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The Legacy of Jack Layton, a message of peace



Isaac Romano

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Peace, compassion and generosity. In three words, Isaac Romano, director of the Jewish Community Centre in the Eastern Townships, describes the legacy of the late NDP leader Jack Layton. Touched by the values of charismatic politician, Romano wanted to honor his memory in a special way. For him, the end of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, was the perfect opportunity.

"The Rosh Hashanah marks a time of reflection for individuals and the community. It is time to leave behind the immaterial things that one does not wish to reproduce in the new year," says Romano. "At the same time, it's time to choose the values and positions that we will continue to defend."

"Many people were affected when they learned about the ideals of Jack Layton," says Romano. Strong proponent of non-violence, the founder of the Jewish community center in the Eastern Townships is convinced that recall the message of peace conveyed by the figure of the orange wave can have a positive impact on relations between individuals and ... communities. Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, all are invited to a dinner this Friday at 18 h 30 at 380 Dufferin Street, in the presence of MP for Sherbrooke, Pierre-Luc Dusseault.

The idea to bring the believers of different denominations is not new to the Jewish Community Centre in the Eastern Townships. Since it opened a year ago and a half, center, attended by forty people, pursues this mission dictated by the Tikkum Olam. "This is a Jewish concept that says that we are committed to working to repair the planet, human relations such as the environment," explains Romano.

Peace, is a Possible Avenue

Bringing people from different backgrounds, is a challenge that could be achieved everywhere on the globe, even in the Middle East, where Israelis and Palestinians have been fighting for decades? Isaac Romano believes, provided that the parties lay down their arms. Moreover, he sees a good eye the decision of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to ask the UN to be recognized as a state. "I think the Palestinians should use all non-violent means they can to get their own territory, their home," he says.