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 Mitvah Project and will be delivering 200 cinch-bag backpacks to some amazing kids at a very rural school in Escuela Official Rural Mixta Guisela Fuentes de Paiz de la comunidad Don Pancho, Escuatemila. My kids and I have been in the process of this for several years and we greatly appreciate 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 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 son, Temple Solel members volunteered at the Lancaster County Back-to-School Bash by handing out backpacks and school supplies. Our Hebrew example of tikun 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 Rozovisky. 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 Klein, 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-

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