

Temple Solel Has Ties to Guatemalan Jewry

It's easy to imagine the confusion when many read the Reuters report "Guatemala became the second country to move its embassy to Jerusalem on May 16, 2018 despite the international backlash against the U.S. when it

made the same move." Why Guatemala? Temple Solel member, Tanya Trachtenberg, was pleased by this news because she knows the rich history of Guatemalan Jewry as a direct decedent of a Holocaust

Survivor, her father, Max Trachtenberg. She said, "You know the Guatemalan Jewish community is very close to Israel. My family is very involved in the Temple there (Centro Hebreo) and it's where we have been connected through our legacy as a family for many years even though we now live in the United States."

Tanya continued to explain, "We are headed to Guatemala in August as part of our Mitzvah Project and will be delivering 200 cinch-bag backpacks to some amazing kids at a very rural school in Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta Gueisela Fuentes de Paiz de la comunidad Don Pancho, Escuintla. My kids and I have been in the process of this for several years and we greatly

they are supported and cared about within our local community in the United States. In South Carolina, on August 10, just like Tanya and her sons, Temple Solel members volunteered at the Lancaster County Back-to-School Bash by handing out backpacks and school supplies. Our Hebrew example of tikkun olam explains this connection over the geographic distances. No matter where we are in the world, ensuring students have the supplies needed for school allows them to concentrate on learning and not what might be a difficulty in their lives.

Friday evening July 26 was a very special night for our congregation, meeting for the second time at our new location. The service was led by guest Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky. It was also an opportunity to honor some of our members. The beautiful tapestry created for Temple Solel was unveiled. Helaine Yancey lovingly sewed each stitch in memory of her son, Kevin Clein, using the design inspiration provided by Shelley Pawlyk in memory of her father, Martin Pawlyk. Social Action Chair, Carol Hahn, then recognized Tanya with a surprise donation on behalf of the Temple towards her journey to Guatemala.

When asked why this trip was so important to Tanya she explained, "Continuing in my parents humanitarian efforts to help the people of Guatemala is my way of not only honoring my parent's legacy, but creating my own. My sons, William, Cooper, Ethan, and I are going to the synagogue and the Jewish cemetery to visit my father's grave, as well as the grave of my maternal grand-

mother who fled Aleppo prior to WWII."

We are joining with others in the community by saying to this family rich in heritage, "Viajes seguro a Guatemala! Te amo!" which translates in English to, "Safe Trip to Guatemala! We love you!" Tanya responded back, "Thank you again for all the love and support. ... We are all set for this trip and have purchased all of the supplies that will be waiting for us in Guatemala. There will be additional trips and we will definitely involve everyone more in the future."

It is not too soon to save the dates for High Holy Day services. Ours are led each year by Russ Cobe and will all take place at the same location as our regular services. Russ is an experienced lay leader, with a degree in religious studies and music from Wesleyan University. Many of our congregants will also be called to the bimah to help lead various portions of the services, reflecting the inclusive spiritual experiences embraced at Temple Solel. A free one-hour Rosh HaShanah children's morning service will take place again this year at Blooming Einsteins on Sunday, September 29 at 10-11 AM. Tanya is the business owner of this after-school program center located at 2752 Pleasant Rd #103, in Fort Mill, SC.

For more information about membership, which includes a High Holy Day ticket, write us at info@templesolel.org or call 803-619-9707. Guest tickets are also available. Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. ☼



Tapestry designed and created by Helaine Yancey and Shelley Pawlyk



Tanya Trachtenberg and Social Action Chair Carol Hahn

appreciated all of your support. We will load with items like: notebooks, crayons, American candy (of course), toothbrushes, hygiene products, socks, and t-shirts."

We also want students to know

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