

CHESED COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT - Spring 2017

Since the inception of the Chesed Committee in 2009, Rabbi Korinow has been an unwavering supporter and guide of our mission, our planning, and our efforts. Words cannot express our gratitude for his dedication to this Committee and its goals. We all wish him much happiness, good health, and good times as he enters his retirement. After 36 years of unending commitment to the needs of the members of our Temple community, no one can be more deserving than Rabbi Ira of many years ahead of experiencing joyful moments with his sons and daughters-in-law, his grandchildren, his soon-to-be wife Sally Bock, and numerous family members and special friends.

To everything there is a season; a time to say farewell and a time to welcome. And so, we welcome Cantor Vera, who has quickly understood and been part of the Chesed Committee's involvement with families in times of need, as well as with our other ongoing programs.

It is certainly my pleasure to chair a committee of dedicated, kind souls: Iris Adams, Fred Feldman, Rhoda Feldman, Rita Harris, Michele Howard, Karen Newborn, Rena Roseman, Amy Sherr, Susan Shwom, Carole Taut, and Aaron Tornberg.

Nancy LaFleur is a consistent and essential support to our committee's functioning.

Our long-term programs involve delivering holiday plates to those who are unable to get in to Temple. To those who package and deliver, who spend time visiting and cheering up our elder members – Mike and Ann Jacobson, Iris Adams, Carole Taut, Michele Howard, Rena Roseman, Aaron Tornberg, Susan Shwom, Wilson Kapanga Ndjibu, Karen Newborn and grandsons Ben and Jake, Kimberly Callan and her son, Noah, Lisa Desberg and her daughter, Angie, Jennifer Lampron and her daughters, Jacqueline and Jocelyn, Andi Hannula, and her sons Adam and Zack. I can't think of a greater mitzvah than that which you all are doing.

Janet Kopel also helps us keep in touch with people who can't be at temple in person by sending out birthday greetings.

In addition to the support we offer to families at the time of a death and for the shiva period, we also continue to provide bereavement folders (organized by Amy Sherr). We have added a bereavement center in the Temple library, with the organizing assistance of Paula Breger. In addition to the literature available in the lobby, there are now books of related interest in this new library section.

We also continue to use LotsaHelpingHands as a way to sign up online to provide support to families facing challenging times – be it for meals, rides to doctor appointments, or rides to Hebrew School. We have offered rides to special Temple events for those who don't drive.

This year the Chesed Committee has assumed the responsibility of mailing out holiday packages to college students and those serving in the military. It is nice for youngsters to be remembered by their Temple community, even though they are far away. Rita Harris had done this faithfully for decades. We wish her and her husband well in their new home in Philadelphia.

We also did a test run of a challah baking one afternoon. Under the tutelage of Iris Adams, it was a fun and delicious afternoon of learning to bake and braid! And to enjoy the delicious fruits of our labor!

We always welcome suggestions as to what else we might do to facilitate enlarging our commitment to each other in this Temple community. I am always so touched by the kindness and thoughtfulness of members of this community. Thank you for the privilege of chairing this Committee.

Sharyn Russell, Chair