

Terry Maiden

I grew up in a very secular family in Burlington and came out to my parents when I started university. I completed a four year Bachelor's degree in languages at McMaster, as well as an M.A in German to be followed by Ph.D studies at Queen's. I was hired by the Toronto District School Board to teach French, German, ESL and Special Ed during the course of my career. I retired from North Toronto Collegiate in 2006 but have continued to supply teach since then as a way to both supplement my income and maintain a connection to my profession.

In addition to teaching I volunteer with the Toronto Lesbian and Gay Archives especially on special events and find it rewarding giving back to the community. I keep very physically active with the gym, pilates, yoga and biking. For the past several years I have volunteered for Sar El in Israel during the winter (Feb/Mar). We pack and sort medical supplies on an IDF base and I find the work a great way to do my part in helping to defend Israel as well as a way to meet others from other countries wanting to do the same. During my free time in Tel Aviv I take tours and socialize with a friend from Toronto who made Aliyah.

I have worked on the Boards of three LGBT Jewish organizations in the past and have served as both secretary and events planner. I have been a member of Shir Libeynu for the last 5 years and find that both the diversity and the close ties of the members to be important factors which set this Shul apart from many others. I feel that with my experience and energy I can give back to the community and also strengthen my connection.

After one year on the Board I have been able to successfully launch a new initiative with a film series at the 519. Along with my co curator Dinah Rosen we have selected a variety of Jewish themed movies to screen once a month not only for our members but for the Jewish community at large.

In addition, I curated our annual Holocaust Education Week event by screening the documentary 'Germans and Jews'. It turned out to be a great success and I was very appreciative of so many compliments which made all the hard work worthwhile.