

***Expression of Condolence for Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Colle

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld on May 11, 2026.

Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld served as Rabbi and Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanu-El for 58 years, and was well established as a community leader for his work in the City of Toronto. Rabbi Bielfeld was known for his commitment to social justice, advocating compassionately on issues of poverty, hunger and peace, and for his contributions to interfaith projects and community building initiatives. In recognition of his service to others, Rabbi Bielfeld was awarded the Order of Canada in 2013.

Rabbi Bielfeld made a profound impact on the lives of so many Torontonians. His work will live on through the congregants of Temple Emanu-El, and through the numerous organizations whose missions he helped advance, including as a founding chair of the Leo Baeck Day School, MAZON Canada – a Jewish response to Hunger, KOLEL – the Adult Centre for Jewish Liberal Learning, and the Campaign Against Child Poverty, and as a board member of the United Way of Greater Toronto, Casey House Hospice, Casey House Foundation, and the North York Committee on Community, Race and Ethnic Relations.

A close friend and ally of Father Massey Lombardi—who was instrumental in advancing the vision and realization of the Peace Garden—Rabbi Bielfeld was deeply committed to this initiative. Following Father Lombardi’s passing, he took on the responsibility to “carry the torch”, working tirelessly over the past two and a half years to ensure that the original intent and significance of this act by the City was preserved and re-imagined in the current context.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld’s family, may his memory be a blessing.

May 20, 2026