

The Person Fund

which allows community members to donate to Early Childhood programs here at BHS and was established by Diane Person in memory of her husband Stanley Person.

A tradition of caring...

Stanley Person had a lifelong passion for helping children – and for many years volunteered at the Brooklyn School for Special Children, chairing their board, and nurturing the school through its development. Besides working with this school for developmentally disabled children and adults, he was actively involved as a board member and fundraiser for the Spina Bifida Association of America. In particular, Stanley demonstrated his caring for children in his strong support for the establishment of a preschool here at BHS. His daughter, Rabbi Hara Person shares,

“He had a very special place in his heart for the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, and loved the idea of the preschool. When he died, my daughter Liya, who was eleven at the time, suggested that we start a fund in his memory at BHS and that it be for the preschool because she knew that would combine the things he cared about. And so we did.”

Diane Person is still a generous supporter of the Person Fund with an abiding interest in children's literature, literacy, and the ways Judaism can be passed from generation to generation through teaching. She is a retired education professor with a particular focus on literacy and children's literature, and served for years on the Newbery Committee of the American Library Association. She co-edited the definitive Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature covering 150 years of children's literature word wide.

Diane cares deeply about how literacy is taught and acquired, so it is especially fitting that this year the Person Fund was used to further develop the Preschool's approach to early literacy by funding both professionally development and the purchase of new materials. Next year, the preschool will focus on improvement of our library – a plan which the Person Fund will allow us to realize more fully.

Now, at the age of thirteen and celebrating our “Bar Mitzvah,” BHS is particularly grateful for all those who support our work with the youngest members of the community. Thank you to each and every one of you who makes this such a special place for children to learn and grow.

“He that loves a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counselor, a cheerful companion, an effectual comforter.”

- Isaac Barrow