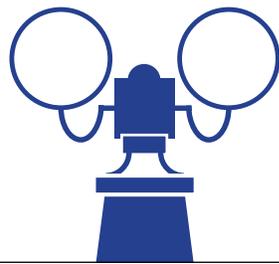


PARA



PALMERSTON AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The Legacy of the Markham Street Shul

by Fernanda Pisani

Congregation Shaarei Tzedec (also known as the Markham St. Shul), at Markham and Ulster Streets is one of four very special places of worship in the PARA area that together represent four main branches of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The others are Mary Magdalene Anglican Church at Manning and Ulster St., Francis Roman Catholic Church on Grace St., and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community Church on Clinton St. Many of you may have heard the melodic sounds of the services held inside while passing by.

The 100 year history of the Synagogue is the unique result of the devoted support of the Jews who immigrated to Toronto at the beginning of the 20th century. Founded in 1902 the congregation was originally located on Centre St. and still thrives thanks to the tenacity and faith of the present Jewish community in the PARA neighbourhood. It is one of only 3 surviving orthodox synagogues in the downtown area. Although historically, many synagogues were designed to blend in with their surroundings in order to discourage vandalism, the Markham St. Shul was originally a family home. The Victorian building on Markham St. was purchased in the 1930's and was converted into the religious building that we know today. At the outset the congregation consisted mostly of Russian and Eastern European Jews, many of whom were survivors of pogroms, and later on of holocaust survivors.

Shaarei Tzedec is an Orthodox congregation where men and women sit in separate areas, but mingle together after services. Bar Mitzvahs and other social receptions are ac-



The synagogue on Markham St.; (left to right): David Seittelbach, Arthur Winkler, Rabbi Holtzberg, Lorne Dubinsky, Joseph Heller

commodated upstairs. The name of the congregation is written in Hebrew letters over the main doors. The names of some of the first members are carved in Hebrew on both sides of the vestibule of the building. Stained glass windows featuring geometric shapes and Stars of David adorn the west and north side. Inside, at the top of the ark which contains the Torah scrolls, are two lions on either side of a sculpture of the Torah tablets. Seating ensures that all face Jerusalem during services which is east. Tourists from all over the world come to see the synagogue and the City of Toronto has given the building historical designation.

Rabbi Haltzberg leads the congregation which holds services all year round. There is no cantor. The congregation now boasts

an influx of younger members since many Jewish families have chosen to live in the downtown area.

The synagogue does well due to the efforts and ongoing personal interest of Dr. Joe Greenberg and Jeff Phillips, both of whom go beyond the call of duty to look after the synagogue and its future legacy.

Due to a diminishing congregation in the 1960's, the fate of the synagogue was at risk. At that time Dr. Greenberg took the initia-

tive to guarantee its' preservation. Fellow members supported him and raised funds for the renovation and sustainability of the building. The deed to the building is now in Dr. Greenberg's name and as Dr. Greenberg is quite elderly, his son David has assumed major responsibilities for the survival of the synagogue.

Drs. Joe and David Greenberg have practiced

medicine for many years in the area. In fact Dr. Joe Greenberg has been profiled in *The Gleaner*, *The Canadian Jewish News* and *The Toronto Star*. The first boy in his family to be born in Canada to Aaron and Sima Greenberg, Joe Greenberg has been a constant in the neighbourhood. His involvement with the synagogue is only one example of his generosity.

I was told by Dr. Greenberg that the day-to-day well-being of the congregation is looked after by Jeff Phillips. Jeff is the shul sexton and became involved with the synagogue in the

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PHOTOS BY DON SCOTT



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ABOUT PARA (Palmerston Area Residents Association)

PARA is a volunteer organization of residents committed to strengthening and preserving the stability, distinctive character and quality of life in the Toronto neighbourhood bounded by Bloor and Bathurst, College and Clinton Streets..

Development on Bathurst: The Randolph Academy

by Tom Churchill

Issues of development are always of concern to PARA members and other residents of our neighbourhood. Plans for the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts (the former Bathurst Street United Church), at the southwest corner of Bathurst and Lennox, are no exception.

The owner of the property, George Randolph, agreed to a suggestion by City Councillor Mike Layton to hold a meeting to gauge community reaction to his development ideas. Attendees at the February 6th meeting included Mr. Randolph and his architect, Dermot Sweeney; Mr. Layton, some of his staff, and a Toronto city planner; members of PARA, the Harbord Village RA, and the Seaton Village RA; and about 80 other concerned residents.

Mr Sweeney presented highlights of Mr. Randolph's concept:

- Development of a 14-storey apartment building (not condos): the Randolph Academy to occupy the existing church and floors



Due for change?
Two views of the historical church building which houses the Randolph Academy



1-4; apartments on floors 5-14; and various amenities (restaurant, cafeteria, etc.), also on the 4th floor, to be shared by the school and the apartment residents. The initial proposal called for a 24-storey building.

- Apartments to be designed, marketed, and managed by an independent company as retirement residences for those 55 and older; no care facilities planned.

- Total height 47 metres (versus about 30 metres for the B.street condo currently under construction across Bathurst St. from the Academy).

Concerns raised by neighbourhood residents include impact on parking, the proposed height, changes to laneway width, impact

on privacy, and shadowing. The city planner made several points:

- As presented, the building does not comply with zoning and many other restrictions.
- The area is not slated for intensification in the city plan. The west side of Bathurst is zoned neighbourhood/residential with a height limit of about 4-5 floors or 10 meters; the east side of Bathurst is zoned as mixed-use and has higher allowable limits.
- All concerns relating to parking, infrastructure, shadowing, impact on neighbourhood, traffic flow, laneway access etc., are dealt with

in the official planning process; the developer must also present plans to deal with the impact of construction on neighbours.

- The planning process involves a pre-application meeting with the applicant to identify concerns that need to be addressed in an application; following formal application for permission and zoning changes public hearings are held to raise objections to an application.

Several people expressed willingness to work with Mr. Randolph to produce a more acceptable proposal. It was noted that development of this property has broad implications for future development in the area, including development of the Mirvish property.

PARA does not have an official stance on potential development of this site because as of April 4th Mr. Randolph had not yet submitted a formal application to the city with specifics of the proposed development. More to come once the development application has been made. [PARA](#)

DON SCOTT

Updates from Mike Layton, City Councillor, Ward 19



It was with heavy and saddened hearts that our community received the news of Allan Reynolds' sudden passing only a few months ago. As Chair of the Palmerston Area Residents' Association, Allan devoted himself tirelessly and enthusiastically to the needs of his community. I would like to extend a very warm welcome and my support to Paul Maclean, PARA's new Chair.

Healey Willan Park & Compost Day This past year I was proud to work with such a dedicated

group of residents promoting improvements to Healey Willan Park. In addition to the new fountain to be installed, we were also able to construct a higher barrier around the new sand, secure 3 large boulders for community use, and will shortly see the donation of another piece from the neighbouring church celebrating the life of Healey Willan. Great things continue to occur in this neighbourhood park and I hope you will all join me for a clean-up and compost day on May 5th at 10:00am.

Bloor Street West Reconstruction The Bloor St. West

reconstruction, which includes the segment of Bloor St. West from Bathurst St. to Lansdowne Ave., is proceeding according to schedule. The lead pipe replacement work on the western segment has been completed. Sidewalk repairs from Montrose to Bathurst St. will begin in June 2013. Furthermore, resurfacing and streetscaping from Montrose Ave. to Lansdowne Ave. will begin in July 2013. I have worked with City staff, BIAs and project managers to include the planting of as many blvd trees as possible, increase bike rings & parking, ensure landscaping in front of the Bickford Centre and extend Bixi to Bloor St.

Bike with Mike Apart from committee meetings, BIA and resident group meetings, my staff and I continue to organize events for the community. My third annual Bike with Mike cycling event will take place at Christie Pits Park on Sunday, May 26th from 12pm-5pm. Please join me that day for some basic bike repairs, general information and workshops on all things related to cycling and for children's cycling activities. It is always great fun!

Local Bikeway Network

In the last year I have worked to get clarification on contra-flow bicycle lanes, like the one on Montrose. The Province has

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Remembering Allan Reynolds, PARA Board Chair

(May 29, 1947 - Jan. 15, 2013) by Allan's son, Christopher Reynolds

The Palmerston area community was deeply saddened this past winter by the passing of PARA board chair Allan Reynolds, my father, who died suddenly at home on Jan. 15, 2013.

His death marked not only an unexpected tragedy for family and friends, but also the loss of a tireless advocate for the entire community.

Over the past four years, Allan made it his voluntary mission to, in his own words, "strengthen and preserve the stability, distinctive character and quality of life in our neighbourhood."

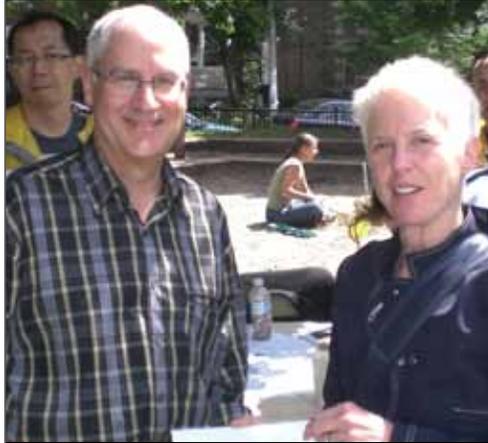
He deftly balanced the interests of residents and new establishments on College, Harbord and Bathurst streets, resolving noise issues and initiating a "good neighbour" policy that attaches conditions to liquor licences prior to approval. This case-by-case approach now forms the template for all future discussions around liquor licence applications in the neighbourhood.

"This conciliation work required attendance at many long evening meetings; never once did Allan lose patience with the process," said former PARA executive member Ed Jackson.

Neil Da Costa, co-owner of Bruda Restaurant on College near Palmerston, recalled how Allan helped him navigate the red tape of a patio licence application: "He always supported us, which made us very appreciative. We'd often see his face when he'd come in and chat with us on a slow night, and it was always a pleasure."

Allan also helped enhance local green spaces and streetscapes through backyard tree planting and public planting projects. When a proactive group of neighbourhood parents wanted to revive the annual Party in the Park at Healy Willan, he eagerly supported their efforts, which raised money for more greenery, new equipment and a freshly painted splash pad now in place at the Ulster Street park.

"His engagement with the community was fostered in my mind by his singular ability to listen fully to everyone, making them feel like he personally cared about them and the community as a whole," said PARA treasurer and membership coordinator Paul Unterman. "People sought out his opinion on city-wide and local community issues."



Allan with Debra Forman at the Party in the Park

Responding to neighbours' complaints, Allan also worked to prevent illegal, over-sized home renovations that detracted from the streetscape and skirted the building inspection process, and likely risked ensuing water or fire damage. This required long hours sifting through bylaw documents and soliciting the Committee of Adjustment and the Ontario Municipal Board on behalf of various residents.

Councillor Mike Layton recalled last seeing Allan at the Little Italy Business Improvement Association's annual general meeting in December 2012.

Layton, having just come from a contentious ward meeting, was feeling discouraged

and sought Allan's counsel: "He listened attentively to my problem and offered thoughtful and sincere advice."

Despite the conflicts and criticisms Layton had faced that day, Allan reminded him that people often may not get recognized for the things they do well, but that their contributions make a difference all the same. "And with a smile, he put my day back on track."

Born in Vancouver on May 29, 1947, Allan grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis, Minn., with his two younger brothers, his mother, who was a nurse, and his father, a chemistry professor at the University of Minnesota, where Allan would eventually earn his B.A. in English literature and journalism.

He moved to Toronto in 1969 to work as a reporter at Maclean-Hunter Publishing. He branched out into communications consulting in the 1970s, becoming a highly regarded public relations executive in the 1990s before moving into pharmaceutical industry relations in the 2000s.

Allan also demonstrated his dedication to the larger community by sitting on the boards of the Association In Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC), the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Anaphylaxis Canada. He also provided voluntary consulting for TESL Canada.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN



I'VE AGREED TO STEP INTO THIS ROLE WITH MIXED FEELINGS. Allan Reynolds was a lovely man with a wonderful, positive personality that made you want to be around him. He was an excellent chairperson for PARA, and we will all miss him.

I'm a relative newcomer to the PARA board (2 years), although my wife (Sally-Beth) and I have lived on Euclid Ave. since 1979. We raised our three children here, and all of them had the benefit of attending Clinton School. Sally-Beth was very active on the parents' committee in the 1980's, coinciding with the School's 100th anniversary, and now its 125th (being marked by a very interesting oral history project). We are members of St. Mary Magdalene's Church where, with others, we organize a creative children's Sunday program, which keeps us in touch with our inner child. Almost two years ago we responded to an invitation from a few members of First Narayever Synagogue (on Brunswick Ave.) to found an inter-faith committee to sponsor a refugee family from Iraq.

PARA's goals for the immediate future fall into two main areas: managing development and encouraging community. Our neighbourhood is clearly being impacted by large and small-scale developments and proposals. PARA's role is to be an advocate on behalf of residents for a healthy neighbourhood. This may mean opposing destructive and insensitive developments; in other cases it means facilitating compromises that respect the various competing interests and maintain the integrity of the neighbourhood character. Secondly, PARA has a role in encouraging a sense of community, a respect and appreciation for the common space we inhabit and for the people who are our neighbours. There's lots of scope here. Working together on common projects, meeting to discuss neighbourhood issues, or getting together socially all contribute to this sense of community. In company with the PARA board and other community-minded folk, I'm happy to contribute what I can. —Paul Maclean, PARA Chair

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Business ventures along the commercial streets in the PARA neighbourhood are constantly changing. We welcome new businesses that bring a greater range of services closer to our homes.

Pancho's Bakery is opening its 3rd outlet in Toronto at 658 College, where they can seat about 20. They hope to repeat the success of their other two locations at in Kensington Market and on Dufferin St.



Pancho's specialises in Mexican baked goods, including torras and churros, and this store will also highlight Mexican chocolate.

Gallant Bikes plans to let you get a bike the way you want it in their new store at 678 Bloor West - No, really!! Open now, Gallant lets you



choose your colour, frame, handlebars, gearing, brakes, chain, pedals, grips and more, and then customize beyond that. As of writing they had a \$100-off Spring special. Check 'em out at www.gallantbicycles.com.

Chef Masanari Tamaki is serving up great Japanese tapas and ramen at **Rioji Kamen**

Iza-kaya 690 College, which is their first location outside of Japan. With over 100 seats, communal tables and colourful light fixtures, this

pub-cum-noodle house is a great place for ramen (try the Otoki-Aji, loaded with pork-belly in a tonkotsu based broth for instance,) or maybe just to kick back and grab a pint or two.

La Casa del Cafe plans to bring its clients a great experience in every cup of coffee in their new location at 774 College.

Owners Kim Chou (who also owns the New Seaway Fish Market in Kensington) and Chris Xu present us with **Japas Japanese Tapas and Oyster Bar**, taking over the old Camto space at at 692 Bloor. The wide-ranging tapas menu includes such things as mini sushi



pizza, Japas salad with lotus root and deep-fried whitebait, as well as yakitori, and various rice and noodle dishes. There's also a fresh oyster bar with offerings updated daily. For drinks there's Sapporo and Sake, or maybe you'd like to try the Chu-hi grapefruit cocktail.

Butter Chicken Roti is coming soon to 398 College Street in a new roti joint called **Butter Chicken Roti**.

Its sign boasts over 15 types of vegetarian and non-vegetarian gourmet rotis.

La Burrita replaces the old Abyssinia restaurant at 735 Bloor at Bickford Park, serving up fast, casual and tasty Mexican food.

PHOTOS BY DON SCOTT

Allan Reynolds from page 3

Matching his commitment to his clients and volunteer work was his steadfast devotion to his family.

My father first courted my mother Joan in the late 1970s on Euclid Avenue – then populated largely by Italian and Portuguese immigrant families – where she had bought a house and lived communally with three other women. Joan embodied the same public-mindedness that Allan would soon adopt. When their children attended Clinton Street Public School, she co-chaired the parent-teacher as-

sociation and served on the Centennial Committee whose efforts resulted in the establishment of the school's art room.

I remember countless evenings playing back-alley baseball with my father and brother as we dodged the pulpy, red runoff streaming down the lane from our neighbours' homemade tomato sauce production each spring. Rather than golfing with his chums on weekends, Allan biked and rollerbladed with his children in the summer and rose well before sunrise in the winter, chauffeuring me to far-flung house

league hockey games that could just as well have been played mere blocks away at Bill Bolton Arena, and at more sensible hours.

To his family, as to his community, Allan was a constant model of active, thoughtful engagement. Neighbours, family members and fellow volunteers alike recognized his sunny outlook, equanimity and the genuine interest he took in other people and the neighbourhood around him.

Allan's warm, conciliatory voice, while now silent, echoes in the legacy of his community work and spirit. [PARA](#)

Markham St. Shul from page 1

1980's by personally taking on the restoration of the building. He now looks after the regular upkeep of the building as well as the many needs of the congregation such as the Kiddush lunches on the Sabbath, and community seders at Passover, of which there were two this year.

Congregation Shaarei Tzedec is a place to be appreciated not only as a historical landmark but also as a place where a vibrant community keeps renewing and nurturing itself. For more information on the synagogue, visit: <http://shaareitzedec.org>. [PARA](#)

NEWSLETTER MISSION

- We want to inform, educate and support our community on local issues
- Help develop a sense of belonging and enjoyment in a safe community
- Promote community betterment through active participation of residents
- Support the growth of PARA membership

PARA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Maclean (Chair); Paul Unterman (Treasurer & Membership Coordinator); Doug Lowry (Secretary); Emerich Kaspar (Zoning & Bylaws); Donald Scott (Communications, Newsletter and Website Coordinator); Fernanda Pisani (Communications, Newsletter Design); Graham Lewis (Greenspace & Beautification); Rachael MacKenzie (Healey Willan Park Project); James Choy (Planet Palmerston); Heather Schramm. For electronic versions of the newsletter content and additional information on PARA, visit our website at www.palmerstonara.org. Email us at info@palmerstonara.org.



Palmerston Area Residents' Association

Developments in our Neighbourhood 2013 Annual Community Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 pm

College Street United Church

452 College St. (northwest corner of College & Bathurst)

COME OUT TO HEAR AND DISCUSS NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

City Building: A New Convergence — A presentation and discussion by Ken Greenberg on development pressures – large and small – facing neighbourhoods like ours.

Ken is an architect, urban designer, teacher, writer, and active in civic issues (Code Blue, Waterfront, NO Casino). Author of 'Walking Home'. Former Director of Urban Design and Architecture for the City of Toronto.

**This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbours
PARA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

| Elect new board of directors | Volunteer to help out | Renew your membership/become a new member |

www.palmerstonara.org

DID YOU KNOW?



Got Time for a free App?

You can download a free Toronto Historical App complete with pictures and descriptions of the way we were. "Toronto in Time", (iOS and Android) for computers, mobile devices, and tablets, has photos, slideshows, and historical stories. Just locate yourself on their map a click away. You can find the free download at: <http://www.citiesintime.ca/toronto>

Tired of parking tickets? Temporary Parking Permits for Guests...

Residents can purchase a temporary parking permit provided that space is available, at a cost of \$19.66 per week, \$8.39 per 24 hours or \$12.59 per 48 hours, plus H.S.T. This program generally services those residential areas where driveways are not common. You can go to city hall, or you can do it on line, and even print the permit at your home. For detailed information go to <https://secure.toronto.ca/wes/eTPP/welcome.do>

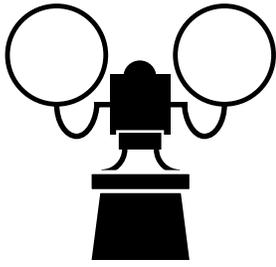


Layton continued from page 2

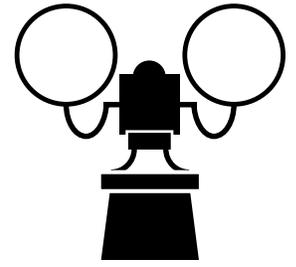
finally agreed to let us move forward with the installation of contra-flow and this will help connect much of our East-West Bikeway Network. The City will begin work on Shaw from Dupont to Dundas. Transportation services has also begun examining a separated lane on Harbord Street from Bathurst across to Hoskin and Wellesley. We held a meeting on this last fall and I am happy to share details if you have any questions.

The Casino I continue to do everything I can to stop the casino proposal. Please contact my office for details.

DON SCOTT



PARA



Palmerston Area Residents Association (PARA) is actively working on behalf of area residents to improve our local neighbourhood. Your membership donation helps to fund PARA's efforts to lobby for sensible development, support communication mechanisms like our website, protect the character and beauty of the neighbourhood, and maintain the quality of life we all enjoy here.

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM 2013

You can become a new member or renew your yearly membership in one of two easy ways:

Written: Fill in this form and mail it with your cheque to our membership coordinator

Website: Go online to PARA's website www.palmerstonara.org/about-us/membership/ and use our simple digital form to pay for your membership through PayPal
(Note that membership fees are for one year only, renewable each February)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address (please include unit number if appropriate) _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Phone # (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ email _____

New Member Renewing Member

Payment (check appropriate box)

- Cash Cheque (Please make your cheque payable to PARA)
- Individual voting member.....\$10
- Supporting member (to provide additional support for PARA activities.....\$20
- Super supporting member (to provide maximum support for PARA activities).....\$40

Please mail your cheque to:
Paul Unterman, PARA Membership Coordinator
446 Markham Street
Toronto, ON M6G 2L2