



SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

Dear Fellow Shaar Shalom Member:

I wanted to bring you up-to-date you on what has taken place since June 30. It has been a very busy time with many, many volunteer hours put in. Special thanks go to Mel and Deana Fishman as well as Rhoda Gonen and her team for the extraordinary effort and time they put in to ensure we could settle issues by the closing date of August 31. I also want to acknowledge the many hours invested by the members of the Working Group and our Past President, Seymour Hersh, who helped to get the best outcome possible in the circumstance. Many have joined the Board of Governors to ensure that the planning is implemented.

THE BUILDING:

The building was sold on August 31 to 1958338 Ontario Inc. for the sum of 8.7 million dollars. We have no idea what the purchaser will do with the building in the immediate future.

After re-paying the property mortgage, the Future Fund loans, lines of credit, legal fees and real estate commissions, there remains approximately 7.08 million dollars for donations and operating expenses. We have arranged for office space and created an Investment Committee chaired by our Treasurer that will be managing the funds in the interim.

The Chattels:

Plaques:

After substantial work by Rhoda Gonen, Trudy Sassoon and Gayle Holtzman, with help from Mel and Deana Fishman and many volunteers from the Board of Governors, all yartzheit and tree of life plaques were made available for pick up on three dates during July and August. The unclaimed plaques have been temporarily stored and there will be another opportunity to pick up these plaques. Following that date, plaques will be forwarded to the shuls that have received our boards to be remounted.

The Board decided that **major donated items** would follow to the shuls where the donors chose to daven, if at all possible. Recipients of other assets were determined based on need, growth potential, sustainability and what movement they belonged to. Consequently,

1. the torah donated by the Berman family has been donated to Chabad Flamingo;
2. the torah donated by the Kronis Family has followed them to Adath Israel;
3. the torah donated in memory of Margot Wanounou has followed Shlomo to Beth Emeth;

EXECUTIVE

BARRY BARNES

President

SEYMOUR HERSH

Past-President

RHODA GONEN

First Vice-President

JACK CAYNE

Vice-President

SAM CHAIM

Vice-President

ROBBIE FELDMAN

Treasurer

MORTY WEISSELBERG

Secretary

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MICHAEL BOWMAN

STEPHEN CAPPE

BRIAN GORDON

GAYLE HOLTZMAN

STEVE LEBNER

ERIC LERNER

RALPH LEVINE

GERRY LEWY

SAM MENDELSON

BRAHM ROSEN

TRUDY SASSOON

DAVID SEFTON

ELLIOTT WAHLE

NORM ZINMAN

4. the torah donated by the Maister family has been loaned to the German Mills Minyan until the Maister family decides which shul to join.

Our other torahs have been relocated as follows:

5. a torah donated to Beth Israel, Peterborough;
6. a torah donated to the City Shul;
7. a torah donated to the Toronto Partnership Minyan;
8. a torah on loan to the new Song Shul;
9. a torah on loan to the German Mills Minyan.

Torahs on loan may be converted to a donation if and when those institutions meet our sustainability criteria.

- Various silverware items such as Rimonim, yads, and breastplates that were donated by specific families have, or will follow to: Beth Emeth, Temple Har Zion, Beth Torah and to some shuls yet to be determined, when members make a firm commitment.

The response from the recipients has been overwhelming. I can assure you that our legacy will continue through the use of these items.

- The **Shankman Library** has been relocated to Beth Emeth.
- The **Cayne Family Chapel** has been relocated to Pride of Israel.
- The **Holocaust Memorial**, unfortunately, was not constructed in a fashion that would allow its complete removal. Through the hard work of Sam Chaim and professional assistance, we were able to save one panel that, together with the pedestal and book, are being installed at Beth Emeth.
- **Yarzeit Boards** have been donated to Beth Emeth, Shastover Slipia, Am Shalom (Barrie), Beth David and Pride of Israel.
- The **doors from the Ark** in the sanctuary are in storage pending a suitable place for them to be donated.
- The **Ner Tamid** from the main Sanctuary will be installed at Pride of Israel.
- Our **siddurim, chumashim and machzorim as well as tables, chairs, school items etc.** have been donated to many shuls. While I cannot detail what went to each shul, recipients include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Am Shalom (Barrie) o Beit Rayim o Beth David o Beth Emeth o Beth Israel (Peterborough) o Beth Jacob (Hamilton) o Beth Radom o Beth Sholom o Beth Torah o Chabad Flamingo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Congregation Shaarei Tzedec (German Mills Minyan) o Darchei Noam o Danforth Jewish Circle o Lodzer Synagogue o Makom o Pride of Israel o Stashover Slipia o Toronto Partnership
---	--

Office:

We have rented space at suite 203, 8220 Bayview Avenue, at Romfield Circuit. Our phone number, email addresses and website remain unchanged. The office will not be staffed on a daily basis. All necessary work will be performed by volunteer members of the Executive and Board. We expect to be able to respond to email and telephone messages with 24 hours.

Legalities:

The Board appointed Crowe Soberman as Auditors following the resignation of our previous auditors, Tepperman Buchalter. The audit will begin in September and a General Meeting will be called to approve the Financial Statements of June 30, 2016, following the completion of the audit.

Next Steps:

We resolved at the June Special General meeting to distribute excess funds to synagogues in Ontario that had CRA charitable status based on the outreach to newly unaffiliated members. [It is imperative that you review each shul's offering before making the decision where to join.](#)

Information and forms can be found on our website www.shaarshalom.ca. The process involves both you and the synagogue that you are joining to sign off on your decision. The decision, once signed, is ***irrevocable***. You must make your decision by November 30, 2017.

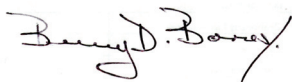
We encourage you to shop around and find the synagogue where you will be most comfortable before making a final decision. Area synagogues have been most accommodating and invitations and information are posted on our website.

A LEGACY

It has been a heartbreaking and difficult set of actions closing down a shul. But I must tell you that ***expressions of support and the excitement and gratitude expressed by recipients of our goods has been an uplifting experience***. People have literally danced with our torahs upon receipt. While Shaar Shalom has ceased, the legacy of our over forty years will strengthen and assist in sustaining the Jewish Community in Toronto and environs into the future.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I wish each of you and your families a Shanah Tovah Tikatevu, May we all be inscribed for a year of health, peace and prosperity.

Yours truly,



Barry Barnes
President