

Legacies carved in stone

Funds raised for Temple Sholom Greenwich through successful Commemorative Brick campaign

By Victoria Bresnahan

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Danielle Elkowitz, a fourth-grader at Ridge Street School, points to her family's brick outside of Temple Sholom in Greenwich, Conn. Members of the temple gathered outside the synagogue's main entrance on Sunday, Sept. 22 to watch as the ribbon was cut for their new commemorative brick walkway. Victoria Bresnahan|Westmore News



Co-chairs of Temple Sholom's Commemorative Brick Campaign Hillary Rosenthal (left), Alisa Savitz (center) and Alexandra Hochman, who is also the President of the Board of Trustees, pose before cutting the ribbon. Victoria Bresnahan|Westmore News

As the Jewish community prepares to rejoice in the New Year, congregants of Temple Sholom in Greenwich, Conn. are celebrating a new brick walkway that allowed them to become part of the synagogue's legacy.

On Sunday, Sept. 22, members of the temple gathered outside as the President of the Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of Temple Sholom's Commemorative Brick Campaign Alexandra Hochman, along with co-chairs Hillary Rosenthal and Alisa Savitz, cut the ribbon to officially open their new brick walkway. Two sections of the outside staircase now contain dozens of bricks with the names of the families and congregants who purchased them.

"May we all be able to walk upon these bricks knowing that it leads us to a richer, more meaningful life," Hochman said before cutting the ribbon.

The bricks, she said, gave donors the opportunity to "leave a mark" that they contributed and were present at the temple.

"We recognize that we have a lot of longstanding members and large families, and every member, if you will, contributes to the existence of the community," she said. "So, contributing their brick is symbolic, it's not financial. It shows their support in a meaningful way. It shows the community that we have a lot of members."

Hochman said when they initiated the campaign, they were not sure how successful it would be. From their perspective, though, it was. Funds garnered from the campaign will be used

for the operating and annual budget of the temple—supporting the programming and services they provide.

“It’s a large space so we hope maybe over time to have secondary and tertiary campaigns that fill space over time, but for this year’s purposes we exceeded our goal,” Hochman said. “We are really proud and happy about that.”

One of the donors, Hannah Mensch, a resident of Red Roof Drive in Rye Brook, said during a phone interview the new brick walkway was a wonderful idea. She said they participated because the pathway is a way to be a part of the community now and in the future.

“My favorite thing I would say is last Sunday, when I took our kids to Hebrew school, I showed them our name on the walkway. It was very meaningful for them. It was very lovely.”