



KOL HA'KEHILAH

THE COMMUNITY VOICE קול הקהילה



REBUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP

by Rabbi Boris Dolin

I am always tempted to begin my pre-Chanukah writing with a familiar trope of this season: "Chanukah reminds us to do all that we can to bring more light and hope into the world." I appreciate the simplicity of this concept and the freedom that it gives each of us to find our own meaning in the holiday. It is a gentle push to continue to be kind and to work for justice, while enjoying the joy and the sweetness of the holiday.

In any other year, these words would have worked just fine.

Yet what we have experienced in these past nine months is something that demands more than light and hope. While there are so many hidden blessings and moments of deep learning, what has happened since this pandemic started is something that has torn us apart. Like the Hasmoneans who entered the Temple after its desecration in the story of Chanukah, what we are encountering as we enter the darkness of winter is in so many ways a challenging mess. Everything

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Elana Cooperberg

This is a challenging period for us all. But your Dorshei Emet community is always available! For a phone call, a Zoom activity, services, or other needed support. Please reach out!

As we enter the cold months of winter I realize just how much fleece I need! It appears that my office is warmer than my house! When I have some free time, which is rare, I find myself engaging in reflective moments, wondering how and when we will gather once again in the synagogue. My desire to be out in the world is sadly hindered by forces greater than myself. And so I wait, like all of you, for change, for the moment when we will once again be able to celebrate together. Meanwhile, there is still much to do and much that we have already accomplished. For those of you who did not attend the Annual General Meeting, here are some of the highlights from my report.

This is Dorshei Emet's 60th birthday year! When the pandemic is over we

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RABBI'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

that we held onto for stability and hope in our lives is in disarray. The connections, the relationships, the social events and gatherings, the family trips, the hugs and kisses, and above all the ability to walk this world in comfort and safety, so much of this is now broken. The sanctuaries of peace and comfort and the vision of a fully functioning and just society are just not as clear as they used to be.

But let's not forget that, although the holiday is a holiday of freedom, it is also at its core a holiday of *dedication*, a festival that reminds us of our obligation to each other and what we need to commit ourselves to moving forward.

We need to commit ourselves to cleaning up the challenges caused by this past year and also be proud of the work we have already done.

As we light each candle, one night at a time, we can remember that change and healing do not come all at once. Like the argument between Hillel and Shammai in the Talmud, we need to remember that no matter what, we should always work to increase holiness in our world instead of taking it away. Candle by candle, and action by action, maybe we can make real change.

I invite you not just to say the words this year, but to make each night, each

candle, be a commitment, to yourself, to your relationships, and to a more just world. One night commit yourself to working to not give up on a challenging family member or friend, one night reflect on how you will work to fight racial inequality, one night commit to a renewed focus on your spiritual practices. Read about it, talk about it and share with others (including on our community Blog, "Dorshei Writes"-see ad in the newsletter). But above all, act. Each night, rededicate yourself to a real task of fixing the world, and go out and do it! When we can commit to do this together, there is no end to what we can accomplish. The classic children's Chanukah song "Banu Hoshech", says it well:

We come to chase the dark away. In our hands are light and fire. Each one of us is a small light, but together, the light is mighty. Flee, darkness and night! Make way for the light!

Especially during these tough times, Chanukah demands that we step forward and rededicate ourselves to each other and to our community. Do this tough work, and leave plenty of space to enjoy the simple blessings of the season and all of the joy and sweetness that go along with it. Don't worry, because if history can tell us anything, we know that if we can do this right, our future really can be much brighter.



Cynthia
Weinstein

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dorshei Emet & Facebook

I started working at Dorshei Emet in 2016 as Program Director. It was a brand-new position for the shul with lots of possibilities. One of my first challenges was to revamp the synagogue's Facebook page.

At that time, the main page was set up as a person, rather than a not-for-profit organization. I was unable to retrieve any statistics about activity on the page. To make matters worse, additional pages had been set up over the years for specific events and we lacked the passwords needed to cancel these accounts. We needed a fresh start.

Our current page - @dorsheimet1 - was created in January 2017. It has evolved over the years and at the time of writing we have more than 650 followers.

**DORSHEI
EMET**

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

CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

From Monday to Friday there are multiple daily posts, in addition to a full listing of our events. Our most recent Facebook ad for the 5781 High Holidays reached 4,275 people in our community! The cost of placing this ad was a fraction of the amount needed for print and billboard media, and the ad resulted in the sale of dozens of High Holiday guest passes. For several years, Facebook ads have also driven the enrollment in Dorshei Emet's Jewish Journeys program.

One of the great advantages of the not-for-profit page is the access to interesting statistics, and I want to share some of them with you:

- 64% of our fans are women and 32% are men.
- The largest number of fans, almost 500, are in Canada, of which 408 are in Montreal.
- We have 81 fans in the USA, 7 in South Africa, 6 in Israel, 5 in the UK, and we have fans in 30 other countries worldwide, including Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Finland.

The Facebook page is a fantastic platform to bring Dorshei Emet to the world!

I am always looking for interesting content - articles, photos and Shabbat Shalom posts for Friday mornings. Please send me items you would like to contribute to executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org. I invite you to like our page if you haven't already done so, and to share our events and posts with your friends - there is nothing as good as a referral.

Happy Chanukah to you and your family, and Happy Facebooking!

will surely celebrate in person! And what a celebration it will be! For now, we will continue to be entertained and thoughtfully provoked in our Zoom activities and sessions that have been inspiring and uplifting for all.

Our spiritual home, Dorshei Emet has played an extensive role in the lives of many of us over these last few months and will continue to do so for the duration of the pandemic.

We have had a mitzvah calling brigade made up of 30 volunteers who have made more than 1500 phone calls to check in on members.

We have had over 100 Zoom presentations by members during this period. Personal stories and inspiration through teachings, have made up the majority of these presentations. Members have participated in outstanding numbers.

We have offered over 600 Shabbat meals since last March, subsidized by a grant from Federation. We have also seen our own members donate almost \$9,000 specifically for these meals.

We have had over 65 virtual adult education classes from Audrey Berner's drawing class to Neil Caplan enlightening us about the Israel-Palestine conflict.

I want to thank those who have been involved in these activities. We are a community of action-oriented individuals!

This year we are offering some new programs and activities to engage members and to hear what moves and excites you about Dorshei Emet.

Our Rabbi Lavy Becker-Rabbi Ron Aigen speaker series is helping us work together as a community to talk to each other, even when we disagree. Moving forward, we will have more speakers and events that bring us together in a positive, open format, engaging in dialogue that is respectful and attentive to others.

Our Response and Renewal project is designed to hear from you, our members, and understand what Dorshei Emet means to you, what you derive from your membership, and what more we can do to make you feel Dorshei is home. If you haven't heard from us yet, you will soon. We will be reaching out to all members for intimate gatherings where your opinions and voices will be heard.

We are still looking for members to sign letters of intent for our Life & Legacy project. Please reach out to me, Russell Copeman, Cynthia, or Rabbi Boris if you'd like more information on this program.

We will soon be launching our Annual Giving Campaign. I hope that we can, as always, count on your support to ensure the financial stability of Dorshei Emet as we move into our 61st year and beyond.

Wishing you and your family a happy Chanukah.



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK AT
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
DORSHEIEMET1](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DORSHEIEMET1)



by Sheila
Greenberg

A High Holiday Season to Remember

What a challenge we had.

The pandemic was upon us and we had to plan the High Holidays for Dorshei. Our most meaningful, important, and fully attended holiday!! Everyone always looked forward to these days.

We were a small group working and planning. Do we do it in a tent, in small groups? Do we do it online — and how online — Zoom or streaming?

We checked with other shuls, rabbis, and members. After much discussion and many meetings, we decided on Zoom and streaming. Rabbi Boris found Jonathan Halliday, an excellent young technician.

We tried to make it “hamisch” and meaningful with the unique Dorshei flavour involving as many members as possible. We enlisted members to participate in many aspects of the services: reading Torah, outstanding musicians playing instruments in their own homes, reading poetry, videos of members welcoming you in front of the shul. We also worked on having discussions with breakout periods. To enrich the overall experience, we added some in-person activities (masked, of course, and with proper distancing): shofar “blazing”, walks, and *taschlich* in the park.

I think we were successful!



Membership Committee

by Natalie Amar

What a wonderful time to join a synagogue! This year we know that community is more important than ever.

Dorshei is so much more than our building and we are thrilled to welcome 12 new members, especially during this unusual year! We created a modest way to welcome our new members in person, observing all social distancing measures - it was a happy day when our committee hand-delivered welcome bags to our new friends. It felt very special to meet individuals in person, outside their homes.

Anyone who has volunteered knows that doing so brings as much benefit to the volunteer as to the recipient - and this small act was a testament to this fact. Throughout this year, we intend to continue the welcome with personalized touch points from our rabbi, president and others. As well, in the past we had partnered long-standing members with new ones, and we hope to return to setting up those matches soon. For now, we invite the entire Dorshei Emet family to please welcome in our new members:

Irene Angelico & Abbey Neidik

Judith Bilefsky

Tim Brody

Philip Ehrensaft

Michal Katz & Adam Atlas

Arlene Lerner

Aviva Ravel

Rosa Richter

Amanda Shore

Rona and Peter Small

Norm Spatz

Katie Wong



Response and Renewal Project

Established 60 years ago, Dorshei Emet has evolved from a havurah to an important part of Montreal's Jewish community. Our mission, to be “a progressive, inclusive and fully egalitarian synagogue community that is committed to engaging its members in meaningful Jewish living and learning”, depends on a close connection with all our members.

In order to ensure that we live our mission, the Response and Renewal Project will attempt to answer these questions:

*What does my shul mean to me? What do I derive from being a member?
Do I feel a connection to my shul? If not, how can we help to make this happen?
What is missing?*

The project will have several parts:

- A members' survey on a range of topics, followed by a report of your critiques, comments and suggestions.
- A phone brigade, to create and sustain connections with our members.
- 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.

We encourage all our members to respond to this outreach!



Yizkor Book Report

by Bernie Weinstein

The 5781/2020 Edition

This certainly wasn't an ordinary year.

In the first two years of pulling together the Yizkor Book we started work in February and made our first appeal to the community as soon as the Annual Giving Campaign ended at Purim. This year, the synagogue, the city, the province and the country shut down just as were about to start work. We were told to hold off until we had a better feel for what the future would be.

Dorshei Emet cancelled all in-person services and events; how would we appeal to our members to submit names?

Our printer was shut down; how would we get the document printed?

Would we reopen for the High Holydays? How would we distribute copies to our members in time for the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur?

Thanks to the hard work of our committee members and the excellent cooperation of our staff, our Rabbi and our members, we were able to publish a wonderful 5781/2020 edition of the Dorshei Emet Yizkor Book. We succeeded in distributing 130 copies to members! In addition, we put two versions of the book on our website: one version without the submitted names on our home page, which is accessible to all, and a complete version including all the submitted names which may be accessed only by members. We ensured that our members could use the book for the first Yizkor Service of 5781.

This year 92 members submitted 441 names to be honoured (compared to 83/411 in 2019). We had 25 members submit names for the first time. We generated almost \$6,200 in net revenue, compared to \$5,270 in 2019, all of which has been turned over to the Dorshei Emet Cemetery Fund.

I want to thank the members of the committee for their excellent work and all the members of the community who helped us by submitting names to be honoured. I also want to say a special thank you to Chava Dienar who has decided to retire from the committee. As one of the founding members and head of our Content subcommittee, Chava has been an ally and a great help.



The Future

Here are some of the exciting ideas we have "on the table" for the 5782/2021-22 edition of the Yizkor Book:

- A survey has been circulated to all members of the congregation looking for comments regarding this year's edition and suggestions for future editions. Depending on the responses received, we will hold a Town Hall meeting to more fully explore the results of the survey.
- We plan to include articles in Kol Ha'Kehilah, offering stories and expanding on the section "The Path of Jewish Mourning" in the Yizkor Book. We hope you will see these as a source of information and entertainment.
- We will ask the members of the congregation to help our Content subcommittee find suitable prayers, poems and readings for inclusion in upcoming editions.
- We will create an "Honouring our Memories" blog on the Dorshei Emet website, where members may submit stories about the people whose names they have honoured in the Yizkor Book.
- The Board has agreed to our request to allow non-members to submit names to be honoured in the Yizkor Book, at a premium.
- We welcome Liora Adler, a new member to the committee.

We welcome your ideas, and will be looking forward to hearing them in our upcoming survey.

Shabbat Meal Deliveries The Dorshei Community in Action

In mid-March, when Dorshei and much of the city locked down, a giant chasm of unknown stretched before us. That was the environment that spurred the biweekly Shabbat meal deliveries.

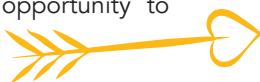
Between the end of March and December 4th, there were 15 Shabbat meal deliveries. We started with 30 recipients but it soon grew to 50 or more for each delivery. There were no specific criteria to qualify; every recipient had a reason why the meals would be welcome. Each delivery came in a colorful reusable shopping bag with a tag that reads "Shabbat Shalom! Love, Dorshei Emet!" The bags held a complete Shabbat meal, including challah and dessert. The food was not only delicious, but it was also a way for the recipient to connect to Dorshei Emet and feel community support.

In addition to the Dorshei members who were recipients, two other groups were integral to the project. A dedicated group of volunteer drivers came in every kind of weather to deliver. Many members generously donated to underwrite the project. It is a beautiful example of our community coming together to repair the world, Tikkun Olam.

Federation CJA was instrumental and provided grants to ensure the project continued. Of course, Patrizia Di Cori, our in-house caterer, came through with great menus every time.

With the winter coming and over 600 meals delivered, the project is on pause for now. In the spring, we will re-evaluate.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our heroic drivers:



PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAY!

THE DEEP FRIED TRUTH ABOUT CHANUKAH

Monday, Dec. 7th 7:30pm
On Zoom

Explore the history,
lore and traditions
beyond the candles
and gelt!

With Rabbi Boris

Contact
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org to register



Yael Acre
Liane Barski
Sharon Braverman
Miki Harar
David Hill
Paul Horowitz
Ruth Hundert
Andrei Kelner

Aviv Laor
Michael Lehrman
Paula Lehrman
Oria Lissak
Lewis Lurie
Irv Perlman
Terrye Perlman
Lori Rabinovitch

Shara Rosen
Jack Rudnicki
Sharron Schwartz
Jonathan Silver
Syd Stepner
Erika Tencer
Cynthia Weinstein
Ronit Yarosky



Nothing is certain but...

by Ellayne Kaplan

No, this article is not about taxes.

As Chair of the Yahrzeit Committee, I coordinate a team of devoted callers who advise members of upcoming yahrzeits for their loved ones. During the three years since I began, I have been extremely touched by the appreciation expressed by all of you who receive the yahrzeit reminders. Speaking for myself, I know the yahrzeit dates for my parents and don't really need a call, but I have always welcomed the reminder, a warm message from my synagogue community.

If you would like to receive a reminder for your yahrzeits and have not already submitted the information to the synagogue, please feel free to do so by emailing admin@dorshei-emet.org. Many thanks to our team of callers: Janet Dwoskin, Abby Kleinberg-Bassel, Lois Lieff and Dorothy Stober.

And while we are on the subject of remembering our loved ones....this is a message I wrote for a previous edition of Kol Ha'Kehilah:

"Human nature is a funny thing. Have you ever noticed that people tend to sit in the same part of the Sanctuary every time they attend services? Some love the view from up on high in the balcony, others prefer to be close to the bimah, or find the acoustics best in the last row center, and so on.

Our family always chooses to sit next to the Memorial Boards at the right of the bimah. It's not just the aisle seat

we seek, or the proximity to the audio speakers that enhances our slightly diminished hearing - sitting next to our parents' names on the Memorial Board just feels right.

During a Rosh Hashanah service, I noticed our daughter showing her little boys the names of their four great-grandparents, running their fingers over the raised letters, noting that they carry their grandfathers' names as their middle names. In this little ceremony she found a way of connecting the past to the future."

The yahrzeit for every name represented on a plaque is announced on the appropriate Shabbat in perpetuity. Though it may be some time before we can gather in the sanctuary again, you may order memorial plaques to honour the memory of your loved ones and to keep their memory alive, whether or not they were members of the Dorshei Emet community. The cost of each plaque is \$360 and includes a partial tax receipt.

The three Memorial Boards have been revamped in order to place family members together, an ongoing process undertaken with great care. There are many names on the boards for which there are no mourners in our community, and it would be fascinating to explore this chapter of our history. If anyone is interested in delving into our past please contact me anytime at ellayne@gmail.com.



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

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(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

Chanukah Food Baskets Committee

Co-Chairs: Jack Rudnicki, Paula Merovitz & Yael Acre

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

Co-Chairs: Sharron Schwartz & Jodi Lackman

Security Committee

Chair: David Hill

Syrian Refugees Committee

Co-Chairs: Eva Echenberg & Laurie Usheroff

Yizkor Book Committee

Chair: Bernie Weinstein

Gardening Committee

Chair: Ellen Shalinsky

Speakers Series Committee

Chair: Deena Roskies

2020 Simchat Torah Committee

Chair: Ilana Shiller

Life and Legacy Committee

Chair: Russel Copeman

Dorshei Emet Photo Club

Chair: Aviv Laor

Many opportunities to get involved in any of our dynamic committees
Contact Cynthia Weinstein at executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org or (514) 486-9400.





Why Reconstructionism Now?

by Rabbi Deborah Waxman,
President, Reconstructing Judaism

From ReconstructingJudaism.org, Nov. 16, 2020

The existential nature of the Coronavirus pandemic is laying the groundwork for a religious revival — increased interest in religious explanations, leadership and communities, and renewed creativity among those communities. The Reconstructionist movement's reverence for the past, curiosity about the future, pragmatic spirit and democratic commitments make us poised to contribute a compelling vision of 21st-century Jewish life as part of this revival.

At the heart of the Reconstructionist concept of Judaism as a “civilization” is an embrace of diversity. Reconstructionism recognizes there are multiple ways to be Jewish, including but not limited to religion; it affirms cultural and secular expressions of Jewishness that may never find a comfortable home in a synagogue, even as it seeks to draw from the power and richness of Jewish religion to inform the breadth of Jewish living. As the worldwide Jewish community increasingly moves toward new and uncharted models of Jewish life, both virtual and “in real life,” leaders and lay people alike must recognize that Judaism and Jewishness look different for each person. In open societies, we are all, to a certain extent, “Jews by choice.” A Reconstructionist approach insists on finding the richest possible balance between the well-being of the community and the aspirations of its individual members. We believe that when we foster a welcoming Judaism that is diverse in expression and approach, one that is willing to transform itself in the face of emerging commitments and communities, we increase the possibility that members of the next generation will choose to be Jewish.

Reconstructionists root ourselves in our rich Jewish legacy, drawing from its boundless well for nurturing wisdom about Jewish living and learning. At the same time, we look forthrightly at the challenges and opportunities of the

moment. We accept that evolutionary change is inevitable. Rather than despairing, we take steps to harness change to improve our own community and to repair a broken world. Modeling a progressive religious approach that is inclusive and non-authoritarian, Reconstructionism provides a path that melds our historical commitments to democracy, pluralism and rationalism, with an activist approach to Jewish living. We fiercely embrace Jewish particularism, insisting that it is possible to be proud Jews in the modern world without walling ourselves off from it. Our commitment to the ideal of *minyan*, tending to the needs of community beyond individual desire, stands in counterpoint to cultural norms of radical individualism and autonomy. Yet in our abiding commitment to *tikkun olam* and multifaith work, we are resolutely engaged with the wider world, translating Jewish commitments into universal values. We foster connections with other religions and other peoples out of the belief that we are better Jews when we deepen our shared humanity, and out of recognition that our redemption is bound up in that of other peoples. In the face of rising fundamentalism and authoritarianism, we demonstrate a powerful expression of progressive Judaism that makes the case — in what we hope are gorgeous and compelling ways — about what we are living for.

Mordecai Kaplan taught that preserving the past does not itself justify the continuation of the Jewish people and Jewish civilization. To remain vital, Jewish communities must empower their members to find Judaism a source of meaning, support and inspiration. Our challenge today: to create and refine the 21st-century Jewish storehouse, articulating Jewish values and then moving to responsive practice. We pursue this work in conversation with Jewish communities and authorities of the past; with present-day Jewish communities in North America, Israel and beyond; and with fellow travelers committed to progressive religious and humanist values.



RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

SHABBAT SHIRA 5781

Songs of Hope

Folk Classics and New Tunes
with Rabbi Boris,
Dorshei Emet Musicians and
Special Guests

30 JAN. 2021

8:00pm

Free - Contact
admin@dorshei-emet.org to
register and receive the link.

Dorshei Emet Origins

From the

Page 4 • Dorshei Emet Bulletin January/February • 2003

Reconstructing our Roots

Beautiful Music is our History

Reuben Brasloff

Shabbat Shira will not be too far away when this issue of our bulletin reaches you and we usually mark Jewish Music Month in our unique way. We have always been blessed with many musically gifted members who have added innovative variations in our rituals, instrumentally as well as vocally. Here are some of the more unique experiences we have enjoyed in past.

The Kol Nidre ritual has taken many forms with us over the years, mostly vocal renditions. However, about 25 years ago, Annabelle Ship was the sole performer on the Bimah that evening and she performed a most moving cello rendition of Kol Nidre. We sat spellbound long after Annabelle had finished.

Bar Mitzvahs are also an occasion for the introduction of instrumental renditions into the context of our service. Twenty years ago this Shabbat Hanukkah, Alexander Gelfand was Bar Mitzvah. When he finished chanting his Maftir and giving his dissertation, a friend joined him on the Bimah and (both on violin) played excerpts from Handel's Judas Maccabeus. His brother Brian accompanied them on the piano. To conclude the service, his mother Jo-Jo and two of her friends came up to the Bimah and played a medley of traditional Hanukkah songs. Of course since we are one of the "singiest" congregations anywhere we naturally sang along with them. Eventually we remembered that Kiddush and Motzi still had to be chanted.

Another year, when Wally Levitt was Bar Mitzvah, our service was honored with a unique instrumental

closing by Walter Joachim, the world-renowned cellist. He came as a guest of the Levitt family. Yet on this day, at the conclusion of services, he sat next to the Bimah, closed his eyes and played. He carried all of us along with him to a most unusual spiritual high. Joachim taught cello to a number of our synagogue members, including Wally and when he asked Wally what he would like as a Bar-Mitzvah gift, all Wally really wanted was for his teacher to play for him. Walter Joachim obliged and this way Wally shared his very unique Bar Mitzvah present with the congregation. Shulamis Yelin was so moved that she wrote a beautiful heart-rending poem lauding both Wally's reading and Joachim's music.

The Levitt family is musically gifted. One year, for Jewish Music Month they played for us "en famille" music specially written for the occasion by Canadian composer Clermont Pepin. Harvey played violin and Margaret the cello. Their children accompanied them, Jodie on flute, Roanne on oboe and Wally on cello. Their fourth child, Lorne, was still too young to join them at the time but the viola eventually became his instrument.

Our Ark also houses a permanent memento of Walter Joachim. It is a lovely ivory handled Yad with the traditionally shaped hand and pointing finger in silver. He had acquired it in Bangkok during his world travels and brought it along with him to Montreal when he settled here. The late Mary Bach, one of our most active members in the early days convinced him that we could give it a good home. Those of us who remember Mary and her powers of persuasion are not surprised.



WINTER EVENTS @ DORSHEI EMET

DECEMBER

- 7 The Deep Fried Truth about Chanukah - 7:30pm
- 9 Rabbi Lavy Becker & Rabbi Ron Aigen Speaker series: Listening Workshop Part 3 - 7:30pm
- 10-17 Chanukah
 - 12 Kids Chanukah Party with Rabbi Boris - 6:30pm
 - 12 "Gelt" Together Chanukah Party - 8pm
 - 14 Vintage Lights: Irwin Tauben will share with us his treasured Judaica menorah collection - 4pm
 - 16 Bookclub - 1pm
 - 17 Pier 21 and Jewish Immigration to Canada - 10am
 - 22 What I Learned from Teaching Online with Audrey Berner - 10am
 - 23 Festivus: For the rest of us! - 7:30pm
 - 31 Let's Ring in the New Year - TBD

JANUARY

- 12 Virtual Tour of Kehila Kedoshim Janina Synagogue & Museum - 10am
- 18 What do Gloria Steinem, Lauren Bacall, Barbara Walters, Jenah Sadat and Candice Bergen have in common? A Talk with Shelly Fabian - 4pm
- 20 Rabbi Lavy Becker & Rabbi Ron Aigen Speakers Series, Understanding Anti-Semitism Past and Present - 7:30pm
- 27 Bookclub - 1pm
- 28 Tu Bishvat
- 30 Shabbat Shira – Songs of Hope - 8pm

FEBRUARY

- 17 Bookclub - 1pm
- 25 Fast of Esther
- 26 Purim

"GELT" TOGETHER CHANUKAH PARTY

A LIVE PERFORMANCE
BY CANADIAN - ISRAELI
SINGER/SONGWRITER
ORIT SHIMONI

JOIN US FOR HAVDALLAH,
CANDLE LIGHTING,
& HOLIDAY FUN !

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8:00 PM



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET



Congregation Dorshei Emet Presents

Saturday, December 12th, 6:30 pm

Chanukah Kids and Families Mini-Party

Havdalah, stories and songs with Rabbi Boris and Fran Avni
Community candle lighting and an opportunity to check in with your Dorshei Emet community!

Program will be on Zoom
Email admin@dorshei-emet.org to register



VINTAGE LIGHTS

December 14, 4:00 PM

Join Irwin Tauben as he shares with us his treasured Judaica menorah collection. He began collecting these 18th - to early 20th century antiques 40 years ago.

To register email
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org



Did you know ?

Pier 21 is a National Historic Site which was the gateway to Canada for 1,000,000 immigrants between 1928 and 1971.



OY TO THE WORLD!

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we want to see how you are decorating your homes for the Chanukah season. Share your festive scenes with us by emailing your photos programdirector@dorshei-emet.org

CHANUKAH DECOR CONTEST

Prizes to be won

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR CREATIVITY

Deadline for submission
December 11, 2020

Pier 21 & Jewish Immigration: A Story of Dreams

DECEMBER 17 10:00AM

Jewish immigrants to Canada have come for many reasons and have been a part of the fabric of the country since before confederation. Many fled oppression and persecution; and while they often faced unfair treatment in Canada, they were also able to build new lives for themselves and their future generations.

Did you know ?

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21's purpose is to explore immigration to Canada in order to enhance public understanding of the experiences of immigrants.

December 23
7:30 pm

Festivus

FOR THE REST OF US !

A totally Dorshei celebration of the holidays, our way. With no Chinese restaurants or movies to go to, join us for an evening of laughs and fun to brighten up December 23 – the official evening of Festivus.

We will not be gathering around the aluminum pole to air our grievances, instead join us for fun holiday video clips and sharing of unique and funny ways that the Dorshei family celebrates the holidays.

Have a fun story to share?
Email to register
Contact Oria
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org

BOOK CLUB 5781

Wednesdays
@ 1:00PM

The Little Old Lady Who Broke All The Rules
By Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg
January 27, 2021

The Accidental Empress
by Allison Pataki
February 17, 2021

The Song of the Jade Lily
by Kirsty Manning
March 17, 2021

American Dirt
by Jeanine Cummins
April 28, 2021

For more details,
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org



Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum

**Come on a virtual tour of this
New York City Synagogue and Museum
Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 AM**

Kehila Kedosha Janina is the only Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Romaniote Jews are a unique community whose history in Greece dates back over 2300 years to the time of Alexander the Great. The synagogue is a designated New York City landmark.

To join this tour, email programdirector@dorshei-emet.org

Rabbi Lavy Becker & Rabbi Ron Aigen Speakers Series Presents:



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

UNDERSTANDING ANTISEMITISM, PAST AND PRESENT



January 20, 2020
7:30 PM

FEATURING:
BERNIE FARBER
AND LEN RUDNER

**Join us for an evening exploring the many faces of
anti-Semitism and how we can take action.**

Bernie Farber, one of Canada's most accomplished NGO CEOs, his career focuses on human rights, anti-racism, pluralism and inter ethnic/faith/race relations.

Len Rudner is a human rights problem-solver with corporate and non-profit experience as an advocate, relationship manager, educator, researcher and writer. He is the former Director of Community Relations and Outreach at CIJA.

Everyone is welcome.

Free, registration required.
Email programdirector@dorshei-emet.org
to receive the Zoom access link.

DONOR RECOGNITION

5781 (July 18, 2020 - October 15, 2020)

GENERAL FUND

Cynthia Weinstein and Oria Lissak, in honour of:

Leanna and Joel Silver, Camille Woodard, Alan Handel, Eva Echenberg, Mark Mendelson, Erica Botner, Rosana Caplan, Myron Echenberg, Donnie Frank, Hillel Becker, Merle Wolofsky Billy Wisse, Mark Kahn, Ellin Bessner, Mark Bassel, Ellayne Kaplan, Russell Copeman, Paula Draper

Suzi & Arnie Lipes, in memory of Victor Shulimson z"l

Patti & Charlie Dray, in honour of Rita Tenenbaum on her special birthday

Mark & Edna Mendelson, in honour of David Hill

Rosalyn Shrier, in honour of Rita Tenenbaum on her very special birthday

Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in memory of Aladar Katz z"l

Ellen Shalinsky, in memory of Sheila Maldoff z"l

Sam Yates & Annie Koenig, to mark the yahrzeit of Magda Koenig

Sam Yates & Annie Koenig, to mark the yahrzeit of William Koenig

Reva Bercovitch, in memory of Meyer Israel Kastner z"l

Shainy Haim, in appreciation and admiration of Ellayne Kaplan

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, in appreciation of Audrey Berner and Mark Bassel

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, celebrating the birthday of Howie Klarer

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, celebrating the birthday of Mark Rabinovitch

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, celebrating the birthday of Peggi Cohen Rabinovitch

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, in honour of Iris Aaron celebrating the birth of her first grandchild

Laura Winer, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris and the whole High

Holiday team who made the virtual services so meaningful

Maureen Holt, thank you for the High Holidays

Charles Flicker

Pearlann Goldenberg, in appreciation of our entire Dorshei Emet community

David Hill & Sally Ayrtton, in recognition of Deena Roskies & the speakers committee

Nadav Aigen & Jennifer Alper, in recognition of Deena Roskies & the speakers committee

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Aaron Fish z"l

David Hill & Sally Ayrtton, in recognition of Nadav Aigen for all his hard work

Ruth & Gershon Hundert, in honour of Rita and Joseph

Schulman, on their grandson Adrian Schulman's Bar mitzvah

Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch, in honour of Brahm and Ilana Shiller, celebrating 40 years of marriage

Nadav Aigen, in honour of David Hill

LAVY BECKER FUND

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Victor Shulimson z"l

Sara & Irwin Tauben, in memory of Victor Shulimson z"l

Anna Barber

Laura Winer, in memory of Victor Shulimson z"l

MANNY BACH TORAH FUND

Anna Barber

Shara Rosen, in honour of Rita Tenenbaum on her very special birthday

Mark Bassel, in honour of Abby Kleinberg-Bassel for her beautiful singing

Mark Bassel, in honour of Deborah Kraus for the wondrous chanting of Kol Nidre

Mark Bassel, in honour of Rabbi Boris Dolin - just for being our Rabbi

KIDDUSH FUND

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Graziella Di Veroli z"l

Sandy & Bernie Weinstein, in memory of Max Weinstein z"l

Sandy & Bernie Weinstein, in memory of Jenny Pfeffer z"l, great grandmother, to mark her Yahrzeit

MEIR IFERGAN B'NEI MITZVAH FUND

Dorothy Stober, in appreciation

Pearlann Goldenberg, in memory of Graziella Di Veroli z"l

Nadav Aigen & Jennifer Alper, in honour of Aviva Presser's Bat Mitzvah

Nadav Aigen & Jennifer Alper, in honour of Aliza Dawn Acre-Hosein's Bat Mitzvah

Elana Cooperberg, President Congregation Dorshei Emet, in honour of Aliza Dawn Acre-Hosein's Bat Mitzvah

Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of the engagement of Warren Litwin to Lisa Glass

Dorothy Stober, in memory of Ron Neftin z"l

Dorothy Stober, in memory of Haim Cohen z"l

Paola Ciambella in appreciation of Cynthia Weinstein

Dorothy Stober, on the yahrzeit of her late husband, Sol Stober

Dorothy Stober, in appreciation for the Shabbat meals

RABBI RON MEMORIAL FUND

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Paula and Jerry Wiviott celebrating the birth of their grandson, Ravi

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Robin and Kabir celebrating the birth of their son, Ravi

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Abby Kleinberg-Bassel & Mark Bassel, celebrating their son Michael's wedding

Carmela Aigen, in memory of Victor Shulimson z"l

Merle Wolofsky, in honour of Rabbi Ron's yahrzeit

Anna Barber

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Aliza Dawn Acre-Hosein's Bat Mitzvah

Paola Ciambella, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday

Ilana & Brahm Shiller, celebrating the birthday of Carmela Aigen

Rita and Joseph Schulman, in honour of Rabbi David Kosak on the occasion of Adrian Schulman becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Adrian Schulman becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Ruth & Gershon Hundert's 50th wedding anniversary

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Aviva Wolman and Stephen Wener, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris
 Rena Entus, in appreciation of Oria Lissak's fantastic programs
 created during isolation

Patrizia Di Cori, in memory of Grazia Di Cori Di Veroli z"l

Neil & Marilyn Caplan, in honour of Rita Tenenbaum on her very
 special birthday

Eleanor Bonder, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris

Merle Wolofsky, in honour of Rabbi Boris

Gregory McKenzie

Judy Kenigsberg, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris

Marcia Kovitz, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris

Charles Kaplan & Gordana Jovanovich, in appreciation of Rabbi
 Boris & the DE team that put together such meaningful services

Charles Kaplan & Gordana Jovanovich, in honour of the Becker
 family Aliyah

Brigitte Albert, in memory of Aaron Fish z"l

Ruth & David Flicker

Donnie Frank, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris & the staff

Carmela Aigen, in honour of Rabbi Boris

TZEDAKA FUND

Lois Lieff, in memory of Haim Cohen z"l

SIDDUR FUND

Mark & Audrey Berner, in appreciation of Liora Adler

Mark & Audrey Berner, in memory of Aaron Fish z"l

The Albert-Toth family, in loving memory of Pierre Toth z"l

Carmela Aigen, in memory of Aaron Fish z"l

MACHZOR FUND

Neil & Marilyn Caplan, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris, Chava
 Dienar and the High Holiday Committee for the creative and
 inspirational services during Covid-19

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMING FUND

Myriam Avetisyan & Sarkis Kalaygi

Mark Bassel, in honour of Jonathan Goldstein - for his
 outstanding shofar blowing

Mark Bassel, in honour of Sarah Dolin for an exceptional
 children's program in these exceptional times

MEMORIAL FUND

Ruth & David Flicker, in memory of Syd Greenberg z"l

PROGRAMMING FUND

Barry Lazar & Celina Segal, in honour of Abby Kleinberg-Bassel
 and Mark Bassel celebrating the marriage of their son, Michael
 Kleinberg-Bassel to Michelle Vodnak

Lois Lieff, in honour of Rita Tenenbaum on her very special birthday

Merle Wolofsky, in honour of Oria Lissak

Merle Wolofsky, in honour of Cynthia Weinstein

Lois Lieff, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris, Oria and Cynthia for
 the wonderful online services and programs

Penny Fransblow, in honour of Oria Lissak

Barry & Ethlyn Agulnik

Carole Shiller

Mark Bassel, in honour of the Executive Director and the
 Program Director

Annette Sherman, in appreciation of Oria Lissak

BARRY FRANK MEMORIAL FUND

Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of Abby Kleinberg-Bassel &

Mark Bassel, celebrating their son Michael's wedding

Pearlann Goldenberg, in appreciation of Marilyn Goldenberg

Erika Tencer & Jonathan Silver

Anna Barber

Neil & Marilyn Caplan, in honour of Sheila Caplan's special birthday

Eric & Rosana Caplan, in honour of Liora Adler, celebrating her
 beautiful singing on the second day of Rosh Hashana 5781

Eric & Rosana Caplan, in appreciation of Mark Bassel's beautiful
 shofar blowing in the park and in the virtual shul.

Donnie Frank, in appreciation of Joe Douek

Donations are also welcome to:**GEMILUT HASADIM FUND****HARVEY KAHN CHANUKAH FOOD BASKETS FUND****MINYAN FUND****TIKKUN OLAM FUND****EMPTY BOWLS FUND****ISADORE AND SARAH GOLDSTEIN FUND****SIMCHA FUND****SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND****LANDSCAPE AND GARDENING FUND****TZEDAKA PROJECT FUND**

Think Of Us As Your Family !



**You have loved Dorshei Emet and poured your heart into it.
It has made you proud, and stands as a testament to your values.
You have nurtured it and helped it become what it is today.
Dorshei Emet is an enduring part of your Jewish legacy, just like your family.**

**As you plan for the future, think about what that legacy means to
you ... and please consider the congregation in your will or estate plan .**

**Contact Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director
executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org
for more information (514) 486-9400**

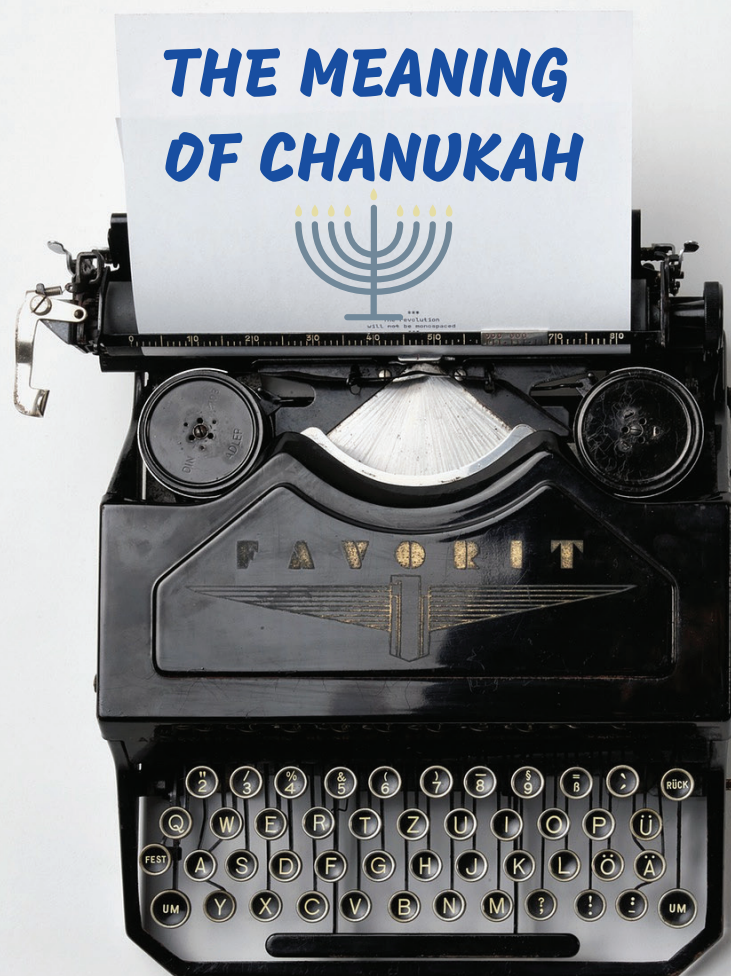


CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET





DORSHEI WRITES



Take the time to reflect and learn from each other!

As we enter winter and the season of Chanukah,
what is on your mind?

What are you dedicating yourself to in the year ahead?

We had many beautiful reflections during the High Holidays added to our community blog. Let's keep the project going!

Send in your reflections, essays and poems and be part of this living record of these strange times. We can make our way through this journey together!

Send writing or images to dorsheiwrites@gmail.com
Visit the blog at www.dorsheiwrites.weebly.com

"GELT" TOGETHER CHANUKAH PARTY

A LIVE PERFORMANCE
BY CANADIAN - ISRAELI
SINGER/SONGWRITER
ORIT SHIMONI



JOIN US FOR HAVDALLAH,
CANDLE LIGHTING,
& HOLIDAY FUN !
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8:00 PM