would get a call to remind me it was a pay week with the added "and don't forget about Henry". He was, of course, referring to our operatic Cantor Henry Altman.

Sometimes you look back on an experience and realize how special it was. For those of us who experienced the years when Rabbi Wolkow and Cantor Altman were together, we knew we were experiencing something special. Our memories of both men are a blessing.

My condolences go out to Helen, his wife of 62 years and their children Lisa, Rachel, and Jason. I thank their family for sharing their husband and father with our families for so many years. Rabbi Wolkow was at so many of our family's life-cycle events he was like family.

Now, after fifty years of involvement with this congregation, I was installed as President. Rabbi Wolkow's influence keeps me involved in congregation life, volunteering and accepting this position. I am one of so many lives he touched. I do have one habit in common with Rabbi Wolkow. I do enjoy a good cigar. So, the next time I have a cigar, I will dedicate it to Rabbi Wolkow, for guiding so many of us to a lifetime of Jewish involvement.

Jerry Tenny, President



1973 Bar Mitzvah Kit

Union Prayer Book, Kiddush cup gift from TBY, Torah portion, Bar Mitzvah report card with Rabbi Wolkow's comments and signed by my mother.

Shared memories of Rabbi Wolkow Shared memories of Rabbi Wolkow

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this donation made in memory of our Rabbi, neighborhood leader and friend, Rabbi Leo Wolkow. He will remain in our hearts forever.

Karan & Norman Weinberg



Rabbi Leo with Doug, Rachel and Ben about 22 years ago.

Dear Rabbi, President, Board and Congregants of Shir Tikvah,

Rabbi Wolkow was very important to our family. His memory will always be a blessing to us. I had the honor to work with Rabbi many years ago when serving as president of B'nai Yehuda.

Both our children, Michelle and Julia, were fortunate to have had their Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation honors under the leadership of Rabbi Wolkow. Carl and I were even "remarried" for the fifth grade wedding event under his guidance. Any Jewish event with Rabbi Wolkow allowed so many people to learn and experience the joy of Judaism!

Thank you for helping us honor his memory.

Judy & Carl Levy

My late father, Erich Stern, was president of Temple B'nai Yehuda as well as Board President 1962-1966. He actually tendered the offer to Rabbi Wolkow to become our Rabbi.

Richard Stern

My dear friends,

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who have reached out to me during Leo's illness, his passing, and my own health challenges. Please know how very much your support, good wishes and love have meant to me and my children. Your thoughtful gestures and expressions of comfort are seeing us through this challenging time. I wish I could reach out to each and everyone of you but am not able to at this moment. Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your kindness.

With love, Helen Wolkow



The Women of Shir Tikvah had plans for the entire temple year but the corona virus did not allow us the opportunity to fulfill many of these plans. We shut down our activities when the building closed in March. The WoST has continued to meet virtually throughout the closure of the building.

Before that, we were able to accomplish some things. We supported the Shir Tikvah birthday celebration. We donated the profits from the Jewelry Sale to the temple. We also gave money from our theater events to Shir Tikvah. These monies totaled over \$3000 for the congregation.

We had a successful Challah sale. We are planning on doing it again this year with curbside pickup. We sponsored the Pizza in the Hut on Sukkot, Break-the-Fast, book reviews and Chair Yoga. We continue to sell Jewel cards.

We will continue many of these programs in the coming year. Due to the pandemic, we have decided that having a Break-the-Fast in our building will not be possible.

The Holiday Greetings, Sisterhood Membership, and Challah Sale forms are in your email box and we hope you will participate!

The Women of Shir Tikvah are an important part of our community. We support our members and the congregation through good times and bad. We look forward to planning events for the coming year either virtually or in person.

Stay safe,

Gayle Weil, Sisterhood President

ZOOM Invites go out for Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturday services via the MailChimp emails.

Download the Zoom App on your device so you can join in.

See you on Zoom!

High Holiday News

Before we know it, the High Holidays will be upon us. Much work has gone into creating our first virtual High Holiday services. There will be no in person attendance at Shir Tikvah. The services will be broadcast over the internet using the Zoom program. The schedule of services will be announced the first week of September. There will be two sets of services, one Reform and one Conservative. The times and Zoom links for both will be published so members can choose which service to attend. Thanks to all the members that completed the High Holiday survey. We are currently following up with members in need of technical assistance or in need of prayer books.

If you have not completed the survey and need assistance connecting with Zoom, please contact the office. If you have not tried Zoom, use the link for the Tuesday and Friday or Saturday services that are sent out each week and try to attend one of the online services. Also, if you do not have a computer, tablet or smart phone, you can still call in to the service and listen to it.

Prayer books are available for members to borrow if needed.

This year will be unique. This is a new experience for all of us. Our goal is to provide a meaningful High Holiday for our members. More details will be coming out shortly. We hope to see everyone on Zoom.

Jerry Tenny, President

SHIR Re-Opening

Facility Re-Opening Committee

The Board decided to convene a committee to investigate the timing and requirements to re-open Shir Tikvah's facilities. This committee will review guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control, the State of Illinois, along with recommendations from the URJ and USCJ. Policies and procedures will be developed to allow each function to open when appropriate and safely for our members. The committee met June 22 and decided to open slowly, one function at a time. This way can make ensure the opening is being done safely, before moving to the next stage.

The first function to open was the use of the building by the staff. Having the building empty has allowed Bob to work on maintenance items that have been put off for a long time. Bob will continue to maintain the property and work on improvement projects. Rabbi Harari has been working from home and since the physical office is not required to complete her duties she will continue to work from home. It was decided that Diedre could return to working in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11AM to 3PM.

We want to minimize the number of visitors to our building. If you are required to come to the office, please email or call Diedre so she can schedule your visit. When in the building, please record your time in and out in the logbook in the foyer. This will allow us to track who has been in the building.

Please wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and use the hand sanitizer stationed in the hallways.

This is our first step in reopening the facility.

Jerry Tenny, President and the Re-Opening Committee

<u>August Birthdays</u>

- 8/1 Doug Koltun8/2 Nathan Katz
- 8/2 Nathan Katz8/4 Carol Gilbert
- 8/4 David Gottlieb
- 8/4 Ted Herbstman
- 8/7 David Levitt
- 8/8 Elizabeth Proctor
- 8/8 Marcia Heilicser
- 8/9 Ilene Uhlmann
- 8/10 Gert Kaufman
- 8/10 Jack Levitt
- 8/11 Lana Rogachevskaya
- 8/12 Rayna Adler
- 8/12 Micah Rader
- 8/13 Grant Goldberg
- 8/15 Bob Mayer
- 8/15 Larry Cohan
- 8/17 Bonnie Rubin
- 8/18 Gretchen Falk
- 8/18 Aaron Rusnak
- 8/19 Rachel Mylan
- 8/21 John Chiera
- 8/22 Barbara Gilbert
- 8/29 Claire Kern

יום הולדת שמח

September Birthdays

- 9/1 Iris Blumenthal
- 9/2 Dorothy Kenis
- 9/2 Michael Kaminsky
- 9/3 Marcia Lippert
- 9/4 Lawrence Burrows
- 9/5 Judy Lieb
- 9/6 Collette Katz
- 9/6 Aliza Podwol
- 9/7 Carole Fefferman
- 9/9 Tom Gilbert
- 9/13 Sherry Dieckman
- 9/15 Helen Wolkow
- 9/16 Joseph Podwol
- 9/19 Chukwuebuka Akujieze
- 9/19 Cheryl Diddia-Bernstein
- 9/19 Carol Zucker
- 9/24 Michelle Greenberg
- 9/25 Georgina Kaminsky
- 9/28 Edith Buntman

September Anniversaries

- 9/1 Charles & Ellen Stone
- 9/4 Rabbi Ellen & Dr. James Dreyfus
- 9/15 Robert & Marcia Sime

August Anniversaries

- 8/4 Dalia & Rabbi Shalom Podwol
- 8/5 Amy & Richard Bloomberg
- 8/8 Gayle & Norm Weil
- 8/10 Evie & Larry Plofsky
- 8/13 Leslie & Jordan Sigale
- 8/15 Georgina & Mike Kaminsky
- 8/17 Ruth & Sherman Friedman
- 8/17 Fern & Manny Katz
- 8/17 Barbara & Michael Sitrin
- 8/18 Elizabeth Proctor & John Chiera
- 8/22 Andreatte & Mark Brachman
- 8/25 Judith & Carl Levy

יום נישואין שמח

Tributes

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund In Memory of

Tat'yana Abramov from Sue Johnson

Jack & Meyer Proctor from Elizabeth Proctor & John Chiera

Ethel, Bertha, Peter Weiss, Sylvia, Albert & Morton Solomon from Joel Weiss

Else Stein from David Stein

Lillian Smason from Sarah Smason

Shirley Levine from Risa Graff

Mitchell & Sylvia Hurowitz from Merle & Karlyn Hurowitz

Selma Lorsch from Henry Lorsch

Rabbi Leo Wolkow from Stuart & Nancy Friedman

Riv & Abe Ebenstein from Debbie & Dan Greenberg

Howard Pattis from Ronda Lebold

Helen Rubin from Diane Wolf

Jack Levinson & Meyer Levine from Cheryl Warshaw

Esther Shuftan from Frank Shuftan

Speedy Recovery To Gayle Weil from Lenny & Burt Zeiger

Choir Fund

In Memory of

Seymour Burrows from Larry & Nancy Burrows Louis Rosen from Rhoda & Sarah Rosen

John Prendergast from Carole Fefferman Bernard Epstein from David Epstein

General Fund

In Memory of

Joseph Malis from Larry Malis

- Fleurette Koltun from Eila & Doug Koltun
- Ruth Marcus from Ellen Kahn
- Richard Michaelson from Judy & Richard Lieb
- Dr. Jerome Noskin from Vivian Gerber
- Molly & Rubin Gilbert, Lillian, Moshe & Max Serlin from Ginny Gilbert

Walter Wolf from Cliff Wolf

Abe Portman from Harlene & Irwin Friedman

Joan Barr from Jerry Tenny Samuel Silver from Susan Johnson

Irving Weinberg from Jack Levitt

Rabbi Leo Wolkow from Bill Bransky, Jerry & Carrie Tenny, The Szaks Family, Steve & Barb Wolf, Sharon & Henry Lorsch, Judy & Carl Levy, Danny Schwab, Ruth & Sherman Friedman, Scott & Sherry Wolf, Dale & Roy Robinson, Elizabeth Proctor & John Chiera, Mona & Harold Shabelman, Steve & Judi Altman, Marilyn Tannebaum, Women of Shir Tikvah, Richard Stern, Karan & Norman Weinberg, Rori Narter, Marcia Lippert, Phyllis, Donna & Ken Glassman, Lynn Brown, Les & Lisa Stern, Bea Kamen, Leo Wolfson, Dory & Larry Machtinger, Barry & Susan Bayer, Marsha Lotz, Sherman & Rhoda Rosen

Marianne Dreyfus from Rabbi Michael Zedek, Scott & Sherry Wolf, Eila & Doug Koltun, Mona & Harold Shabelman, Steve & Judi Altman

Mazel Tov

In honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Janet & David Herbstman from Michael & Barbara Sitrin

In honor of the birth of granddaughter, Shayna, to Janet & David Herbstman from Jack Levitt, Judy & Ken Fleischer

Sympathy

- To Carol Spector in memory of David Spector from Bea Kamen,
- To Miriam Garbow in memory of Burt from Michael & Barbara Sitrin
- To Ruth & Sherman Friedman and Sandy Rusnak in memory of Maurice Rusnak from Laura & Jake Eisenwasser, Judy & Ken Fleischer
- To Herbert Glassman in memory of Phyllis from Ellen Kahn

Speedy Recovery

To Gayle Weil from Edith Feldmann, Shari Cohen & Bob Mayer

Sisterhood Tributes

Speedy Recovery To Kevin Bodine from Ginny Gilbert To Gayle Weil from Ginny Gilbert

Sympathy

- To Helen Wolkow in memory of Rabbi Wolkow from Judy Lohr-Safcik, Donelle Macey, Alene & Ron Rutzky
- To Jim and Ellen Dreyfus in memory of Jim's mother, Marianne from Alene & Ron Rutzky, Judy Lohr-Safcik
- To the Richard Wolff family in memory of Doris from Ginny Gilbert
- To Miriam Garbow in memory of Burt from Ginny Gilbert

Thank you for the fruit basket in memory of our mother, Vivian Stelzer.

Sandy Stelzer & Shelley Ritter

Thank you for love and support surrounding the death of our mother, Pauline Wolfson

The Wolfson/Williams Family



We mourn the deaths of Rabbi Leo Wolkow Marianne Dreyfus David Spector David Zucker Vivian Stelzer

May their memory forever be a blessing to all who loved them and may their family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. Virtual Sisterhood Birthday Luncheons Normally, the Sisterhood celebrates birthdays on the first Wednesday at 12:30pm at Aurelio's Pizza in Homewood. However, due to COVID-19 they are meeting virtually instead. Please contact Gayle Weil to find out how to join the online party at <u>gweil119@yahoo.com</u> or call her directly!

Support the Sisterhood by purchasing Jewel Cards! We receive a percentage from each card we sell. Denominations are \$50 and \$100 and are available by emailing the office. Diedre will get them to you! Thanks for your support!





Shalom Transportation



TOGETHER for GOOD

Are you over 55 and need a ride? Need to get to an activity at night, or just don't want to drive somewhere? The South Suburban office of JUF has partnered with GoGo Grandparent to offer 10 rides a month, up to 25 miles, for just \$5.00 a ride! How does this work? Call Amy Bloomberg at 708-249-6086 or email <u>amybloomberg@juf.org</u> to get registered and learn the easy program details. This program is generously funded by the Albert and Lucille Delighter and Marcella Winston Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.



Although both Sunday and Hebrew schools will need to be virtual at least until 2021, teachers have been planning engaging curricula that will have activities for both students and families.

Mark your calendar now for some great learning! Sunday School dates will be September 13, October 18 & 25 for the first theme; November 1, 8, & 15 for the second; and November 22, December 6 & 13 for the third. Hebrew School will meet September 9, 16, 23, & 30; October 7, 14, 21, & 28; November 4, 11, &18; and December 2 & 9. "Roberta Rosenthal Kwall, who is a DePaul University law professor, spoke on Sunday morning, July 19 to Shir Tikvah via Zoom about her book "Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World." She discussed how non-Orthodox American Jews must select, reject, and modify rituals that allow for a focus on Jewish tradition rather than on the technicalities of Jewish law. She mentioned observing Shabbat and the holidays, being aware of the rules of kashrut, providing a Jewish education for our children, engaging in tikkun olam, and observing life cycle rituals. She answered questions about passing on Jewish traditions to children and grandchildren and how to make prayer meaningful when it is difficult to relate to. Her book will be available in the synagogue for those interested in reading it.

To send a congregational card please notify Diedre in the office (suggested donation is \$10). If you'd like a sisterhood card sent out please notify Carol Zucker (suggested donation is \$5.50).