



KOL HA'KEHILAH

THE COMMUNITY VOICE קול הקהילה



STILL WANDERING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Rabbi Boris Dolin

"And the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for...a year and a half to two years or so."

It is amazing to think back to last year at this time. Sitting down to our family Passover seder, we made sure that the same foods were there on the table in front of us. Steaming hot matzo ball soup, the crowded seder plate along with wine and juice for the kids. But of course, last year's were different from all other seders because, instead of the usual families and guests, we had placed on the placemat right next to the cup of Eliyahu, my laptop computer. As we know now, this strange experience, which at the time almost felt exciting in its novelty, would soon become the new normal. A year later, this Zoom seder was just the beginning of our new way of being. Separated from each other yet connected screen to screen.

As we enter the second year of living through this pandemic, it is easy to feel down and to feel more stuck than before.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elana Cooperberg

Another year, another Passover on Zoom. Who would have thought? Certainly not!! When we started this strange journey through uncharted territory, we believed it would last only a few weeks. And yet, here we are. A year later, and the future is anything but clear. While we may not be excited about another Passover on Zoom, we certainly know what to expect. We have become technology experts, proficient with the chat and reaction functions, even if the mute button sometimes eludes us! This year, Passover will provide us with the opportunity for sharing our technological expertise with family and friends from near and far.

Passover, coinciding with the beginning of spring, is a time of hope and freedom. We prepare for Passover while embracing the period of renewal and rebirth. Typically, winter offers us tranquility and repose. We stay indoors, hibernating through cold, dark nights, awaiting the change of season and longer, brighter days. The longing for spring comes with the anticipation of more time outdoors,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

RABBI'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Yet I think the story of Passover, the core mythological story of our people, can offer us some important lessons as we move forward into this trying time.

After being freed from Egypt, the story we all know so well could have been much shorter if the Israelites had just been led down a straight path to the Holy Land. But, of course, this is not how the story was meant to play out. As we read: "When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the Philistines, although it was nearer... So God led the people roundabout, by way of the wilderness at the Sea of Reeds" (Exodus 13:17-18).

Yes, the straight path would have been quicker, and it would have led to an easy and fast freedom. Yet, what happened during this complicated roundabout journey on the way to the Holy Land is in fact the meaning of freedom itself. Only through experiencing the difficult challenges, the times of fear and separation, of community upheaval, anger and healing could the people understand their true purpose. This was their shared journey, their crucible experience. Only through this painful yet enlightening adventure could all of those individuals become what would truly help them stay strong into the future--a community.

We too have been forced to wander over these past few months, leaving our place of comfort and safety. We might feel stuck and unsure of how much longer we have to journey before we can finally make it "home" and once again feel stable and sure of our future. Yet, the pandemic experience is now part of our story and ultimately, like the story of Passover for the Israelites, it will become so much of what makes us who we are as a community and as a society. To paraphrase Robert Frost, we may not have chosen this path, but taking the path less travelled has made all the difference.

Next year, and in every year to come, we will have quite a story to tell. And next year, may we be sitting together again.



You are invited to Dorshei Emet's community

PESACH SEDER

Sat. March 27th
6:30 pm on Zoom

RSVP by March 23rd
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org

HOSTED BY RABBI BORIS AND FAMILY
THE SEDER WILL BE PARTICIPATORY,
MEANINGFUL AND FUN!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

and the enjoyment that comes with human interaction. During Covid however, we remain indoors and apart.

Personally, I have worked from home almost this entire period. I was able to go into work in the fall when the number of cases were down, but that did not last long. I am grateful that I have been able to work from home, and enjoy the calm of my surroundings while spending most lunches and coffee breaks with my daughters. They will soon be forging their own paths, and I will forever cherish this time that we have had together. Spending more time with my family has been a positive outcome of this pandemic.

It will soon be time to pass the torch to the next President of the Board of Directors. The Board has been outstanding during this period. We have had to increase the number of meetings in order to deal with our new reality, and everyone has attended and actively participated in healthy, respectful dialogue.

Covid has redefined how we engage with each other. The staff at Dorshei has worked tirelessly to accommodate this new reality to ensure that our community feels connected through programs, activities, and services. They have all done exceptional work, and I am grateful for the effort and dedication everyone has shown.

Finally, we have seen the overwhelming response from you, our members, to all the planned events that have brought us together in spite of our separateness. Your continued enthusiasm for all that Dorshei has offered over these many months has been motivating for all of us who have worked to ensure that our community continues to thrive.

This Passover, as we remember our blessings, we sing Dayeinu and acknowledge the spirit of 'enoughness'. I know we will be together soon, but for now, we recognize that we have what we need, and we take solace in our resilience.



DORSHEI EMET @ HOME – for the staff too!

Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director

As I write this in early February, we are on our second stint of working from home since the pandemic began last March. This arrangement makes certain aspects of working easier: no need to pack a lunch, the commute is a dream and no scraping ice off the windshield! However, it has been a huge adjustment to ensure smooth functioning at the shul.

Since becoming Executive Director in 2017, one of my most pressing tasks was to update the computers and software, which were no longer adequate. Years of change in software and support services had left this critical part of our management in a giant knot begging to be unraveled. All our data had to be untangled and replaced in sequence – it has taken over 2 years! The final piece of the puzzle finally fit into place on March 12, 2020, the Thursday before we locked down, when we succeeded in moving the shared drive – i.e. all the computer files that our team members share – to storage "in the cloud", i.e. accessible from anywhere in the world, including home. If this transition had taken one more week, working from home would have been so much more difficult. It was beshert!

Our first at-home period was from March to August 2020. The staff worked hard to make the transition for

our members seamless. We all missed the camaraderie that comes from being together in the office. These days it's all about multiple phone calls, texts, emails and ZOOM Meetings every day. It's certainly not ideal, but it's the best we can do.

In November we welcomed a new member of our team, Davina Shapiro, who joined the staff as the office Administrator. Just as we were getting into the swing of things we had to start working from home. Onboarding at a distance has not been easy, but Davina's easy going and determined personality has made things work. We are extremely fortunate to have someone in that position who can adapt to so many changes.

Team Dorshei has done extraordinarily well, and I am so proud of the staff who could pivot quickly and efficiently and make the most of the technology and the unique opportunities of this era. I am looking forward to getting back to the office and being together again. Working as a team is really at the core of our office and being together is a big part of that. I think we can learn a lot from our experiences over the last year to adapt to greater efficiency and move us forward.

Wishing you all the best for your family this Pesach from the Dorshei Emet staff!



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

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 5781

Elana Cooperberg
President, Board of Directors

By the time this newsletter arrives in your inbox or mailbox, Dorshei's Annual Giving Campaign will be wrapping up! But that doesn't mean we wouldn't appreciate your donation if you haven't yet made one. As we move forward into another unpredictable year, we would love to be able to count on your support for all that we have been doing and will continue to do.

There are many ways to get involved at Dorshei. We have consistently offered programs, activities, and services throughout the pandemic, becoming a techno-savvy synagogue for all! This has allowed us to stay connected with you and has increased participation in many events and happenings. To ensure continuity, we ask you to contribute to our campaign.

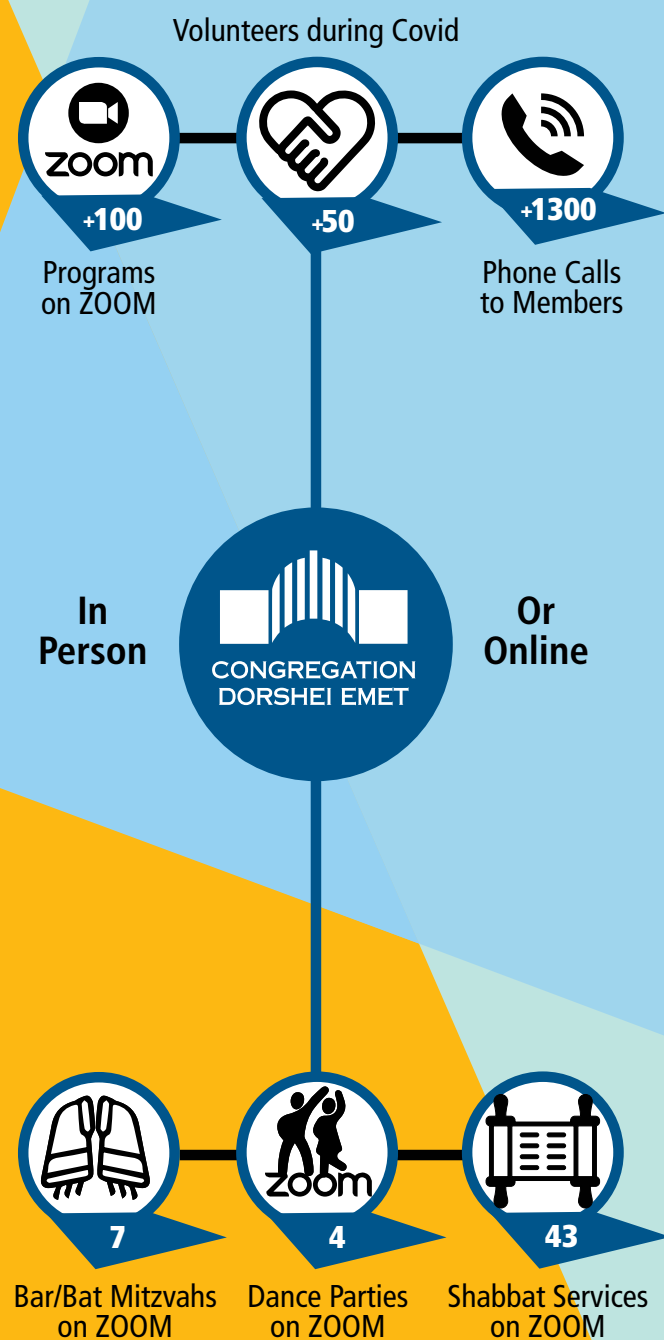
We are always looking for new and creative ways to sustain ourselves financially. This year we have been able to self-finance many programs through external grants. Currently, we are working on a plan to introduce new programs that would have a revenue stream. More on that to come in future newsletters.

Today, our goal is to increase member participation in our annual campaign and realize our financial needs.

We would be grateful for your support!

Call the office today or donate online through your Shulcloud account.

"NOT JUST A PLACE YOU GO; IT IS WHO YOU ARE"



Perspectives

Davina Shapiro
Dorshei Emet,
Office Administrator

In November 2019, I embarked on a trip to Israel with a lovely group of nine Montreal women, including one leader, all of whom were JPPS-Bialik mothers. It had been 28 years since my last visit to the Holy Land and it was a trip of a lifetime on many levels. I left behind my teenagers and embarked on this incredible journey, one I had been anticipating for over two years.

This trip is often referred to as Birthright for moms but it involves much more than sightseeing. In eight days, we saw the country's intricacies and met with fascinating and diverse people.

This trip also encompassed presentations and discussions about Jewish values, with the goal of bringing at least one Jewish element home. In Jerusalem, I purchased a necklace with the tree of life pendant, a beautiful reminder of the meaningful trip, which I wear every day. Post-trip, I was also much more self-confident in Jewish or Israel-related conversations.

The MOMentum trip brings together 300 women from all parts of the world in Israel. You have to be a Jewish mother with children under 18 living at home. It also involves a one-year commitment to contribute to our community.

MOMentum's goal is "to empower women to change the world through Jewish values that transform ourselves, our families, and our communities."

This journey helped us to do exactly that.

I made new friends and our Israel experience profoundly bonded us. We experienced learning and growth, and we talked about courage, shalom bayit, trust, and love. We experienced Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel. Together we walked thousands of steps. We danced, we sang, we ate, and we shopped. We experienced lows and highs. We comforted each other at Yad Vashem and celebrated Havdallah together in the old city of Jerusalem.

Moreover, on this trip, we learned about human dignity and generosity, unity, mutual responsibility, and gratitude. This trip was a valuable gift to me. It allowed me to think more Jewishly about the concept of shalom bayit in my own home. I also learned more about tikun olam.

Despite my not being observant, the trip made me feel very Jewish. At that time, I was not working and I decided to search for employment in a Jewish setting and contribute somehow to the Jewish community, with people who share common values.

Shortly after my return, a job opportunity involving the Israel experience presented itself. However, when the pandemic began last spring, that position was no longer available.

I am delighted to have begun a new challenge as part of the Dorshei Emet team. Although it has only been a short while, everyone has been so welcoming. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone.





Dorshei Emet's Life and Legacy Project

Russell Copeman,
Chair, Life and Legacy Committee

In late 2018, Dorshei Emet, along with a number of other institutions of Montreal's Jewish community, embarked on a legacy building project in partnership with the Jewish Community Foundation and the U.S. based Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The goal of this Life and Legacy project is to promote after-lifetime giving to build endowments that will provide stability to the institutions of our community, including our own Dorshei Emet.

The Life and Legacy project provides us with a donations infrastructure and access to invaluable tools and advice to guide Dorshei Emet in an opportunity to secure our future.

“ Our heartfelt thanks go out to those generous people who agreed to participate in this important legacy initiative in the past year. ”

Like our partners, Dorshei's Life and Legacy Committee has struggled a bit through the challenges of fundraising during the worst pandemic the world has seen in the last 100 years. Despite these hurdles, we met our 2020 goals. These goals including securing letters of intent, signifying donors' commitments to leave a bequest benefitting Dorshei Emet in their estate planning.

“ Our Legacy donors are people like YOU; people who thirst for and believe in a synagogue that is strengthened by both tradition and contemporary values, who value diversity and our commitment to social justice, and who will help create a purpose-filled community always ready to challenge and embrace the realities of our contemporary world. ”

We have much work to do to sustain the future of our synagogue and all it represents. Our Life and Legacy Committee will be more active in the months to come to attain that goal. But we will need the support of congregants past and present and our many friends in the community. Please consider helping to secure Dorshei Emet's future by participating in our Life and Legacy project.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Weinstein (executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org).



Legacy Circle

Dorshei Emet recognizes our Legacy Circle. These members have signed Letters of Intent to ensure the future of Dorshei Emet:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Natalie Amar and Mark Lesk
Becker Newpol Family Foundation
Beth Blackmore
Elana Cooperberg & Denys Doyon
Russell Copeman
Rabbi Boris Dolin
Dr. Toby Fainsilber Inc.
Aaron Fish z"l
Bram and Sara Freedman
Barry Lazar
Lois E. Lieff
Ila Novak
Miriam Roland
Joshua Rubin
Marilyn Takefman
Laura Yaros
Ronit Yarosky



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

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

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

Speakers Series Committee
 Chair: Deena Roskies

Life and Legacy Committee
 Chair: Russel Copeman

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


Dorshei Emet extends a warm welcome to all of our **New Members in 5781:**

Abbey Neidik & Irene Angelico
 Adam Leiner
 Adam Smart
 Adrienne Mosse & Joy Byer
 Amanda Shore
 Arlene Lerner
 Aviva Ravel
 Eleanor Bonder
 Jennifer Benedik & Alain Fragman
 Judith Bilefsky
 Katie Wong

Marian Pinsky and Ben Kuang
 Michal Katz & Adam Atlas
 Norm Spatz
 Philip Ehrensft
 Rob Hockenstein & Toby Moneit
 Rona & Peter Small
 Rosa Richter
 Sandra Sjollema
 Tally Abecassis & David Mizraki
 Tim Brody
 Vivian Bejerman

BOOK CLUB 5781

American Dirt
 by Jeanine Cummins
 April 28, 2021
 1:00 PM



For more details,
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org



Shavuot: Always Revelation

Rabbi Boris Dolin

At the time I am writing this, it is still a few weeks before Passover, and spring and summer seem like they are endlessly far away. The holiday of Shavuot takes place in May this year. I look forward to the day for the opportunity to celebrate with the community, but also for the simple fact that, these days, so much can happen in a few months.

Shavuot always occurs around summertime, fluctuating between the months depending on the intricacies of that year's calendar. In part because of this, it is not the most often celebrated Jewish holiday. By this time of the year, we are in the midst of the warming weather (finally!) and especially here in Montreal, we are doing our best to head outside and enjoy the change in the seasons.

The holiday began, like so many other Jewish holidays, as an agricultural festival and only later received its significance as the day of the commemoration of the Revelation on Mount Sinai. On the holiday, there are many unique traditions, including staying up all night to learn Torah, eating fruits or dairy, and decorating the synagogue with greenery to recall the story of how Mount Sinai suddenly turned beautifully

green at the moment of Revelation. All of these traditions are important but, on its most simple level, Shavuot is simply a checkpoint in the year. Especially this year, as we are facing so many challenges and obstacles in our individual and communal journeys, Shavuot can be a moment of pause and reflection before we head off into the "freedom" of summer.

This year, I invite us all to consider what has been revealed to us in these many months of change and isolation. What great realizations about life, relationships and society have been "passed down" to you, and what are you working to bring out into the world? As hopefully the worst of the pandemic will soon be behind us, what are we committing to do as we head down the mountain and back into some sense of normalcy?

Our traditions teach us that on Shavuot, we remember that revelation is a continual process. Let's make sure that all of the lessons of the past year, those moments of deep learning, inspiration and connection, do not leave us. In the world we live in, we need to all head down the mountain together and keep on working to make sure that the connections, and hope, stay strong.



Opening up a Charged Dialogue: Agreeing to Disagree

The Rabbi Lavy Becker & Rabbi Ron Aigen Speakers Series



Ronit Yarosky

I sometimes think that the noble goal of agreeing to disagree is a pursuit as elusive as finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. A great idea in principle, challenging to realize in practice.

Yet like so many noble goals, I believe this one is worth fighting for. It encompasses the secular democracy that we cherish and it lies at the heart of chevruta learning, the Jewish tradition of questioning our questions.

The telling of the Passover story is the central part of our annual Seder. We are encouraged to ask questions and to open our doors to include the 'stranger' and are reminded that "In every generation one is obligated to see oneself as though we personally came out from Egypt".

The meaning of Passover doesn't end with the search for the afikoman. It is meant to be carried within us every day of the year. When we include the stranger, we build stronger communities. When we ask questions, we broaden our understanding exponentially. When we remember that we, too, were strangers in a strange land, we are reminded of our common humanity.

This Speaker Series does not provide clarity; it perhaps leaves us more confused than ever. But if it helps us learn more about ourselves and each other, I think that is as worthy as any pot of gold.

Chag sameach!



Meeting with The Oslo Diaries film directors Mor Loushy and Daniel Sivan and producer Ina Fichman seemed like an interesting place to open up a Dorshei Emet discussion about Israel and Palestine. And it was. The Oslo "efforts" provide endless room for disagreement, along with people to blame and people to admire and little consensus about who is which.

The COVID/Zoom factor means that we see our speakers live, but only on a screen. "Zoom" shouting matches are rare and can be policed if necessary by remote control. But the chat box records, silently, a range of emotion.

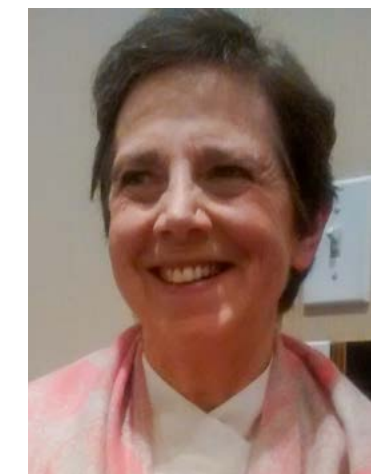
And yes, I felt encouraged by the support that appeared in the chat box and sobered by the pain, frustration and anger that was there as well. Our next Dorshei

Emet challenge is to find ways for these conversations to continue, safely and respectfully.

Ronit has written about "opening doors." But some of us are concerned lest we open the doors too wide. When does "open" become "vulnerable"?

In accordance with synagogue policy, our committee is searching for balance and transparency in our programming. But balance is as elusive as that pot of gold that Ronit refers to above. You, our audience, are helping us in our pursuit of balance. Thank you for your patience and for your support.

No one said this would be easy. But we're doing it.



Deena Roskies
Committee Chair

SPRING EVENTS @ DORSHEI EMET

MARCH

- 16 Elections in Israel: Here we go again with Ben Ravid, DE Winter Wellness - 10:00 am
- 17 Bookclub – The Song of the Jade Lily By Kirsty Manning - 1:00 pm
- 18 The Tailor Project with Historian and Author Paula Draper, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 7:30 pm
- 19 Friday night Live - Kabbalat Shabbat with Donna and Irwin Kuzmarov - 6:30 pm
- 22 Cooking workshop with Ksenia Prints, Passover Treats, DE Winter Wellness - 4:00 pm
- 24 Passover Prep Class with Rabbi Boris - 7:30 pm
- 25 Winter Wellness series: Police Officer Angela Rankin, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 10:00 am
- 27 Community Pesach Seder - 6:30 pm
- 28 Passover Second Seder
- 29-4 Passover
- 31 Next Year in Jerusalem: The Story of the Beit Israel with Adrienne Sklar - 4:00 pm

APRIL

- 1 How I became a Smart Shopper, and you can too! with Sandra Phillips, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 10:00 am
- 2 Friday Night Live – Kabbalat Shabbat with the Goldstein Family - 6:30 pm
- 5 The MS St. Louis with Gilda Spitz, a personal story, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 7:30 pm

APRIL (CONT.)

- 6 Experience Yad Vashem's historical museum, virtually, with a guided tour presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 4:00 pm
- 8 Yom Hashoah – a talk with Judith Nemes Black - 7:30 pm
- 10 Havdallah with Rabbi Boris - 7:00 pm
- 13 Cooking Workshop with Ksenia Prints, Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, DE Winter Wellness - 4:00 pm
- 16 Friday Night Live – Kabbalat Shabbat - 6:30 pm
- 22 Dorshei Movie Makers with Irene Angelico and Abbey Neidik. - 4:00 pm
- 24 Havdallah with Rabbi Boris - 7:00 pm
- 26 Pump Up Your Tires with Irv Perlman, DE Winter Wellness - 4:00 pm
- 27 Building Bridges in our Communities: Making Mensches: Anti-Racist Practice 101, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 7:30 pm
- 28 Bookclub - American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins - 1:00 pm
- 29 Dorshei Movie Makers with Irene Angelico and Abbey Neidik. - 4:00 pm

MAY

- 6 Dorshei Movie Makers with Garry Beitel and Barry Lazar - 4:00 pm
- 19 Bookclub- 3 Days in Istanbul with Author Sander Shalinsky, presented by DE Sages of all Ages - 1:00 pm

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





ISRAELI FOODS

A Cooking Workshop

ISRAELI KEBABS ZAALOUK EGGPLANT SALAD BULGUR SALAD WITH HERBS AND POMEGRANTE SEEDS

April 13 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Join Ksenia Prints from At The Immigrant's Table for a hands-on class where you have the choice of cooking together with her or just watching her prepare these delicious foods.





Email programdirector@dorshei-emet.org to receive the Zoom access link and recipes.



Janet Dwoskin

BOOK CLUB

The Dorshei Emet book club began meeting monthly several years ago. The group would sit around the table downstairs in the synagogue and discuss a new book chosen from among those suggested by the group members. The format is typical of most book clubs. The member who chooses the book researches information about the author and leads a discussion of the characters, the plot and the ideas brought up in the book. As can be expected from Dorshei Emet members, a lively discussion always ensues. Over the years, we have reviewed books by a variety of both Jewish and non-Jewish international writers on many topics including the Irish church, the Olympics, and international financial intrigue. In one particularly memorable month, the book was about a bakery and Oria and Cynthia baked desserts for the group from the recipes in the book.

This year we faced the challenge of Covid-19 by meeting on Zoom. The ability to meet virtually has meant that many more of us are able to attend, as distance or bad weather no longer keeps us from our monthly discussions. The books are often a catalyst for lively discussions on subjects such as heredity, aging, and family dynamics. As I think back on the books that we have shared, I'm struck by the quality of the choices but perhaps even more by the openness of members to share their own stories. Sometimes the stories reflect personal life experiences of family, immigration, joys, and challenges. In our last meeting, we talked about the book, *The Little Old Lady That Broke All the Rules*, in which the Swedish author, Catherine Ingelman-Sundberg, gives a somewhat lighthearted account of a group of pensioners. The discussion was enriched by members who have devoted their professional careers to working with the elderly as well as those of us contemplating our own advancing age. Whether we are discussing adoption, education, finance or baking, there are always members who share their expertise and insight. This makes the Dorshei Emet book club an exceptional experience. Please take the opportunity to join us. Our next meeting is April 28th when we will be discussing the book *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. We look forward to seeing you.



Bernie Weinstein

YIZKOR BOOK

Passover is one of my favorite holidays. We get together with our family and friends, even if it's on Zoom. We are required to tell the story of our exodus from Egypt - and that allows me to tell more stories - and we have an obligation to drink wine and eat special foods. What more could I ask?

At the end of Pesach, on April 16, we will use our beautiful Yizkor Book, and on May 25 we will launch the campaign for the 5782 edition.

But your committee hasn't been resting on its laurels. We've been working to improve the project and the Book.

- We surveyed our members in December and provided the results in the January 19 Weekly. We have already acted on some of your comments.
- Our Rabbi has added the Hebrew "Kaddish" and "El Malei Rahamim" prayers to the Dorshei Emet website to help those who need more than the transliteration provided in the Book. On the website, access Ritual Life, then click on Observing a Yahrzeit and scroll down to the end of the page.
- We welcome Rabbi Jonathan Cohen as Chair of the Content Subcommittee. We have solicited additional prayers, poems and readings for inclusion in upcoming Yizkor Books and are currently reviewing them to select the most appropriate ones. The choices are outstanding and we thank everyone who contributed.
- We are developing the Memory Blog for the website to encourage members to submit stories, etc. to better remember and honour those whose names they have submitted for the Yizkor Book.

And, of course, we will be looking at other enhancements.

The Dorshei Emet Yizkor Book is now an essential part of our community's fabric, appreciated and used by its members not only for the four annual Yizkor services but also for many other occasions. We will continue to make it better.

In the meantime, enjoy Passover!

RESPONSE AND RENEWAL SURVEY

In January a survey was circulated to the synagogue membership asking for input on a wide range of topics. The survey was set up in a way to encourage members not only to inform us of their preferences, but also to express their opinions and suggestions in the "Comments" format.

Participation has been wonderful, providing valuable data to our team of analysts. Results will be compiled, evaluated and presented to the membership in a detailed report.

The next part of this project will involve small-scale parlour meetings, on Zoom for the time being, to provide a venue for our members to get to know one another and to share experiences and ideas about how to strengthen our community.

A warm thank you to all of you who took the time to share your thoughts!



Dorshei Movie Makers

Thursday, April 22 4:00 PM
Shekinah: The Intimate Life of Hasidic Women
 Irene Angelico & Abbey Neidik of DLI Productions

Thursday, April 29 4:00 PM
Reaching for Zion
 Irene Angelico & Abbey Neidik of DLI Productions

Thursday, May 6 4:00 PM
The Man who Learned to Fall
 Garry Beitel & Barry Lazar of reFrame Films

Watch these thought-provoking documentaries beforehand, and then join the filmmakers for an online Zoom Q & A.

To join these programs, please email programdirector@dorshei-emet.org to receive the Zoom and movie links.





Dorshei Emet Shabbat Shira

Helen Binik

This year's Shabbat Shira was like no other in the history of the shul. For the first time in a very long time, we were treated to a concert of talent almost exclusively from within our congregation. And for the first time ever, there was no one there! No one in real life, that is. Of course, we were all on Zoom, with an attendance of over 100 people.

It was a very different experience from the Shabbat Shira of 2016, when the band in which I was singing at the time, The Musical Chairs, led a Hootenanny sing-along as the second half of the fundraiser for our Syrian refugee families, and when Rabbi Boris was with us for the first time, here for the weekend for his job interview. This year, it was Rabbi Boris himself who organized and hosted our Shabbat Shira concert in his delightfully informal, relaxed, upbeat style. We had a selection of inspiring and spirited performances, both live and recorded on video, from Liora Adler, Fran Avni, Donna and Irwin Kuzmarov, David Weigens, from Rabbi Boris himself, and from my Noteworthy duo with Brian Nicholson. We also had an interesting experimental video collaboration from the Covidian Singers, put together by Ely Bonder and featuring Ella Deutsch, Mark Bassel, Rabbi Boris, Ely and me.

Rabbi Boris introduced a video of himself with his Polish colleagues in a lively rendition of Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu, the same song with which we began our Hootenanny five years ago. This year's concert ended with the Rabbi's own sing-along medley which also included Od Yavo, a song expressing the conviction that there will be peace in the future and a fitting conclusion to a concert centred on the theme of hope.

In these difficult and depressing pandemic times, it isn't always easy to be positive and hope sometimes seems a hard thing to hold on to. The heart-felt and heart-warming presentation of these songs was an expression of delight in life, each in its own way joyous, reflective, and full of hope for a better future. The evening was not only a testament to the power of music to bring healing and to lift our spirits, but it was also a powerful coming together of our community in a time of crisis. In the words of some of the

song-writers presented (some in translation), we were treated to a wonderful distraction from the "sorrow and trouble in this land" because "miracles do happen every shining now and then," and "if you're ever gonna find a silver lining, it's gotta be a cloudy day;" "you're alone, the pain hurts deep, but hope is yours and yours to keep," and if we "sing gently as one...better times will come;" "me and you, we'll change the world...we shall overcome...and peace will come upon us and on everyone."

BUILDING BRIDGES IN OUR COMMUNITIES: MAKING MENSCHES - ANTI-RACIST PRACTICE 101

April 27 7:30 PM

What is racial identity? What is racism?
What can white Jews do to make our
communities more inclusive?

Making Mensches co-founders
Elana Lipkin & Jessie Sander
will answer these questions and
begin to plant the seeds of action.

www.makingmensches.com



Through a Reconstructionist Lens

An Adult B- / Re- Mitzvah Program

March 2021 - March 2022
Once a Month Virtual Class



Explore your Jewish identity, connect with the
movement, and celebrate with the Dorshei Emet
community!

Through a Reconstructionist Lens: An Adult B-/Re- Mitzvah Program will offer a once-a-month virtual class for those studying for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Participants will connect with adult learners from across North America in exploring evolving Reconstructionist thoughts and practice today. Classes will be approximately 40 minutes in length and videos will be released once a month; running from March 2021 through March 2022. Enrolled students will be able to view the video modules on their own schedule.

- Monthly workshops with Rabbi Boris to reflect on the topics
- 4-part Torah Reading Class with Rabbi Boris
- Optional participation in the 2022 Reconstructing Judaism convention including a program of honour for the class
- Special Shabbat morning service for the class at Dorshei Emet in May 2022
- Optional additional opportunity to study for an individual or group B'nei Mitzvah after the Reconstructing Judaism program (details TBD).

The program is open to all Dorshei Emet members, both to those who have not had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and to those who would like to do it again as an adult.

Please contact Davina by March 31st to register:

admin@dorshei-emet.org

\$180 per person

For more details including an outline of class topics visit:

<http://www.dorsheiemet.com/adultbmitzvah>

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5781 (October 16, 2020 - February 12, 2021)

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