



**Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and  
the National Social Action Committee  
Yom Tov 2017 Newsletter**

Pekka Sinervo, President CCRJ/Chair URJ Canada Steering Committee  
Helen Poizner and Fran Isaacs Chairs National Social Action Committee

*“With hopes of making the world we live in a kinder, more peaceful place. To hear in the sacred shofar blast, a call from within to change.” Shana Tova*

**Hurricane Harvey Relief**

**URJ Response:** <https://urj.org/blog/2017/08/30/how-reform-movement-responding-hurricane-harvey>

**Donations:** <https://ccrj.ca/donate-now>

**FROM AROUND THE CCRJ**

**Why Two Are Better Than One: North America's Reform Movement**

Read Paul Leszner's blog <https://urj.org/blog/blog-author/paul-leszner>

**The Reform Mikvah of Greater Toronto** welcomes adults and children, pre- B'nai Mitzvah candidates, confirmands, brides, grooms, conversion candidates and all Jews seeking meaningful ritual. Visits to the Mikvah can become a part of modern Jewish spiritual practice. <https://www.torontoreformmikvah.com>

**URJ Camp George**

Having just completed our 19th summer, here are some proud moments we shared, where we came together as a *kehillah*, proud of our Reform Jewish values and all that Camp George stands for: We celebrated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, recognizing our commitment towards justice, healing and reconciliation for Canada's Indigenous people; we participated in the "[Soup Sisters](#)" program; celebrated our first [Pride Shabbat](#), honouring diversity, inclusion and tolerance; and hosted an incredible community Shabbat that welcomed over 50 community members, focusing on the theme of [Audacious Hospitality](#). For more details visit: <https://campgeorge.org>

**The Leo Baeck Day School** is housed in two state-of-the-art facilities, in Cedarvale and our New North, now located at the Kimel Family Education Centre of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Community Campus in York Region. <https://leobaeck.ca>

**Temple Sinai** Carrie Swartz, a leader in developing innovative and modern curriculum models in the Toronto community, has joined Temple Sinai as their new Director of Congregational Learning. <http://www.temple Sinai.net>

**Temple Emanu-El** is pleased to announce the appointment of Randi Feldman as Temple Emanu-El's first Executive Director. <http://www.templemanuel.ca>

**Temple Har Zion** is thrilled to introduce their new Director of Education, Ronit Strobel-Dahan. <https://templeharzion.com>

**Holy Blossom Temple** is pleased to announce that Phase I of their Renewal Project is moving along beautifully and should be completed in Spring 2018. <http://holyblossom.org>

## NSAC NEWS

### **Winds of Change for Eabametoong First Nation**

The National Social Action Committee (NSAC) was the incubator for this successful undertaking working with Ken Caplan, the town of Markham and Eabametoong First Nation to establish a cultural tourism collaboration, the first-ever twinning of a northern fly-in community and a southern Ontario municipality. <https://goo.gl/bwAEDs>.

### **Refugee Resettlement:**

Twelve Reform congregations across Canada took up the challenge of raising close to \$500,000 in funds and sponsoring 17 families—involving over 60 refugees—over the last two years. Some Temples found partnerships with churches or mosques or paired with other Jewish denominations to raise the funds required to support a family for a year, which is the basis for sponsorship. This extraordinary response, involving almost half of our congregations, led to the development of a resolution on how the Reform movement in North America could respond to this ongoing crisis. The URJ will vote on this resolution at its Biennial in December 2017. Another reason to come to the Biennial this year!

Please contact the chairs of the National Social Action Committee, Helen Poizner or Fran Isaacs, to find out more.



### **The Great Lakes Water Walk & Celebration September 24, 2017**

#### **TORONTO WATERFRONT**

<http://greatlakeswaterwalk.ca>

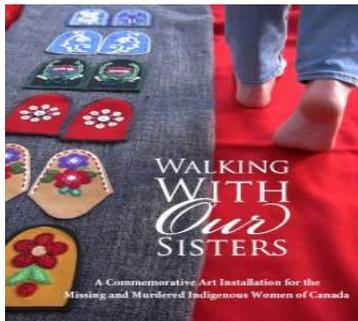
Join us for the **Great Lakes Water Walk**, a free public event on Sunday, **September 24, 2017** along the **Toronto waterfront**. It will be a very special day. Anishinaabeg Grandmothers will lead thousands of participants in a ceremonial water walk along Toronto's waterfront trail, with blessing stops at Toronto's four river deltas (Credit, Humber, Rouge, Don). At the close of the walk, respected Elders Dr. Shirley Williams and Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, will lead a multi-cultural water blessing of the Great Lakes assisted by Elders and Leaders representing all facets of the Toronto community. Participants are free to join or leave the main walking groups at any point, with times and distances that best suits them. Everyone is welcome. We walk to renew our relations with each other and the waters we love.



## Walk for Reconciliation Walk for Reconciliation Sunday, September 24th | 9:30am Vancouver, BC <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/>

An opportunity for people of all backgrounds to make a personal contribution to the reconciliation movement. How we build relationships today affects our next generations. Through walking in the spirit of reconciliation you honour intergenerational lives taken, honour survivors and those impacted by the Indian residential school system, and show your support for the youth in all communities.

### Walking with our Sisters



A Commemorative Art Installation for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of Canada and the United States comprised of 1,763+ pairs of moccasin vamps (tops) plus 108 pairs of children's vamps created and donated by hundreds of caring and concerned individuals to draw attention to this injustice. 2017 exhibitions in Toronto, Six Nations, ON, Winnipeg, AB. Grand Prairie AB, and Fort St. John, BC. For additional dates and details, visit: <http://walkingwithoursisters.ca/events>

## FROM AROUND THE URJ



The URJ Biennial will be held Wednesday, December 6, 2017 to Sunday, December 10, 2017 in Boston, MA. Join with thousands of Jews from across North America and around the world to learn, pray, share ideas, dance and sing, hear from inspiring speakers and the leaders of our Movement; reunite with old friends, create new connections, and make decisions about the policies of the Reform Movement.

<https://urj.org/urj-biennial>



### Meet and Greet Reception for Canadians and Israelis at URJ Biennial

Hosted by ARZA Canada Thursday, December 7 - after 10:00 PM

Boston Marriot Copley Place 3rd Floor Atrium Lounge - You are invited to an informal reception to build and strengthen relationships among Canadian and Israeli Reform leaders.

## Advocacy

**When you save a life, it is like saving an entire world.**

Temple Sinai member Dorry Korn is in need of a live liver donation. As her Temple family, we have a chance to do the ultimate mitzvah. Please click below to read further about her situation and your chance, if you are healthy and blood type B or O, to save her life. [To read more, click here.](#)  
[For more information, please visit the Living Donor Transplant site.](#)

JIAS Toronto, <http://www.jiastoronto.org> has been approached by the Federal Government to assist in the settlement of government sponsored Yazidi refugees, comprised mostly of women and children who have suffered tremendously at the hands of the Islamic State. Interested volunteers can contact Jodi at [jodib@jiastronto.org](mailto:jodib@jiastronto.org)

## URJ RESOURCES

**INSIDE LEADERSHIP** For all the latest news around the Reform community visit:

<https://urj.org/blog>

**URJ The Tent** A collaborative workspace for leaders of Reform Judaism <http://thetent.urj.net>

## OUR PARTNERS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

CIJA <http://www.cija.ca>

VE'AHAVTA <http://www.veahavta.org>

RAC <http://www.rac.org>