

Biography

Patsy Mallek Royer



CHW Ottawa Centre will honour Patsy Mallek Royer at its 2024 annual spring tea. Patsy is a community leader, well known for her creativity, her boundless energy, and her passion for helping others.

Patsy learned the importance of being involved in Jewish life and supporting Israel from her late parents, Dr. Josephine and Dr. Howard Mallek, who were staunch supporters of Vancouver's Jewish community. Patsy began her strong connection with her Jewish community as a Young Judea camper, and later as a member of the University of British Columbia's Student Zionist Organization.

Patsy is a life member of CHW Ottawa Centre, with which she is both a leader and a behind-the-scenes worker for its fundraising activities. She is the creative and talented impetus for CHW's participation in Ottawa's annual Chanukah Fair. Patsy has been a constant and strong champion of CHW's projects in Israel supporting education, healthcare, and social services, and she is proud that her family ties go back to the very founding of Tel Aviv.

Patsy was a special education teacher for 20 years. When she, her late husband Georges, and her children Sylvie and Dan, joined Ottawa's Temple Israel 36 years ago, she was a volunteer teacher in the Temple's school, and served in a variety of positions on the Board of Directors, including president. An avid quilter, she co-founded the Temple Israel Quilting Group, which has made more than 2,000 baby quilts for neonatal units and daycare centres in Israel, including the CHW Terry Schwarzfeld (Ottawa) Daycare Center. She has also crafted and distributed many adult quilts to local Indigenous survivors, hospital patients, women's shelters, and Roger's House for pediatric palliative care.

For the past 10 years, Patsy has used her prodigious artistic talents and volunteer skills at Creative Connections, a weekly seniors' AJA 50+ program held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Patsy also created the costuming for Tamir's 2010 musical production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," and animated the exhibit "A Coat of Many Colours" at the former Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Patsy is a Lion of Judah with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and a legacy donor and canvasser for several Jewish organizations. She is also a founding and current member of the Musica Ebraica choir, dedicated to sharing Jewish choral music with the larger community.

A proud grandmother of three, Patsy's mantra is "If you see a need, you have to fill it!" She has certainly lived by these words, to the enormous benefit of the Ottawa community at large and its Jewish community in particular.

Patsy has chosen CHW's project "One Day at a Time – On the Road to Rehabilitation and Recovery" to receive the donations made in her honour. All funds raised will support physical rehabilitation and psychological recovery at Hadassah Hospital and Shamir Medical Center to help heal the wounded and rebuild broken lives.