



BOY SCOUT TROOP 54
OLD COLONY COUNCIL – BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CHARTERED TO THE
SOUTH AREA SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL
1 COMMERCE WAY, NORWOOD, MA 02062



CHARTERED SINCE 1986

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Dear Friends,

I'm writing today ask you to help commemorate Jim Bloom's involvement with the Boy Scouts, and more specifically Jim's involvement in and constant support of Jewish Scouting.

Jim and his son Aaron were very active in Troop 225 which was sponsored by Temple Emmanuel in Newton and which later started meeting at Temple Reyim in Newton. After a few years the Troop was merged with Troop 54, which was sponsored by the JCC in Stoughton. The boys had gone to Scout camp and felt very comfortable with Steve Woogmaster who was the Scoutmaster of Troop 54 and it was a very successful merger. Recently the Troop has moved to the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Norwood. We are very excited about our new sponsorship and the ability to start a Cub Scout through Boy Scout program there. I know Jim would have been very helpful to us.

Shortly after I met Jim he was diagnosed with cancer, but as you all know too well, that didn't stop him or slow him down. Jim's support of the troop and of Aaron was amazing. He was at almost every meeting and at almost every outing, hiking trip or campout. Throughout Jim's ordeal with cancer, he was a constant inspiration to all of us. This included the adult Scouters as well as the older scouts who knew him, especially my sons. Jim would walk up mountain trails, with his backpack full of Ham radio equipment, and never once turn back or ask anyone to carry his load. Jim always wore a smile and his can do attitude exemplified the scouting spirit.

Jim's support of Aaron during all of the trips and meetings was constant and unwavering. He also taught our boys, by example, to work side by side with Aaron, and to treat him as no different than themselves. When Aaron did have any difficulty, the boys would help him willingly and patiently. The boys also meet other scouts, who have similar issues, on some of their campouts and have no problem relating to or working side by side with them. This takes Jim's teaching to a greater level.

Jim's scouting career started with the Cub Scouts at Temple Reyim and extended through the Boy Scout program. During that time he earned the Shofar Award, which is given, and not too often, to Scouters "in recognition of outstanding service to Jewish youth in the Boy Scouts of America". Jim's love of Judaism and Scouting were perfectly blended

and he set a wonderful example for the boys and adults. I am going to sorely miss Jim's smiling face at our events.

Troop 54 has established a fund to keep Jim's memory with us and to help us promote Jewish Scouting. Our first task was to replace our current prayer books which were old, heavy, falling apart and carried in two heavy milk crates. We purchased a set of Weekday pocket-size Siddurim which are small enough for backpacking, and a set of Travel Size Chumashim which are complete with Sabbath Prayers for use on our weekend camping trips. We will be putting Jim's name on the bookplate in the front of each book. This will help keep Jim with us and I know will make me smile every time I open one.

I would like to ask you to contribute to the fund to help us establish it with a good footing. The fund will be managed by the Troop Committee and the funds will be spent with the goals I mentioned above. Additionally we would like to use the funds to support sending our boys to other Jewish Scouting events in other parts of the country so they can see how Jewish Scouting is done by others.

Please send checks to our Treasurer, Mrs. Caryl Shriki, 382 Massapoag Ave., Sharon, MA 02067. Make the check payable to Boy Scout Troop 54, Norwood MA. We will keep you up to date with our Troop and will certainly let you know how the funds are being spent.

Thank you very much,

Steve Greenberg

Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 54.
Old Colony Council