

This past spring I was honoured to be part of a diversity for educators program here in Ontario. They created a short video-documentary on the day of learning.

Watching this, I began to reflect on my role as a Jewish clergy member, as your spiritual leader, and how this work I do goes beyond services and sermons once a week or holidays and lifecycles—it is as diverse as this day of learning was.

I am only able to do this work because you, [Congregation Beth El of Windsor](#), invested in spiritual leadership, you invested in the importance of clergy performing that role. That role is to engage daily in pastoral, educational, musical, administrative, visionary, and social justice work. But it goes beyond the doors of our synagogue, through conversations and meetings and lectures in the interfaith community—with the press, with our education systems, and more.

Congregations like ours are investing in the Jewish community on a broad scale, in ways which impact our greater society, and in turn impact the Jewish People as we live our lives in that society. A synagogue is not just a place to pray, it is a community to build life in and to find ways to make an impact in all aspects of our lives.

I invite you to watch this program to see just a couple of hours of one day of just a small part of the work we, the Beth El community do and our impact on the greater Windsor-Essex community, and how being in community in this way can make a real difference.

Hazzan Devorah Fick

<https://youtu.be/iipmJTW30f4?feature=shared>