

## Sol Green z"I and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies

Sol z"I was an integral member of the Pardes community for decades as both a student and a lay leader. He was an alumnus of the Pardes Learning Seminar and a longtime Pardes Community Education Program participant.

In addition, Sol was a cherished and dedicated member of the Pardes Board of Directors. It was a rare occasion that he missed a board meeting. He was one of the most loyal attendees. He did not speak unless he had something important to say, and his advice was always spot on. His leadership at Pardes was characterized by his tremendous traits of perseverance, politeness, good humor, intelligence and thankfulness.

Sol and Julia z"I loved learning and loved learning in havruta together, which they did for many years in the Community Education Program. They embraced Pardes learning and they embraced Pardes, with its open doors, welcoming community and ability to bring people closer to their Judaism and the Jewish people.

Sol chose to mark Julia's yahrzeit with an evening lecture in the Pardes beit midrash for the greater Pardes community (see below). That evening, a former student of Sol's at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work and longtime Pardes staff member Debra Weiner recalled Sol's delight 22 years ago when she made aliyah and joined the Pardes staff. That evening Debra shared:

In a dvar torah on parshat Balak given by Rav Benny Lau, who we were privileged to hear last month in this Beit Midrash, he made reference to the pasuk: מה טובו אהלך יעקב משכנתך ישראל How goodly are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places,O Israel.

According to Rav Lau, Bilaam blessed Bnei Yisrael with open tents, accepting of all denominations. This was the motto that Julia z"I and Sol have lived by, in supporting an institution whose doors are open to offer all who want a safe place to learn.

In the final years of Sol's z"l life, he made a point of coming out for evening lectures at Pardes. The community would welcome him, with many regular attendees coming up to him and ensuring he had a front row seat to hear the speakers.

In the final months of his life, the world shut down due to COVID and Pardes learning moved online. Debra taught Sol how to use Zoom to ensure that he could continue his learning with Pardes until his final days.

Sol and Julia Green's z"l memory is a blessing on us all, and particularly on the Pardes community.

