

Chesed Committee
Annual Report
May 6, 2018

In 2009, I sat with Rabbi Ira and Eric Jacobs (Z"l) to talk about "possibilities" for a Chesed Committee; since then, there have been many changes as we moved forward. I continue to miss having a co-chair to share thoughts and planning; our long-term Rabbi who was so familiar with the community's needs; and Rita Harris, long time responsible person for sending out holiday packages to college students.

That being said, I am so grateful for all those people who remain committed, after all these years, to participate on this committee: Fred and Rhoda Feldman, Iris Adams, Rena Roseman, Michele Howard, Susan Shwom, Carole Taut, Amy Sherr and Karen Newborn. And to all those who cook latkes, bake hamantaschen, help package, and deliver goodies to those who can't be with us in temple: Mike and Ann Jacobson, Iris Adams, Carole Taut, Michele Howard, Rena Roseman, Susan Shwom, Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu, Karen Newborn and grandsons Ben and Jake, Lisa Desberg and her daughter Angie, Jenn Lampron and her daughters Jacqueline and Jocelyn, Andi Hannula and her sons Adam and Zack. What a great mitzvah they all do to bring cheer to others. It was a great year of cooking with members of the PTO, including some very talented men, for all of the holidays! This year Chesed took over the mailing of packages to college students; we have been mailing to those who serve in the military as well for several years.

Thank you to Rabbi Bogosian for training three members (Sandra Kassin-Deardoff, Andy Levine, and Kevin Miller) to lead shiva minyans, and to those three for being willing mitzvah makers.

Janet Kopel keeps in touch via birthday cards to those who can't celebrate these special occasions with us at temple.

We also continue to provide bereavement folders, organized by Amy Sherr. Michele Howard organizes the delivery of Shabbat Shiva packages to those recently bereaved. In addition to the supportive help at the time of a death, there is now a bereavement center in the library, organized by Paula Breger, that contains literature on illnesses, losses, death and bereavement.

If you have not signed up for LotsaHelpingHands, it is easy enough to sign on to this computer-generated program that helps us organize support to families facing challenging life events. We also continue to offer rides to special programs at Temple.

In the next fiscal year, Chesed is planning an exciting educational program for all. Stay tuned!

We welcome your suggestions as to what else we might do to facilitate enlarging our commitment to each other in this temple community. We have so many who reach out and touch!

Thank you, once again, for the privilege of chairing this committee.

Sharyn Russell, Chair