



KOL HA'KEHILAH

THE COMMUNITY VOICE קול הקהילה



ASK WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Rabbi Boris Dolin

Every summer during the commemoration of Tisha B'Av, we gather to mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples and many of the other tragedies of Jewish history. It is a day when we actually are commanded to cry and to do all that we can to bring ourselves to a place of loss and sadness. Not the most well attended synagogue holiday!

Yet, it is clear after even a cursory glance at the history, that the destruction of the Temple, which led the Jewish people into exile for thousands of years, was actually one of the most beneficial events of Jewish history. Because of the destruction, Judaism evolved from a highly centralized, mostly undemocratic and power-focused faith to a (still imperfect) creative, evolving and fluid Judaism which led to what we have today. Because of the loss of the Temple, the Rabbis who wrote the Mishnah and the Talmud had no choice but to ask questions which had not been asked before and, in a very real way, break with tradition to allow Judaism to survive. The loss of the Temple led to the creation of a new, relevant and sustainable Judaism.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elana Cooperberg

It is hard to imagine that I am coming to the end of my two-year term as President of the Board of Directors of Dorshei Emet. The context in which we have found ourselves for over a year now has blurred my sense of time. I find myself wondering what month it is or, worse, what day it is, as moments fade into one another without memorable events to clearly mark and identify the passing of time. It is difficult to remember when we were last in synagogue together, greeting one another in a warm embrace. And yet, here we are, the passing of the torch to another President, to a new Board of Directors, as we move from what we hope is a period of transition to a post-COVID-19 era. I offer my parting words here as I look towards the future with hope and excitement for what lies in store for us.

On a personal note, I am excited about the possibility of getting back to my work office. While I like my home, I never thought I would be spending so much time here! The spontaneous chats in the corridor, the unplanned meetings

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As the Board Looks Ahead – From Difficulty Springs Opportunity

Liz Freedman, 1st Vice-President

While the past year (plus) has been one of restrictions, hardship and forced adaptability, it has also been a time of innovation, creativity and (well) forced adaptability. In keeping with a long history of Jews thriving under hardship and restrictions, Dorshei Emet has embraced this on all levels.

We moved quickly and almost seamlessly to online services, much ahead of other Montreal congregations. We were able to incorporate new aspects of inclusion. Our Shabbat morning services have been a source of comfort for many members and participation is high.

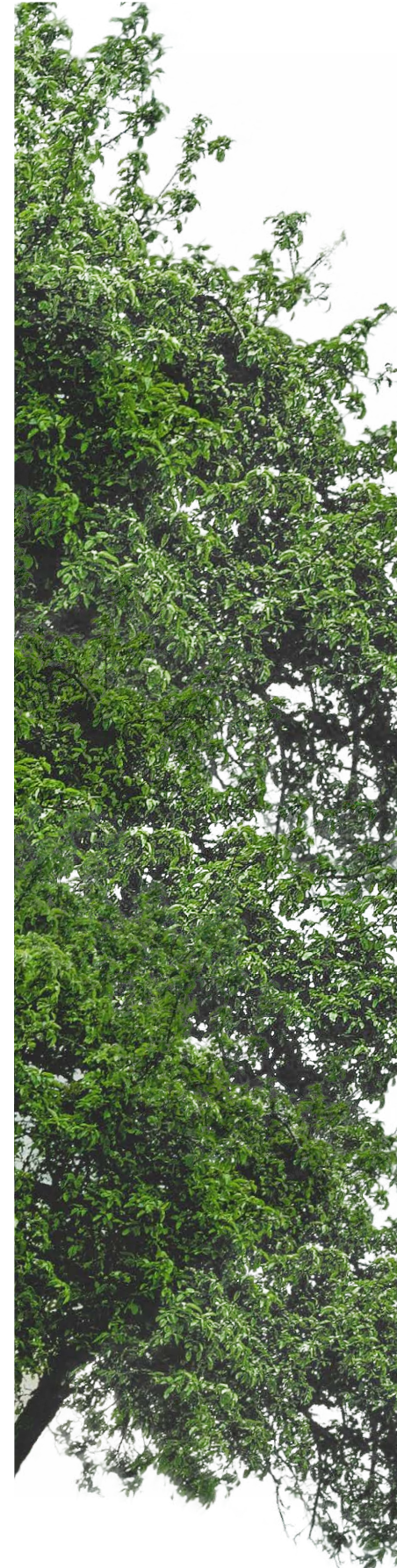
We immediately shifted programming to an online model and vastly expanded the quality and quantity of our offerings. We welcomed new participants from both within and outside of Dorshei Emet and increased our reputation in the wider community. This provided everyone with new ways of connecting and sharing, especially those living alone.

Our Rabbi shone as a tech-geek, our staff shifted to work-from-home, and the Board moved to online meetings, all within the blink of an eye. We were determined to focus on the benefits and advantages that these changes brought to us (aside from the saved commutes and ability to wear pajama bottoms...).

We are already hard at work thinking about, and planning for, what Dorshei Emet will look like once we emerge from the restrictions (and we will!). It is inevitable that things will not look entirely as they did pre-COVID and that should be seen as a source of excitement. We cannot ignore how many more people we have reached online or how we have evolved as a congregation. It reminds us of who we are at Dorshei Emet – seekers of what is better and what works for us as a community.

Don't be surprised to see some changes once we transition back to life in person - whether it's a hybrid model of services and programs, additions to our traditions, more connection with the Reconstructing Judaism movement, or a wider variety of events. We have begun that process with our Response & Renewal Survey and our Parlour Meetings. The Board will use your feedback as we plan for the year ahead.

Please don't be shy to share with us the elements that you have embraced, what has spoken to you and what has not, and what you would like to continue seeing. We will continue to shape Dorshei Emet together.



Membership has its Benefits

Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director

This year it seems like everything has changed - how we work, how we see friends and family and how we interact as part of a synagogue community.

One of the changes you will soon see is our new online Membership Package. For years we have circulated an enormous mailing every summer containing letters from the President and Rabbi and pages of documents for members to complete. Keep your eyes open for the new online Membership Package email at the beginning of the summer. The form will also be available on the website in the member portal.

Every summer during renewal season, people ask me to describe the benefits of joining the shul as opposed to purchasing a Guest Pass. I explain that being a member is like being part of the family - you can have a say in what happens, join committees, express your opinions and benefit from a support system that is geared to every stage of life. Participating in the High Holidays via a Guest Pass is not the same experience at all. Shul

members welcome guests enthusiastically - it's a virtue we are proud of at Dorshei Emet - but being a guest is not the same as being part of the family.

For example, you come to my house for dinner and you don't like the chicken. As a family member you can come into the kitchen, point out the problem and help me fix it. As a guest you are more likely to eat it politely (and tell your family it wasn't good when you get home). Being a member makes you an insider at Dorshei Emet, part of the mispacha.

When you receive your online Membership Package email this summer I hope you will fill it in enthusiastically and renew your place in the Dorshei Emet family. We need your help with the chicken! We are hopefully close to in-person services and events, and we want your input in reimagining and maximizing the impact of Dorshei Emet.

On behalf of the staff at your shul, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back soon!



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET
18 Cleve Road, Hampstead, Quebec H3X 1A6


INVITES YOU TO THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021 @ 7:00PM

**Come celebrate our accomplishments as a community!
Thank our outgoing board members and welcome our new board.**

**To attend please email: programdirector@dorshei-emet.org
to receive the Zoom access link**



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DORSHEIEMET1
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
DORSHEIEMET.COM FOR UPDATED NEWS AND
PROGRAM CALENDAR



BRINGING IN SHABBAT TOGETHER

Sharron Schwartz and Syd Stepner

January 8, 2021, was the first of our newly-minted Friday Night Live Kabbalat Shabbats. We honestly did not know what to expect or even how many participants there would be.

We started off by saying words we had not said in close to a year: *“Welcome to our home, it is so nice to have you come join us.”* And with that, the end of the solitude Shabbat.

Friendly, familiar faces all gathered around their screens, lighting candles together, saying the *brachas*, more or less in sync, but always in tune with each other. The virtual Kabbalat Shabbat has given us the opportunity to visit with each other and hear the stories and songs that bring us to the end of one week and the beginning of another. It has also shown us how each of us defines the manner in which we engage in Shabbat in our own personal ways. The joy and the reflection, the gathering of family and the breaking of bread, the dancing and the reciting of poetry have all been present as we have gathered together on Friday evenings.

It truly has been such a lovely, warm way to usher in Shabbat. We see it as a stepping-stone in our path towards being together in person.



YIZKOR BOOK

Bernie Weinstein

Last summer, we were all stuck at home due to the COVID-19 crisis. Many of us spent our time outside, enjoying the weather and hoping that we would soon be able to resume our normal lives. Who would have thought that we would still be in “hoping mode” this summer? At least those of us who have been vaccinated can see the locomotive headlight at the end of the tunnel.

This crisis will certainly give us a great story to tell future generations.

Notwithstanding COVID-19, the Yizkor Book committee has been hard at work preparing the 5782 edition. We are launching the Memory Book and will soon invite members to submit names to be honoured. The 5782 Yizkor Book will be used at the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur on September 16 - hopefully in person.

A new feature, the Memory Book will contain stories, audio material, and photos of people who have been honoured in this year’s Yizkor Book, submitted by members of our congregation. It will allow those of us who didn’t know these people to come closer to them and to better understand why they are so honoured. We are sure it will be a wonderful experience, both for those making the submissions and for those who read, listen or view the entries.

The Yizkor Book will contain significant new material this year based partly on requests received from members during our survey earlier this year. The new material will include, among other things, a prayer for those who have suffered from Covid and a prayer and meditation to be used when lighting a *yahrzeit* candle. We are sure you will find these readings meaningful

Over the next few months, we hope you enjoy the summer and stay safe and healthy - and remember to submit the names of those you love to be honoured in the 5782 edition of the Dorshei Emet Yizkor Book .

Because Rosh Hashanah is so early this year, our deadline for submission of names for the 5782 edition of the Yizkor Book has been set at July 31. Once all the names have been submitted, we will begin accepting submissions for the Memory Book which will be opened, to members only, before Yom Kippur. The Yizkor Books will be distributed on Yom Kippur, September 16.



Thank you to all of you who participated in the Responses and Renewal Survey!

The survey was circulated to all adult members of Dorshei Emet on Jan. 27, 2021. Reminders appeared several times in the Weekly and a separate appeal was sent to all members under 50 years of age on Feb. 14. In total there were 168 responses.

In addition to numerical data, the survey yielded two hundred comments on a variety of topics. The results have been tabulated and analyzed and will be presented to the membership before the Annual General Meeting on June 23.

The survey touched on many aspects of synagogue life and has provided valuable information to help us build a strong future together. Many areas received glowing praise, other areas need to be improved.

The next step in this project will involve small-scale parlour meetings, coordinated by Natalie Amar, which will focus on a

variety of areas including children’s programming, committee engagement, social justice, social clubs and interfaith issues.

The first of these meetings, which took place on Aril 28, focused on children’s programming needs for our youngest members, aged 6 and under. Participation was strong and the conversation was lively! A second meeting on May 12, focusing on the needs of older children aged 7-10, touched on many of the same issues and identified new ones as well. Both meetings provided critical input as we plan for the future.

Please stay tuned for more information about the next parlour meetings.

A hearty thank you to the Board of Directors for their participation in developing the survey, and to the Survey Team, who mined the data and unearthed gems: Nadav Aigen, Chaim Colman, Liz Freedman and Ellayne Kaplan.

Jewish Journeys @ Dorshei Emet

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is more than just an event - it is a journey.



Dorshei Emet takes the B’nei Mitzvah process one step further with our **Jewish Journeys Program**.

Our interactive approach serves to foster Jewish identity and build relationships. We offer a mix of informal learning, youth group style fun, and family activities. Opportunities for a child to explore and discover what being Jewish really means.

Designed for pre-B’nei Mitzvah girls and boys in grade 6 or 7. - **Limited Spots Available** -

Join Us

Program begins after the High Holidays 2021.

For more info, or to register contact:

Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director
executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET
 18 Cleve Road, Hampstead, Quebec H3X 1A6



BUILDING BRIDGES AT CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

Lori Rabinovitch

If you are reading this article in the Congregation Dorshei Emet bulletin, it is likely that you identify as a member of Montréal's Jewish community – if not religiously then certainly culturally.

We talk a lot about identity today. Our contemporary human world is regularly described in terms of a person's or a group's identity. Racism against Asian Americans is on the rise. Antisemitic attacks are increasing. Black citizens are violently attacked by police officers. First Nations patients are ridiculed in hospital wards. Transgender people are forbidden from using public washrooms.

When we are alone or with those they love and trust, few of us self-identify based on our skin colour, religious affiliation, or cultural ethnicity. Rather, it is when someone we don't know or do not trust tries to label or describe us that we take a position regarding our identity. We become proprietary about how we want to be identified and where on the vast spectrum of identities we want to situate ourselves.

Labels are not always bad; they can serve the purpose of focussing needed attention on an issue or a person. In the spring of 2020, an American citizen named George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police officers. The Black Lives Matter movement, a movement that was neither new nor without longstanding and justifiable grievances, became a symbol – a label – that galvanized a broad base of people across many countries, including Canada.

This global movement impacted the members of Dorshei Emet, a relatively small and homogenous community. I think the reason our community responded so immediately to the protests of 2020 is that, more than Jewish rites and rituals and prayer, our community rests on a strong values-based foundation that guides our internal actions and outreach activities.

Many of us felt compelled to recognize the tragedy of Mr. Floyd's death and, at the same time, build bridges to local Montréal communities whose members may not look or sound like us but with whom we share a belief in human rights

and freedoms. Three sessions, around the general theme of building bridges, were organized at Dorshei Emet. During the first session, our speakers were two Black women (one of whom is Jewish) who discussed their personal stories and a white man discussing the history of the Jewish Black Alliance. During the second session, we heard from a Labrador Inuk man, who is in the process of becoming a Jew. The third session, hosted by two young American women who created their own company, Making Mensches, examined how Jewish communities can become more inclusive.

The three sessions mentioned above are consistent with past actions taken by Congregation Dorshei Emet and provide a concrete direction for future bridge building activities.



Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director

In December 2020, Federation CJA put out a call for applications for a Mental Health and Isolation Reduction Grant. We applied and were thrilled in January to receive the grant! Oria and I were excited for the opportunity to offer additional fabulous programming to our members and the community at large during a tough time, and the Dorshei Emet Winter Wellness series was launched.

Between January and March, we offered 13 programs under this banner including our most well-attended Zoom program to date – Brunch in Paris, a virtual Tour of Jewish Paris, with 457 attendees from around the world. In addition, we offered cooking workshops, a fabulous Purim party, Dr. Mitch taking questions, and many other learning and community events. In all, over 1300 people attended the Dorshei Emet Winter Wellness events.

After each session we sent out a short questionnaire to all participants to gather data for our reporting requirements for Federation. I want to share some of the wonderful comments we received in gratitude:

- Excellent program! These programs are well selected and varied enough to appeal to different interests. They are very well administered. We are Very appreciative.
- So appreciate being able to join in these zoom sessions. They help in so many ways, as we navigate through COVID. The added bonus is hearing from people around our world.
- It is an excellent idea during these long, lonely isolating days of Covid. I take walks for my physical nourishment. These Zooms are interesting & challenge our minds. The idea of collaborating with two agencies is a win/win.
- In the broader sense your programs are helping to bring your community together and so feel connected to each other.
- This is a fantastic joint effort. Commend everyone for working to collaborate with such special programs and helping so many people during these more difficult times.

We would like to thank Federation CJA for the funding for the Dorshei Emet Winter Wellness Series, and to all of the Dorshei Emet members who participated and ensured that the community was so well represented!



"I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for future generations"
Talmud, Taanit 23a

Be remembered forever by Congregation Dorshei Emet with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

Contact Cynthia Weinstein,
ExecutiveDirector@dorshei-emet.org



SOMETHING NEW!

Our next edition of the Kol Ha'kehilah will include a special section for Shana Tova Greetings. Each greeting can be up to 20 words. It's a lovely way to say Shana Tova to the Dorshei Emet family from your family or business. Each greeting is \$18.

Please contact Davina, admin@dorshei-emet.org to submit your messages.
Deadline: July 15, 2021.



Refugee Sponsorship Committee Wraps Up Its Work – For Now

Laurie Usheroff and Eva Echenberg

Last November, the Refugee Sponsorship Committee held its last official meeting – at least for a while. It had been more than five years since Eva Echenberg stood up in the synagogue following services and called for action in response to the growing Syrian refugee crisis.

Soon after, the new Trudeau government committed to bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by February 2016 and threw its support behind private sponsorships as well. A small group of Dorshei Emet members met at Eva's home and voted to raise enough money to sponsor one refugee family. Rabbi Ron and the Board of Directors supported the proposal but we had a three-week deadline to solicit funds before the kick-off of the Annual Giving Campaign.

Raise \$30,000 in three weeks? Impossible, we thought, but worth the try. And less than a month later, we had enough money to sponsor three families. In

January, members produced a concert featuring western and Syrian folk music that added another \$26,000 to our total. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the congregation, as well as contributions from the community, we could add a fourth family to the list.

Little did we know that choosing families to sponsor would be far more difficult than raising money. Should we select those most in need or those best able to integrate into Quebec society? What mattered? Age? Education? Religion? Financial status? We ended up selecting four families with diverse backgrounds and ages. The one thing they had in common was that all four had relatives living in Montreal who cared about them, spoke their language, and could help with their integration.

It would be more than a year before the families arrived in Montreal. After completing the required government

documents, committee members focused on planning for their arrival and collecting furniture and household goods for their future homes. Once again, Dorshei members and the community came through, this time with truckloads of goods for the families. Then, one of the families was approved to enter the United States and decided to accept the offer, leaving three others waiting in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

Finally, in February 2017, the first family arrived at Trudeau International Airport for an emotional reunion with their relatives.

If you want to learn more about the families, or the student from Somalia who came to Canada as the result of our support, please see their profiles in Dorshei Emet's Weekly Updates, beginning on July 9, 2021. The Updates will explain why our work may not be over and why you may still have an opportunity to help.



Ashraf, 9, enjoys a favorite Quebec pastime.



Samer, Razan and Laila, 20, Zafer, 17, and Ashraf, 9, visited Quebec City last summer.

DORSHEI EMET IS NOT JUST A PLACE YOU GO, IT'S WHO YOU ARE.

CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET



Siry and Noura with their four children - Ranem, 10; Sara, 9; Reyad, 2; and Rama, 6 months - pictured in 2016 while waiting to leave Lebanon.

WHO WE ARE

Clergy:

Rabbi Boris Dolin
rabbiboris@dorshei-emet.org
(514) 486-9400 x 104

Officers:

President	Elana Cooperberg
1st Vice President	Liz Freedman
Executive Vice President	David Hill
2nd Vice President	Nadav Aigen
Treasurer	Howard Ellner
Secretary	Natalie Amar
Head Parnass	Jodi Lackman

Board Members:

Myriam Avetisyan
Chaim Colman
Aviva Fuchs
Miki Harrar
Nora Kelner
Diane Sasson
Ilana Shiller
Marilyn Takefman

Our new Board of Directors will be elected at our Annual General Meeting on June 23, 2021– Join us!

Staff:

Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director
executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org
(514) 486-9400 x 103

Davina Shapiro, Office Administrator
admin@dorshei-emet.org
(514) 486-9400 x 101

Oria Lissak, Program Director
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org
(514) 486-9400 x 114

Linda Axler, Bookkeeper
linda@dorshei-emet.org
(514) 486-9400 x 107

Please feel free to contact Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director to learn about the many opportunities in our dynamic committees.
executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org or (514) 486-9400.

Committee Chairs:

Finance Committee

Chair: Howard Ellner

Fundraising and Resource Committee

Membership Committee

Co-Chairs: Natalie Amar & Marilyn Takefman

Kumsitz Committee

Chair: Terrye Perlman

Human Resources Committee

Co-Chairs: David Hill, Liz Freedman & Terrye Perlman

House and Maintenance Committee

Chair: David Hill

Cemetery Committee

Chair: Nadav Aigen

Ritual Practices (Minhag) Committee

Chair: Jodi Lackman

Empty Bowls Committee

Chair: Sarah Dolin

Yahrzeit Committee

Chair: Ellayne Kaplan

Gemilut Hasadim Committee

Chair: Toby Shainbaum-Pollak

Bulletin Committee

Chair: Claudio Smolarz

Nominating Committee

Chair: Jodi Lackman

Security Committee

Chair: David Hill

Yizkor Book Committee

Chair: Bernie Weinstein

Gardening Committee

Chair: Ellen Shalinsky

Rabbi Lavy Becker and Rabbi Ron Aigen

Speakers Series

Chair: Deena Roskies

Life and Legacy Committee

Chair: Russel Copeman

Response and Renewal Committee

Chair: Elana Cooperberg

Dorshei Emet Photo Club

Chair: Aviv Laor

Special thanks to the volunteers that make the Kol Ha'Kehillah possible:

Mona Baumgarten, Ellayne Kaplan and Lois Lieff

SUMMER EVENTS @ DORSHEI EMET

JUNE

- 14 Dorshei Story Program - 7:30 pm
- 23 Annual General Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 24 St-Jean Baptiste Day (Synagogue office closed)
- 25 Friday Night Live Kabbalat Shabbat - 6:30 pm

JULY

- 1 Canada day (Synagogue office closed)
- 15 Deadline for donations and Shana Tova greetings for High Holiday Newslettter
- 17-18 Tisha B'av
- 19-Aug 2 Programming hiatus
- 26-Aug 2 Synagogue office closed
- 31 Deadline for 5782 Yizkor Book submissions

* Dates are subject to change, and more events may be added. Please check our Weekly Announcements, Facebook page, or Website for updates.

AUGUST

- 14 Pride Shabbat

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Labour Day
- 6 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- 7-8 Rosh Hashanah
- 15 Kol Nidrei
- 16 Yom Kippur

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

TORAH AND HAFTORAH CHANTERS OF ALL AGES



Have you ever considered celebrating or commemorating a special occasion, event, or person in a meaningful way? How about redoing your Bat/Bar Mitzvah Torah or Haftorah portions, or any other ones? We especially welcome first timers. Ours is a participating Shul and we want your participation.

Please Contact:

Pearlann Goldenberg: pearlann.g@gmail.com
Tutoring and mentoring available upon request.

DONOR RECOGNITION

5782 (February 13, 2020 - May 5, 2021)

GENERAL FUND**Myriam Avetisyan & Sarkis Kalaygi****Bob Berchuck**, in appreciation of the online programs**Reva Bercovitch**, to mark the yahrzeit of her brother Benny Kastner**Irwin Block**, in memory of his late friend Brian Nevitt z"l**Eleanor Bonder**, in appreciation of the wonderful programming**Diana Drucker****Jonathan Greenberg**, in appreciation of a congregation that

has been an invaluable support to her family in a time of crisis

Marleen Greenberg, in appreciation of the continuing support

that Dorshei Emet has provided for her mother Sheila Greenberg

Gail Greenberg, in honour of her mother Sheila Greenberg,

in response to the wonderful video request for donations to Dorshei Emet

Sam Yates, to mark the yahrzeit of his mother Doris Zwerling z"l**Bonnie & Mark Merson****Ellen Moss & Steven Merovitz**, in appreciation of Oria Lissak

for all the amazing programming and to wish a Happy Passover

to the Dorshei Emet Staff, the Board Members and their families

Gaby Niloff, in memory of Leyla Di Cori z"l**Ellen Shalinsky**, in memory of Hy Shoub z"l**Ellen Shalinsky****Carole Shiller****Ilana & Brahm Shiller**, in appreciation of the Kabbalat Shabbat

with Natalie Amar, Mark Lesk and family

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, in memory of Alex Cohen z"l**Ilana & Brahm Shiller**, in honour of the birthday of Beth Blackmore**Florence Silverstone****Syd Stepner & Sharron Schwartz**, in memory of Steve Acre z"l**Esther Yelen**, in memory of Abraham Yelen z"l**Oria Lissak & Cynthia Weinstein**, in honour of Adrienne Sklar,

Judith Nemes Black, Sandra Phillips, Irv Perlman

Sandy & Bernie Weinstein, in memory of Steve Acre z"l**GEMILUT HASADIM FUND****Richard Budgett****Vivan Saginur**, in appreciation of the Dorshei Emet Community**Myra Shuster**, in memory of her father Abraham Shuster z"l**MANNY BACH TORAH FUND****Stephen Solway & Kala Bach-Solway**, in honour of the birthday

of Josh Bach

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, wishing Mazel Tov to Mark

Bassel and Abby Kleinberg-Bassel on becoming grandparents

HARVEY KAHN CHANUKAH FOOD BASKETS FUND**Olga Gross**, in memory of Steven Acre z"l**KIDDUSH FUND****Marilyn Takefman & Teddy Goloff**, in memory of Leyla Di Cori z"l**MEIR IFERGAN B'NEI MITZVAH FUND****Pearlann Goldenberg**, wishing a Refuah Shlema to Janet Sherman**Jacqueline Ifergan****RABBI RON MEMORIAL FUND****Valerie & William Lipnick**, in memory of Daniel Lévy z"l and in

honour of Joseph Daniel Lipnick

Bryna Rosman Rubinger, to mark the yahrzeit of her parents Ida

Tennenboim z"l & Hyman Rosman z"l

Frances Schanfield**Ilana & Brahm Shiller**, in memory of Rabbi Ron Aigen z"l**Myra Shuster**, in memory of her mother Dinah Shuster z"l**Norma Wasserman**, in honour of Oria Lissak for excellent

programming

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**Brigitte Albert**, in honour of Jack Wolofsky's special birthday**Leslie & Leigh Dolin**, in memory of their daughter Jessica Dolin z"l**Rena Entus**, in memory of Gary Fabian z"l**Audrey & Mark Berner**, in appreciation of David Hill**Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch**, for selling the chametz on

Passover

Shainy Haim, wishing a Refuah Shlema to Rosana Caplan's

mother in Israel

Felice Heller, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris Dolin**Warren Litwin**, in memory of Barbara Harris Yoffe z"l**Ellen Moss & Steven Merovitz**, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris

Dolin & the amazing programming

Shara Rosen, in honour of Jack Wolofsky's 90th birthday**Vivian Saginur**, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris Dolin, Oria Lissak

& Cynthia Weinstein

TZEDAKA FUND**Natalie Goldberg**, in appreciation of helping our

granddaughter Hannah Reed celebrate Passover

Lois Lieff, in honour of Jack Wolofsky's birthday**Sheila A. Sherman**, in honour of the Dorshei Emet community

for the great Zoom programs

Rita Tenenbaum, in honour of Oria and her wonderful

programming

YOUTH & CHILDREN PROGRAMMING FUND**Mark Bassel & Abby Kleinberg-Bassel**, in honour of the arrival

of their granddaughter in Vancouver, BC.

Paola Ciambella, to mark the yahrzeit of her husband Charles

Nuez z"l

Myrna Park**Cynthia Weinstein & Aviv Laor**, in memory of Gary Fabian z"l**TIKKUN OLAM FUND****Reshma Patel & Yosif Grunberg****Helen & Howard Libenson****MEMORIAL FUND****Sandy & Bernie Weinstein**, to mark the yahrzeit of Bertha

Weinstein z"l

Leslie Klein, in memory of Ruth Richler z"l**ADULT EDUCATION FUND****Fran Avni**, in appreciation of Oria & Rabbi Boris and all the

wonderful programming

Dorshei Emet Art Class: Carmela Aigen, Gila Aigen, Marilyn

Aigen, Mona Baumgarten, Chiara Fish and Ronit Yarosky, in

memory of Gary Fabian z"l

Rosamund Timberg**Paula Samson****PROGRAMMING FUND****Arie Alter****Gloria Barks**, in memory of her parents Martha & Hyman

Kamichick z"l

Sandra Benjamin, in appreciation of the Passover Zoom Seder**Reva Bercovitch**, in memory of her beloved sister Malca Avidar z'l**Madeline J. Cogan****Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch**, to wish a Chag Sameach to

Cynthia Weinstein & Oria Lissak

Lawrence Cramer**Marlene Cullen**, in appreciation of Oria and the wonderful

programs

Marlene Cullen, in appreciation of Oria for Diane's GROOVE**Sheila Esar**, with appreciation of the wonderful & enjoyable

programs

Gina Fogel**Janet Garmaise****Sheila Greenberg**, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris, Cynthia

Weinstein and Oria Lissak in keeping our community together,

interested and happy

Debra Grossman**Joy Howse & David Adley****Edna Janco****Marlene Levine**, in appreciation of Oria Lissak**Karen Lipman****Oria Lissak & Roni Dabari****Judi Ottier**, to mark the first yahrzeit of her beloved brother**Gloria Pascal**, in appreciation of Oria Lissak and the great

programming

Kitty Samberg, in honour of the good work done by Cynthia

and Oria

Phyllis Schnarch Lohner**Eric Schur****Toby Shulman**, in appreciation of Dorshei Emet programming**Myra Shuster**, in memory of her sister Sharon Shuster z"l**Florence Simon****Rona & Peter Small****Naomi Stein & Gerald Ahronheim**, in appreciation of Oria &

Cynthia for excellence in programming

Beverley Tencer**Lynn Woloz**, in appreciation of Oria Lissak**Nina Wachsmann**, in appreciation of Oria Lissak for coordinating

great programs

Estelle Wald**Mavis Wasserberger****SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND****Pearlann Goldenberg**, in memory of Martin Magonet z"l**Donations are also welcome to:****BARRY FRANK MEMORIAL FUND****LAVY BECKER FUND****MINYAN FUND****MACHZOR FUND****ISADORE AND SARAH GOLDSTEIN FUND****SIDDUR FUND****SIMCHA FUND****TZEDAKA PROJECT FUND**

RABBI'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

As we Jews do, we took pain and turned it into a blessing.

There is more than enough to mourn for in this past year, but the sense of loss we feel can hopefully lead us to a place of blessing. We can't rid ourselves of the deep pain of separation but we can hold onto the deep sense of perspective that this experience has given us. I'll make it plain and simple: what we thought it meant to be Jewish or be in Jewish community before COVID-19 is not what it means now. We can rebuild our community and our individual Jewish identities into something that is not only strong and stable but something that allows every one of us to say with pride, "And this is why I am Jewish!"

Think about all that we have done over the past year that has reinvigorated our understanding of what is possible in Jewish life. We have found a way to continue to gather, albeit online, to learn, pray and support each other. Our "hybrid" B'nei Mitzvah celebrations have maintained the power of the day even as the joys of in-person celebrations were missed. Shiva minyanim on Zoom have been amazingly intimate and meaningful and have provided safe and inclusive spaces for healing and support. Classes have utilized the wealth of creative resources found on the internet and lectures have been attended by people well beyond the geographic limits of our community. This year has been tough and there will never be a replacement for in-person gathering but, as our walls have been torn down, we have also seen so much potential for renewing Judaism. We have all been able to move past what we thought was the only way and instead ask, "What is now possible?"

This year, so many of us have been able to learn about what community really is and now we can start dreaming of what Dorshei Emet can be. Jewish community, an open and accepting spiritual home, is a place that can also be symbolic of what we need to survive in this world. We don't know when our lives will return to normal but we do know that our walls have been torn down. Now let's get to work on rebuilding something even better.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

that lead to creative ideas and solutions, the sharing between colleagues – these I miss greatly and look forward to the time when I can once again engage in professional schmoozing.

Schmoozing is a huge part of our lives, professionally and personally. The ability to chat with friends, family, and acquaintances is a luxury I will no longer take for granted. Scheduled Zoom sessions do not compensate for spontaneous, face-to-face conversations but the availability of the technology has enabled ongoing dialogue and communication with those we love. I acknowledge that people in precarious situations have had great difficulties during COVID-19 and I hope that we can work towards a more just society where everyone, one day soon, can benefit from our society's available resources.

Our Dorshei community has been incredibly active throughout the pandemic. In that regard, I must recognize the people who have been working to ensure we stay connected. I realize that my term started before COVID-19 but, in truth, what memories do we have of that? I do recall my Rosh Hashanah speech from the bimah, both excited and nervous at the idea of presenting myself to the entire Dorshei membership! I recall plans and activities to engage with members from different demographic groups, but everything changed as we went into lockdown. And of course, we are still in a transition phase while we go about the business of getting vaccinated with the goal of a new normal, post-pandemic world.

If schmoozing is an important part of our community, then throughout this period we have made sure to encourage dia-

logue as much as possible. Rabbi Boris unmuted us all after Shabbat services and other programs so that we can chat before we leave one another. Programs and activities allow for discussion and connection. Rabbi Boris, Cynthia, and Oria have been instrumental in building community using the technology, bringing us together for holidays, services, programs, and other events. Their work throughout the pandemic has been exceptional. Linda, who has been with us for many years, has managed to keep the finances up to date while working remotely. Davina, new to Dorshei, has had the difficult task of onboarding during this pandemic. Everyone has faced their own unique personal and professional challenges and I thank them all for the hard work and dedication they have shown throughout these two years.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the Board of Directors. As volunteers who have other professional and personal commitments, they have all worked very hard at maintaining a semblance of normalcy throughout Covid. We have met regularly on Zoom, when many of us are extremely tired from our Zoom workdays, and still we have managed to engage in fulsome conversations around topics that help secure the longevity of Dorshei Emet. Each member has brought their distinct uniqueness to our conversations and we have been a better board for it.

I leave you all with the hope of a future full of possibility. It has been an exciting and challenging time to be a member of the Board of Directors. A new Board awaits, one that will move us into a face-to-face world forever changed but holding onto the essence of what Dorshei Emet is.

Have a wonderful summer,



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— INVITES YOU TO THE —
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021 @ 7:00 PM



Come celebrate our accomplishments as a community!
Thank our outgoing board members and welcome our new board.

To attend please email: programdirector@dorshei-emet.org
to receive the Zoom access link