



# KOL HA'KEHILAH

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE קול הקהילה



### THE BIGGEST TABLE

by Rabbi Boris Dolin

Growing up in Astoria, a small town on the Oregon Coast, my Jewish identity was determined not as much by my beliefs and practices but by how I saw myself in relation to others in the world. When spring would come, I knew that my favorite holiday, Passover was on its way. This was not a small celebration for our community. In fact, every year we would rent out one of the local churches' social halls, and hold our seder in that big echoing room.

Somehow during this important moment in the year, our small but tight-knit Jewish community would grow, as we would invite guests, Jews, non-Jews, and various spiritual seekers, to join us. I always felt a strong sense of connection, not only with the story of my people, but also with the very powerful experience of sharing this story with those who were not part of my Jewish community and family.

We eventually moved to the big city, but we still made sure to invite guests to our seder, pushed on by

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Elana Cooperberg

Ah, the beginning of spring! We wait through a long, dark winter for the first whispers of this energizing season. This period brings with it a sense of renewal and hope, for warm days and a heightened sense of purpose. Gone is the darkness of winter and with it our desire to hibernate! Looking forward, we are excited about the possibilities around us, and embrace the opportunities to engage, to renew, and to fulfill our need to come together and work towards building a stronger community. It is with this desire to come together, as our tradition compels us, that I reach out to you all now.

Dorshei Emet has been a synagogue driven by the passion of its members. Over the years however, we have seen less involvement on committees, in program planning, in fundraising, and even in the pursuit of social justice. Our committees exist on paper, but sadly, many do not function optimally. I am reaching out to you now to ask for your guidance and assistance

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RABBI'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

the commandment to "Let all who are hungry come and eat." Each year, new people with new stories and backgrounds would be welcomed into our home. Throughout the years we had many friends of friends, curious co-workers, and immigrants from the former Soviet Union who, for the first time, were able to celebrate their Jewish heritage. Every year it was a different guest, and every year a different moment of connection.

There is a tradition that on Passover, Elijah the prophet, God's messenger, visits every Jewish families' seder. We open the door, sing a song, and for those who pay attention (and have a bit of an imagination), we might even see Elijah's cup wiggle a little. Elijah also shows up in an endless number of Jewish folktales. In these stories Elijah is often dressed up as a beggar, or an old wanderer, appearing at just the right time, to teach those who welcome him in an important lesson about holiness and hospitality.

Elijah is not just a special guest; he is also a reminder for us to always keep our doors and our hearts open to all. We will never know if that person, even the stranger most different than us, is the most important piece of God.

Therefore, we should open our doors to Jews, to non-Jews, to friends and strangers, to the rich and poor, or to those who have been excluded from Jewish life because of the doors that have been closed on them, as well as to all those who are simply searching for open arms and a welcoming home.

I am excited to participate in a few great Passover programs in the community this year. Sarah is organizing a Pre-Pesach children's workshop on March 29th, with music stories and a special take-home art project. This year we will also be co-sponsoring a second night community seder with Mile End Chavurah, an opportunity to feel the strength of the holiday beyond our own homes, and share the story of Passover with new friends and plenty of good food and fun. Stay tuned for more info on this wonderful program.

On Passover, it is not up to us to close any doors, we can only open them. On this day, our story, the story of Passover and the Jewish people, is also the story of life itself and the universal search for freedom, tolerance and compassion. Outside, inside, us and them. Don't forget, this is the day when we make our tables bigger, and the story of our community, stronger.



Cynthia  
Weinstein

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### Reflections on Community

On December 7th, 2019 my family celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of our youngest son, Reshef. It was our third (and final) B'nei Mitzvah in the shul. Standing up there on the Bimah, feeling pride in my family and so much love from the congregation, I could not help but think about the role that Dorshei Emet has played in our family's life. My husband and I were not raised with a connection to a shul community; however we have tried to ensure that Dorshei Emet always played an important role in the upbringing of our kids.

When we first joined in our late 20's, Aviv and I felt awkward - we did not know anyone and were not accustomed to the rhythms of synagogue life. Members were very friendly and we soon started to feel more at ease. Once we had kids, we were happy to join in activities with other families we could socialize with. Aviv and I and our 3 children were regulars at Family Shabbat, Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpachah and all the festivals long before I began to work here. Aviv led the Youth Group for a while, I became the Chair of the Children's Programming Committee and we each served on the Board of Directors. There was always something at Dorshei on our schedule.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

After Reshef's Bar Mitzvah party on Saturday night, when we were waiting for the last guests to leave, the owner of the reception hall asked Reshef what he got out of the whole Bar Mitzvah experience. Reshef said that when he was on the bimah he could feel that the people in the shul were "really there for him" - they knew him. This was a surprise answer - we were expecting something more like, "I had a fun party!"

In early February, a dear friend whom I had met at Dorshei Emet over 20 years ago, tragically passed away. Our families had become close over the years. At his funeral there were dozens of Dorshei Emet members. We were all doing our best to support his family and each other. Again, I was struck by how lucky we are to be part of this community.

It is always easier to not bother getting involved at shul....to stay home and relax, or plan other things for our precious leisure time. However, there is a benefit to a long-term relationship between your family and the shul that cannot be understated and really can't be duplicated. Dorshei Emet is a community that will celebrate with you in the good times and hold you up when you need it.

This spring when the weather is warming up and it feels like things are getting moving again, think about how you can reconnect and strengthen the relationship you and your family have with the shul. Take a look at all of the flyers in this newsletter and try to fit some events into your busy life. We offer a myriad of opportunities for you to feel the connection that my family has been so fortunate to experience.

in rebuilding these committees, and encouraging you to be a more active participant in the future of Dorshei Emet.

The Board of Directors has taken on the task of reinvigorating our committees, and working actively to find volunteers who would be interested in participating. It is therefore my request here to ask you to volunteer for committees, letting the office know, or me directly. I would be happy to have a conversation about what would best suit your personal interests and skills, and your own level of engagement. We are always looking for people to participate on our membership committee and fundraising committee. These are, of course, crucial to our sustainability and longevity. There are other opportunities as well, and I encourage you to get in touch so we can discuss this further.

My own involvement in committees began with Empty Bowls. Working with a passionate group of people organizing the event was not only fun, but also felt empowering. We had guest speakers come to our meetings and talk about food security in and around Montreal and some of the ways we can work towards solving these complex and difficult social

problems. We spent time developing the Empty Bowls event, eventually expanding to other geographic locations and communities. Today, there are ongoing Empty Bowls activities outside Dorshei Emet, and of course, we continue the program here. The people I met I am still in touch with, and our sense of community enabled us to work together to promote the wellbeing and sustainability of others. I encourage you therefore to get involved, and feel passionate about doing something that encompasses our mission, vision, and values.

We also have many program offerings coming up this season, and I encourage you to peruse the newsletter and find something that interests you. Pesach is a time for us to remember not only our exodus from Egypt, but also the freedom we gained that enables us to enjoy the world around us. It is a time for us to recognize that there is much to do and that we all have a role to play in the doing. The good we want to bring to the world can best be accomplished collectively.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and services.

Happy Pesach and Happy Spring!



# This Passover, be the Link in the Chain of Jewish Tradition

by Ronit Yarosky



There is a story about Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik of Brisk. One day, a poor-looking woman approached him on the street and asked him a somewhat unusual question: could she use milk instead of wine for the four cups of the Seder? When the Rabbi asked why she wanted to use milk, she awkwardly explained that she could not afford wine.

The Rabbi discreetly handed her a large sum of money, prompting his wife to ask: "I understand you gave her money because she can't afford the wine, but why so much?"



The Rabbi answered, "If she is asking about drinking milk instead of wine, she probably cannot afford meat for the Seder either. So I gave her enough to buy wine and meat to last the entire holiday."

The Talmud tells us that the mitzvah of tzedaka is the equivalent of all the other mitzvot in the Torah. Indeed, one of the first things we read in the Haggadah is "let all who are hungry come eat."

Passover is the holiday of liberation and freedom. We gather with our families and friends to celebrate and cherish our freedom – and to remember those who are not free.

It is a time when we think about what it means to be both a human being and a Jew.

What does this mean to you? What does it mean to your children? How can we ensure that future generations will still live by the adage "let all who are hungry come eat" at a Passover table?

- "We've learned a lot and gotten a lot of support from the Dorshei rabbis and the community. We're on a fixed income right now, and we can't afford to give big donations. But we have RRSPs and a modest house, and we may not use up all our assets. We want to leave a share of our estate to the shul, to pay it forward, so that future generations can get the same support and learning. And knowing that the synagogue will get a financial incentive if enough people commit to this made us want to do it right away!"
- - Dorshei Emet Members and Legacy Donors

## How can we all be links in the chain of Jewish tradition?

Imagine if we could all plant a 'time capsule' of sorts, a time capsule that represented our – your – way of being Jewish in the world, for your children and for future generations. What Jewish values and traditions would you put in it? More importantly, what are you doing now to make this a reality?

If you live as long as Noah but leave no legacy – who will remember? If you build a great empire but after you are gone it crumbles – who will continue? **It is up to each and every one of us to ensure that our legacy lives on through a time capsule that we plant today.**


Dorshei Emet is part of the Life & Legacy program, a fantastic community initiative that helps Jewish organizations secure their future through promises of support for the future made today. **Anyone can make a legacy gift – including you.** There are many different ways to do this; one of them is sure to be right for you. We have access to some of the best professionals in the industry who are there to answer your questions and guide you through the process. Best of all, in addition to immediate financial incentives/rewards for just participating in the program, **all legacy gifts will be matched** up to one million dollars by the generosity of our 4 incredible trail-blazer member families: Joel Segal and Eileen Ramos; the Becker Newpol Family Foundation; Miriam Roland; and Wally and Aaron Fish. By simply making this decision now, your gift will double its impact.

As you sit down to your Passover Seder, think about what that table will look like in 10, 20 or 30 years. Now is the time to plant your time capsule - so that the chain of your traditions and legacy remain for your children and future generations.

Have a wonderful Pesach.

*Be remembered forever by Congregation Dorshei Emet with a gift in your will, retirement account or life insurance policy. For more information call Cynthia Weinstein at 514-486-9400.*





**This  
Passover  
consider  
four  
more  
questions ...**



**Do you value Dorshei Emet?**



**Do you support Dorshei Emet on an annual basis?**

**Do you want Dorshei Emet to exist for future generations?  
How will you assure Jewish tomorrows?**

**Be remembered forever by Congregation Dorshei Emet with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Contact Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director, for more information (514) 486-9400.**



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







## Out of Egypt: The Sixth Aliyah

by Joseph Douek

The Passover story always spoke to me in a profound way and at shul this year on Shabbat Shira, I was particularly overcome with emotion when called to the Torah. I was commemorating the yartzeit of my father and was given the sixth aliyah.

While waiting for my turn, many memories came flooding in. Memories of our leaving Egypt. But also memories of my recently deceased parents-in-law Miklos and Marica Katz who had escaped from Hungary after the Holocaust with their baby daughter. I thought of the courage, the resilience, and the fortitude of a previous generation who worked so hard to establish roots in a new country, become part of a community, and raise children and grandchildren.

Earlier in the service, our rabbi had spoken of how the Jews did not necessarily want to leave Egypt. It was Pharaoh who in the end forced them out. It had been the same for us. After the 1956 Suez Crisis under Nasser's regime, our family was expelled from Egypt. My father's business was put under sequestration and our family was given a week to get out. A week to make preparations, to gather what we could and leave behind our apartment, our friends, the rest of our family, my school, our synagogue, our way of life. To go where?

While waiting for my aliyah I saw again our hurriedly organized estate sale when strangers rushed into our apartment as our furniture, our books, my toys were being auctioned off. I was nine and had promised myself that I would remember that day. I would remember our life in Egypt and would write about it some day.

My father. I was very attached to him: Arie ben Moshé Ha Cohen. Though generally a somewhat timid man, he was for me a lion, larger than life. As a small child I hid under his tallit, peering out, looking for God under the domed roof of our synagogue and in the sunlight streaming in from the stained glass windows. There, under my father's tallit, I felt secure.

"Regardes: Ils vont faire sortir Le Séfer!" my father would let me know in an excited but hushed voice. I was about three or four. I thought "Le Séfer" was a man who spent his days in a closed chamber of the synagogue only to come out once a week on Shabbat.

"Achat sha'alti me'eit adonai... Shviti be-veit adonai kol yemei chayyai... One thing I ask of the Eternal...to dwell in the House of the Eternal all the days of my life." For me the security of being under my father's tallit is fused with the words and meaning of the prayer.

Shabbat Shira. Miriam sang with the Hebrew women after crossing the Sea of Reeds. They sang with joy praising the Eternal. But I am sure that their song was also tinged with the grief of leaving Egypt, with the compassion for the ones they had left behind including compassion for the Egyptians who were swallowed up by the waters. And in their voices, there may also have been a hint of the anguish of not knowing what lay ahead, where they were heading.

"Etz Chaim Hi LaMachazikim Bah" – a favorite of my father's. Embracing the Tree of Life gives us resilience, direction, and hope with which to go on.



## Youth

by  
Sarah Dolin

Today, as I write, I am watching giant snowflakes fall from the sky and pile up on what's left of my tomato garden from last summer. The metaphor makes me smile: under all of this snow, new growth awaits. By the time you read this, the days will be noticeably longer, and our calendars with spring and summer plans for our children will be filling up. I'm hoping that you will include some very special upcoming Friends and Family programs!

First up, we have some great Family Shabbat programs coming up, and I promise that they will be even better if you are there. Highlights include making matzoh on April 4th, learning about Israeli culture with our shinshin, Ilay, on April 18th, a service project to benefit the Cummings Centre on May 2nd, and making ceramic vases for Shavuot on May 16th. The Family Shabbat programs begin at 10:30 with music and prayers with Fran Avni, and then Ilay and I lead the activities along with parent volunteers. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers, so reach out if you are interested in helping out.

Our next Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpachah will be on April 24th at 6:30. This program has evolved to include Shabbat songs with Rabbi Boris, a vegetarian potluck and a children's activity towards the end of the meal. This was a very well-loved program by those who attended the last one in January.

Last but not least, please mark your calendar for our End-of-Year Barbeque on June 7th at 4 pm. This Dorshei Emet tradition will return to the parking lot this year with vegetarian burgers and hot dogs provided. All you have to do is bring a dish for the potluck and be ready for some fun.

I look forward to seeing you at Dorshei Emet this spring. We have so much to look forward to!





## My Jewish Journey

by Avah Pennefather

Jewish Journeys is important to me because it allows me and others to learn and talk about the traditions and culture that we share. Everyone has their own point of view and that gives you your own identity. Stories from our history and our past about our ancestors make me understand who I am today.

I come from a multi-faith family that I am proud to be from. My mother's side is Jewish and my dad's side is Catholic. My parents have raised me Jewish and what I love about this congregation at Dorshei Emet is that everyone is treated equally with respect. Men and women can both wear kippot and tallitot and even read from the Torah! Families can sit together. Even though my father is not Jewish, he can still come on the bima and that means a lot to me!

A Bat Mitzvah is very important to me because it allows me to become a woman in the Jewish community. I am also honouring the traditions of my late Bubby and my late Papa; they would be so proud of me. I know they are watching over the good things that I do as a person. I have also met new friends through this program. I have met so many great people and we support each other. It's nice that we are all preparing together for our B'nai Mitzvah!

Rabbi Boris, who is our teacher, is very kind, patient, considerate and generous. He wants us to learn as much



### 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, field trips, 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.**



### Join Us

**for our information night  
on Tuesday June 2 @ 7pm.**

**To register call: Cynthia Weinstein,  
Executive Director at (514)486-9400,  
[executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org](mailto:executivedirector@dorshei-emet.org)**



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

as possible and he supports each and every student with every part of his heart for us to succeed! He also uses music to make things more fun to learn! Geva is a rabbi in training. He helps us and Rabbi Boris with the activities he prepares. Eli is our shinshin. That means he grew up in Israel. He also helps us learn about interesting facts about Israel.

Israel is also very important to me on my journey! I have been to Israel and it was one of the most interesting experiences I have ever had. We went to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Bethlehem, Masada and the Dead Sea. All of these places

make me who I am today and make me understand my history! I recommend this Jewish Journeys program for people who want to learn to connect to their culture and traditions. Thank you Dorshei Emet for everything. I wish everyone a great Bar or Bat Mitzvah for the class of 2020 and 2021! The experience is the journey!



# WHO WE ARE

## Clergy:

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

## Officers:

President  
1st Vice President  
Executive Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Head Parnass

Elana Cooperberg  
Liz Freedman  
David Hill  
Nadav Aigen  
Howard Ellner  
Ronit Yarosky  
Jodi Lackman

## Board Members:

Natalie Amar  
Myriam Avetisyan  
Chaim Colman  
Aviva Fuchs  
Miki Harrar  
Ellayne Kaplan  
Ilana Shiller  
Marilyn Takefman  
Erika Tencer

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

## Committee Chairs:

### Finance Committee

Chair: Howard Ellner

### Fundraising and Resource Committee

Chair: Ronit Yarosky

### Membership Committee

#### Inreach Committee (Kehillah)

Chair: Marilyn Takefman

#### Kumsitz Committee

Chair: Terrye Perlman

#### Outreach Committee

Chair: Natalie Amar

### Human Resources Committee

David Hill, Liz Freedman, Terrye Perlman

### Tikun Olam Committee

Chair: Ruth Flicker

### House and Maintenance Committee

Chair: David Hill

### Cemetery Committee

Chair: Nadav Aigen

### Ritual Practices (Minhag) Committee

Chair: Jodi Lackman

### Chanukah Food Baskets Committee

Chair: Jack Rudnicki, Paula Merovitz & Yael Acre

### Empty Bowls Committee

Chair: Sarah Dolin

### Yahrzeit Committee

Chair: Ellayne Kaplan

### Gemilut Hasadim Committee

Chair: Toby Shainbaum-Pollak

### Communications Committee

Chair: Romy Schnaiberg

### Bulletin Committee:

Chair: Claudio Smolarz

### Nominating Committee

Chair: Sharron Schwartz

### Security Committee

Chair: David Hill

### Shabbat Shira Committee

Chair: Olga Gross

### Office Volunteer Committee

Chair: Dorothy Stober

### Syrian Refugees Committee

Co-Chairs: Eva Echenberg & Laurie Usheroff

### Yizkor Book Committee

Chair: Bernie Weinstein

### Gardening Committee

Chair: Ellen Shalinsky

### Members' Kiddush Committee

Chair: Rita Tenenbaum





## Happy 100th birthday Dorshei Emet style

by Daniel Chonchol

It is something very special to celebrate your beloved father's 100th birthday, but even more wonderful is celebrating it with a large helping of love and a moving sense of community, courtesy of Dorshei Emet.

My dear dad Ernest Chonchol turned 100 last December 28, and by coincidence, the day fell on Shabbat. Since my dad and I are very regular attendees at services – mostly due to his unquenchable desire to never miss a Saturday in shul! – a tribute and celebration were arranged. Let me tell you a bit about my dad, for those who don't know his story.

He was born in the small town of Port Fouad in Egypt, just off the Suez Canal in 1919. He grew up there and in nearby Port Said, on the other side of the canal. He and his family, like many other Egyptian Jews, lived a relatively happy, peaceful existence for decades.

Then things changed, as they did for the Jews of Egypt in general, when Gamal Abdel Nasser took power in 1952. By this time my dad had met and married my beloved mother, Odette Mansour, z"l. Their life was fairly settled and they did not initially, as

others did, think of leaving the country notwithstanding the increasing difficulty of life for Jews.

But events took a dramatic turn in 1956 when my dad was arrested and interned with hundreds of other Jews. My mom and my dad's mother, not knowing at all where he was, nonetheless had to leave the country. Fortunately, my dad was released unharmed after three months and, thanks to the Red Cross, reunited with the family in Marseilles. They lived in Israel for a few years, then moved to Canada where many relatives had relocated and where a certain Daniel Chonchol was born a few years later.

My parents loved Canada, except possibly the weather. They had good careers and gave their only child plenty of love and attention. My dad only made his connection with Dorshei Emet when he was in his late sixties, joining after hearing a CBC program about Reconstructionism. He has always loved its openness, intellectual ferment, and warmth. And over the past year or so, I have accompanied him just about every week and shared some profound and moving moments with him.

None more moving than his 100th birthday. On the day itself, we were fortunate to have with us, along with his Dorshei Emet friends,

other friends and family members who are not part of the shul, including my dad's cousin Jeanne and my partner Murièle.

There was, as you might expect, an Aliyah, and my dad and I were quite moved. Head Parnass Jodi Lackman thoughtfully asked Murièle and Jeanne if they would like to accompany us up there and so the moment was all the more touching.

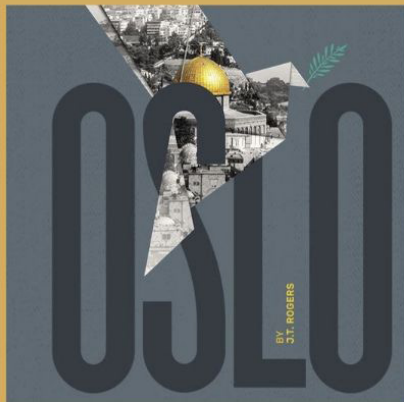
The next extraordinary part came as Rabbi Boris gave his Dvar Torah. He mentioned my dad and then invited all present to come and encircle him at his seat forming a tent over him with their talithot. Several members took the microphone and blessed my dad, telling him how inspirational he has been for them. My father then returned the love by expressing his gratitude and emotion. Several tears were shed... Last but not least, at Carmela Aigen's suggestion, a certificate proclaiming my dad the winner of the Dorshei Emet Sage Award was presented to him.

A kiddush, also prepared with love by Patrizia Di Cori, and including my dad's favourite foods and a birthday cake, wrapped everything up beautifully.

My dad and I are extremely grateful to Rabbi Boris and to the many folks who helped out. We are grateful as well to be a part of this loving and welcoming congregation.



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



## JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OUT AT THE THEATER

Come to the Segal Centre  
and see the award winning play

# OSLO

April 22, 2020, 6:30 pm

Tickets \$65\*

Students \$30

\*partial tax receipt will be given

A darkly funny and sweeping new play, Oslo is the surprising tale of the back-channel talks, unlikely friendships, and quiet heroics that led to the 1993 Oslo Accords between the Israelis and the Palestinians. A deeply personal story set against a complex political canvas, this multi award-winning play examines the individuals behind world history and their all too human ambitions.

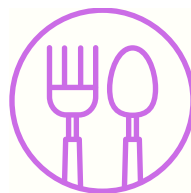
6:30 - 7:45 PM Reception

8:00 PM Play Begins

This is a great opportunity to see a wonderful play, have fun with Dorshei friends and raise funds for the synagogue.

Call the office before April 1st to reserve your tickets. 514-486-9400,

If you already have tickets for another night, you can call the Segal Centre to change them for the evening of our special event (please notify the office to be put on the list).



## Enlightened Bite Save The Date

*Lunchtime learning*

*Explore the Jewish view of life beyond the synagogue.*

*This year's theme: Social Justice*

*Monday, April 20, 2020*

*(notice change of day)*

*Guest Speaker: Carmela Aigen*

*Talk relating to Yom Ha'atzmaut*

*Wednesday, June 3 2020*

*With Rabbi Boris*

*Putting up a Good Fight:*

*Activism, Protest and Conscience in Jewish Tradition*

*Catered by Patrizia Di Cori / i Saponi Catering*

*\$20 for Members, \$25 Non-Members*

*Call Shainy at the shul office to register (514)486-9400*

*Any cancellations must be made 48 hours before event*

CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

## BOOKCLUB 5780

Wednesdays @ 1:00pm

## JOIN US

Contact Oria for more information  
programdirector@dorshei-emet.org

April 1, 2020

Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman

May 13, 2010

Breaking Night by Liz Murray  
Educated by Tara Westover

June 10, 2020

The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer





# New: Dorshei Emet's Code of Ethics

by Liz Freedman  
on behalf of the HR  
Committee

In the coming weeks, you will see our newly created Code of Ethics popping up in various places around the shul, on our website and in our membership packages. You can enjoy a sneak peek on the following page.

The Human Resources Committee developed this Code of Ethics which embodies our responsibilities to each other, and to all life, as members of this community. It applies to the entire congregation (members, staff, the Board) and to the interactions of these players with each other and those around us. The Code is an overarching document that ties into our Mission, Value and Pillars. Other guidelines and policies flow from it, for example, our policy on decorum within the sanctuary.

Some of our Board members have said, "Who could argue with any of these points?" Still we felt it was important to codify these core values of Jewish ethics. As we enter the Passover season, we are reminded of our responsibility as a free people to do our part to bring more freedom and justice to the world. Yet, even as we expand our ethical vision beyond the walls of our community, we can remember that compassion and ethics start close to home, in our relationships, in our families and in the synagogue.



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

*As members of a sacred community, we have a responsibility to each other, and to all life, which encompasses all that we do. These relationships are based on trust, compassion and an understanding that we are all made b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God. As we work towards the common goal of strengthening our community and Jewish life in general, we as a congregation maintain the core values of Jewish ethics and agree to follow this Code of Ethics.*

## As members of Congregation Dorshei Emet, We:

- treat each other with kindness, respect, courtesy and dignity
- welcome the expression of differing viewpoints and create an atmosphere of trust that encourages free discussion
- provide a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for members, staff, volunteers etc..
- refrain from gossip and lashon hara
- treat everyone equally regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, age, political/other opinions, social origins, disability, sexual orientation, birth or other status and do not tolerate any acts of discrimination or harassment
- do not tolerate abusive or aggressive behaviour, whether physical or verbal, including inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory language
- work within our bylaws, our Vision, Mission, Values and Pillars (as amended from time to time) and in full compliance with all laws and regulations
- respect the property and premises of the synagogue and related guidelines, including decorum within the sanctuary and during holidays, as well as those related to our safety
- provide opportunities for growth and skills development of our lay and professional leadership, including constructive support and feedback
- avoid conflicts of interest
- uphold the highest standards of confidentiality and share sensitive information only with those who have a need to know, including information about internal operations as well as personal information about members and staff
- promote proactive communications and streamlined processes
- require transparency of financial transactions and avoid even the appearance of fraud
- maintain a good credit standing and reputation within the community
- are attentive to the ethical implications of every project we support
- respect the rights of our neighbors and endeavor not to inconvenience them nor harm their property
- work in a complementary way with community service agencies

# SPRING EVENTS @ DORSHEI EMET

## APRIL

- 8 First Passover Seder
- 18 Family Shabbat - 10am
- 20 Enlightened Bite Yom Ha'atzmaut with Carmela Aigen - 12pm
- 22 Oslo at the Segal Center - 6:30pm
- 24 Kabbalat Shabbat Mispacha - 6:30pm

## MAY

- 1 Yom Ha'atzmaut Party - 6:30pm
- 2 Family Shabbat - 10am
- 9 Jewish Mental Health Shabbat - 10am
- 13 Book Club - 1pm
- 15 Kabbalat Shabbat Around the World - Balkans and Russia - 5pm
- 16 Family Shabbat - 10am
- 21 Israeli Book Club - 7pm
- 24 Empty Bowls - 11am



## June

- 3 Enlightened Bite - 12pm
- 10 Bookclub - 1pm
- 14 Friends and Family BBQ - 4pm

## Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpachah

April 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm  
Congregation Dorshei Emet

Songs and stories with Rabbi Boris followed by candle lighting, one of our famous potluck dinners and children's activities. Please bring a vegetarian dish--warm, cut and ready to serve 10, plus challah, wine/juice and candles for your table.

Call 514-486-9400 with any questions.  
18 Cleve Rd. Hampstead, QC H3X 1A6







## DAF YOMI

by Sheila Caplan

January 5 marked the start of a new 7½ year cycle of Daf Yomi (reading one page of Talmud daily) around the world. About 15 of us have been meeting with Rabbi Boris every Friday at noon, at shul or online via ZOOM, to share our thoughts on the week's readings and to study the page of the day. Our Facebook page has 42 followers.

The invitation to join this group was well timed for me. Here was an opportunity to delve into something that I was curious about, but that had always seemed inaccessible. With today's technology, not only is it available online in English, but there are also countless groups, blogs and podcasts to explore. Although we are reading the daily pages privately, the fact that everyone on the planet is "on the

same page" provides a unique sense of community. Like learning a new language, what a novel way to exercise a brain and keep it fit!

The format of the Talmud is unlike any other literary text, a compilation of rabbinical commentaries spanning hundreds of years. It's a historical tour introducing us to the many personalities who discuss and interpret, in minute detail, a whole range of laws and customs, sometimes meandering like a stream of consciousness. Peeking through this window we get a glimpse of life in Babylonian exile, adapting to conditions after the destruction of the Temple.

Our introduction, Berakhot (Blessings), covers a range of topics, from the sacred (when to recite the Shema) to

the mundane (personal hygiene) and everything in between (determining which blessings to say over combinations of foods). Some of the prayers in the siddur can be traced to Talmud pages we have encountered.

Opinions may be supported by proof texts or by examples of behaviours of other rabbis. Antiquated and removed as the text may be, there are still things that resonate. Strikingly, with all the divergence, no opinion is excluded, respect is shown; sometimes no conclusion is reached and that's ok. It's heartening to see examples where the spirit of compassion, tolerance and humanity trump the letter of the law. How refreshing to read this in today's world of divisiveness.

It's hard to imagine doing this for 7½ years, but I'm up for a challenge. So far so good. Perhaps you would like to try a taste of Talmud with us?



**Friday May 1, 6:30 PM**  
**Celebrations, Music and Dancing**  
**and Potluck Dinner**



Come study Daf Yomi with us! We meet every Friday at noon at Dorshei Emet, or you can join in "virtually" via Zoom. We also have a Facebook page. Just look up "Dorshei Emet Daf Yomi". For more information, contact Rabbi Boris.



# ISRAELI BOOK PANEL

## THE RETROSPECTIVE CHESED SEPHARADI BY A.B. YEHOSHUA

### PANELISTS:

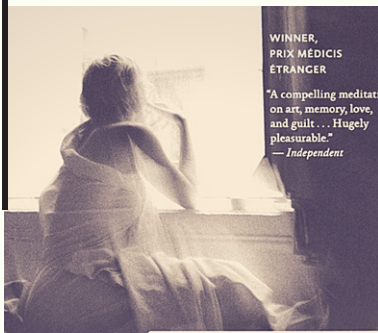
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Ha'aretz

THURSDAY,  
MAY 21, 2020  
7:30 PM



A.B. YEHOSHUA

*The Retrospective*

A NOVEL



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



Kabbalat Shabbat Around the World  
Presents

**BACK IN THE USSR**

Friday, May 15, 2020 6:30pm

## Empty Bowls Event *All ages welcome!*

at Congregation Dorshei Emet  
Proceeds will support food security in Montreal.

**Date: Sunday May 24, 2020**  
**11 am - 2 pm**

- Offering a bowl of soup, additional meal selections, plus bake sale goodies
- Ceramic bowl decorating workshop
- Lively music and a pleasant afternoon with family and friends

Cost: \$25.00 includes soup and handmade bowl/mug or soup and participation in the decorating workshop. \$5.00 for food only.



Address: 18 Cleve Road,  
Hampstead, QC, H4X 1A6



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET



**RECONSTRUCTING OUR ROOTS**

Reuben Brasloff

**OUR TRAVELING TORAHS****Thoughts at the season of "Zman Mattan Torah" (Shavuot)**

None of the Torahs in our Ark is new, written for us from scratch, so to speak. Each one is a visitor, having previously sojourned in other synagogues elsewhere in the world. Some of them date back a number of centuries; how far back is a matter of speculation. Others are relatively young ones, probably having been written in the last hundred years.

In 1967, when our old building was just dedicated, there were four Torahs in our Ark. One came to us from Cairo and two via Casablanca from other sojourns. The fourth one, much younger comparatively speaking, was originally used for Junior Congregation services at the old Davis YMHA on Mount Royal Ave. When our sister congregation in Toronto was organized, circa 1973, we sent them this one as a "seed" in their Ark. This left an empty space in our own ark which was filled in the early summer of 1974 by one written in Poznan in the seventeenth or eighteenth century. It came to us via Trinidad, with a brief stopover in Barbados. Circa 1991 we welcomed a Torah, which had been at Temple Beth-El in Endicott, NY and in 1992 we acquired one written recently in Jerusalem.

The Cairo Torah was a gift from the Murad family, one of our earliest members. When they were newly arrived from Egypt, Rabbi Lavy Becker, z"l extended them the hospitality of our Congregation and they remained members up to the time they moved away from Montreal. They were so appreciative of our way of taking them in that they made us a gift of this cameo of a Torah, which they had carried with them when they left Egypt. It is easily identified as the one in the Sephardi style case, which opens when it is being read. The outer jacket on the case was much the worse for the wear and the new needlepoint one we see today was made by Mitzi Becker. It is interesting to note that the scroll itself is written on deerskin rather than the parchment with which we are more familiar.

Lavy was also instrumental in locating and bringing to us the two Torahs which were sojourning in Casablanca. They are very old scrolls also written on deerskin. Their

history is a matter of speculation. They might have been carried from Spain to North Africa during the 15th century expulsions. There is also an opinion that one of them may have come from Teheran.

In 1991, Temple Beth-El of Endicott, NY was closing its doors and new homes were needed for its Torahs. Marilyn and Joe Aigen, our Rabbi's parents arranged for and brought one of them to us. We understand this one was written in Czechoslovakia early in the last century.

Our globe trotting Rabbi Lavy also helped to bring us a Torah that had served the Jewish community of Trinidad. In 1973 my late mother noticed the empty space in the Ark left by the Torah we sent to Toronto so she decided to donate a Torah in memory of my father. My late wife at that time suggested that we should try to find an existing one that needed a new home and mentioned this to Lavy. In his usual "can do" manner he located one, which the Trinidad community had once used and which might be available for adoption. At the time this Torah had been sent to Barbados for safekeeping and communication was very slow. Since it all appeared to be somewhat tentative we didn't say anything to my mother for fear of disappointing her. As fate would have it the Torah was waiting for us in Shul the Saturday following the day she died.

The Trinidad Torah is only one fascinating example of how people are touched by the mystique of Torah. Indeed, its spirit is still active and has brought us in touch with two descendants of "The Calypso Jews of Trinidad" which I hope to be able to tell you about in future.

These Torahs have journeyed through time and space in previous generations and we are privileged that they reside with us now. We can only speculate about their other experiences and the tales they could tell of the indestructibility of the Jewish Spirit that they represent.

## DONOR RECOGNITION

5780 (November 27 - March 2)

### GENERAL FUND

David Hill & Sally Ayrton, in honour of our wonderful Rabbi  
David Hill & Sally Ayrton, in honour of our wonderful President  
David Hill & Sally Ayrton, in honour of our wonderful  
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Esty & Hilton Schwartz  
Barbara Sherwin, in memory of Syd Greenberg  
Anna Barber, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Judy Kenigsberg, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
Stanley Cohen & Sue Ducat  
Carolyn Samuel & family, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Ellayne Kaplan & Howard Berger, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Ellayne Kaplan & Howard Berger, in memory of Hannah Winer  
Reva Bercovitch, in memory of Fannie Silverstone Kastner  
Mort Weinfeld & Phyllis Zerkowitz, on the birth of their  
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Pearlann Goldenberg, in memory of her beloved sister,  
Nancy Pleet z'l  
Herschel & Sandra Mitchell  
Joseph Douek & Claudie Pfeifer, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's  
special birthday  
Micki Keesal, in honour of Reshef Laor's Bar Mitzvah  
Micki Keesal, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Bram Rubinger  
Chava Dienar & Micha Karpfen, in honour of Reshef Laor's  
Bar Mitzvah  
Dorothy Stober, in loving memory of her late sister, Rhoda Gorin  
Jonathan Levy & Elana Tzipori-Levy, in honour of Reshef Laor's  
Bar Mitzvah  
Ronit Yarosky, on the occasion of Bernie and Sandy Weinstein's

50th wedding anniversary

Roni Dabora & Oria Lissak, on the occasion of Bernie and  
Sandy Weinstein's 50th wedding anniversary  
Joseph & Rita Schulman, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Syd Stepner & Sharron Schwartz, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Mark Rabinovitch & Peggi Cohen, in honour of Reshef Laor's  
Bar Mitzvah  
Mark Rabinovitch & Peggi Cohen, celebrating Sharron Schwartz  
and Syd Stepner's son's engagement  
Barbara Sherwin  
Chava Dienar & Micha Karpfen, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Anna Barber, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Michael Pollak & Toby Shainbaum-Pollak  
Laura Yaros & Beth Blackmore, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's  
special birthday  
Beverly Akerman & Russell Copeman  
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special birthday  
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Shara Rosen, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
Bernie & Sandy Weinstein, on the yahrzeit of Claire Friedman,  
their late mother and mother-in-law  
Debbie Carroll, in loving memory of Charles Carroll

### PERPETUAL KIDDUSH FUND

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Dorothy Stober, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Dorothy Stober, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
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 granddaughter, Liora  
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 Carmela Aigen, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
 William & Valerie Lipnick, in memory of Robert Agus  
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 Barbara Leiter, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
 Archie Fineberg & Elaine Kalman, in honour of Ernest  
 Chonchol's special birthday  
 Neil & Marilyn Caplan, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
 Carmela Aigen, in honour of the birth of Charlie Ann,  
 granddaughter of Gershon and Ruth Hundert  
 Carmela Aigen, in memory of Hannah Winer  
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**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Deborah Salmon and Garry Beitel, in memory of Herbert Winer  
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 Maurice Levitan and family, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
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 special birthday  
 Laura Winer, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
 Barry Lazare & Celina Segal, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's  
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 Ellen Moss & Steven Merovitz, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris & family

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Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Reshef Laor's Bar Mitzvah

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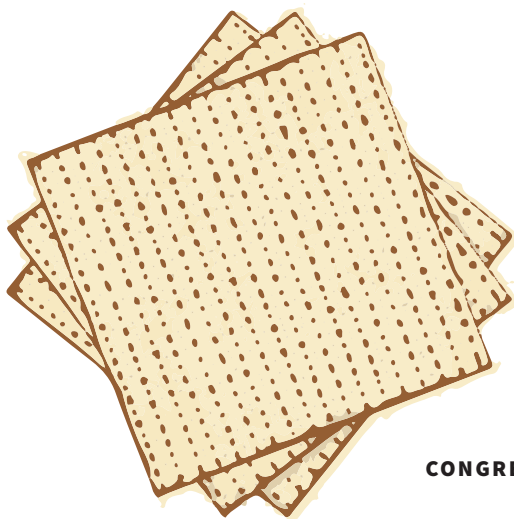
Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of Ernest  
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 Kol Nidre

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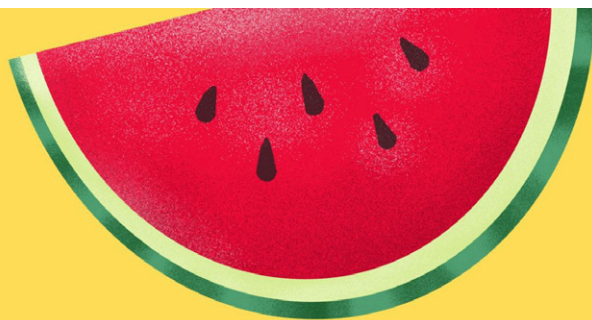
Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's  
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JOIN US FOR  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SHABBAT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 10:00AM

We would like to thank you for being a volunteer,  
We're privileged to work with you.



END OF YEAR BBQ

JUNE 7TH, 2020 AT 4 PM

JOIN US FOR FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD  
RAIN OR SHINE

VEGETARIAN BURGERS AND HOT DOGS  
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# END OF YEAR BBQ

JUNE 7TH, 2020 AT 4 PM

JOIN US FOR FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD  
RAIN OR SHINE

VEGETARIAN BURGERS AND HOT DOGS  
PROVIDED

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE A VEGETARIAN  
SALAD, SIDE DISH OR DESSERT FOR THE  
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