



# KOL HA'KEHILAH

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE קול הקהילה



### FROM BROKEN- NESS TO LIGHT

by Rabbi Boris Dolin

When we gathered for Tisha B'Av at the end of July, we began the seven-week process leading to Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays. On this day, when we remember the destruction of the Temples and other tragedies of our history, we look back in the past but, at the same time, are called to be fully present in our current moment. This year, of course, it wasn't necessarily the Temples that were on minds but it was the suffering and separation that this pandemic has inflicted on our lives that was brought to the forefront. We didn't need to be told to feel sadness and loss since this has already become part of our daily lives these past few months.

Our tradition tells us to not ignore the suffering that we have experienced in our lives, to openly cry and express our pain at all that we have seen and encountered around us. Yet as much as the tears should flow, we also know that, deep in our hearts, remembering what is lost is the beginning of the process of rebuilding. From brokenness

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Elana Cooperberg

Another year has gone by, and what a year it has been! I don't know if others feel this way, but I am unable to remember what came before March 13th! It is all a blur. Our 'new normal' is my every day, and I am consumed both personally and professionally with this new way of working and being. And yet the calendar moves on and we find ourselves entering this new year with more fatigue, wariness, and perhaps a sense of optimism about the future.

For all of us, this period is a time of personal reflection on and examination of the year we've had. It is a time to reflect on our deeds and misdeeds and to ask for forgiveness for those misdeeds in order to carry on in the year ahead. To accomplish this difficult and onerous task, we must reflect on ourselves and our personal identities, and question our motivations and our actions. Do our everyday actions reflect the individuals we wish to be? In this reflection, we recognize our fallibility and make conscious choices to improve that which is important and

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RABBI'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

comes hope and from challenge comes growth. The words of Leonard Cohen so aptly placed in our very own bima put it well: "There's a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in".

We have found all too much brokenness the past few months and this pandemic has unfortunately brought to light some of the very real challenges which we encounter in our society, our leaders and even within our relationships and ourselves. Yet, in separation there are opportunities for rethinking what it means to connect. In communal suffering, there is the inspiration of rethinking our values and our priorities as we hope for a better world when this is all over.

As you know by now, we will not be gathering in person for the High Holidays and we will be missing the irreplaceable power of filling our sanctuary with people as we sing, pray and reflect on the meaning of these holy times. Yet, in some ways, I think this is the year when we may be able to truly break free from all that has been holding us back. Our Teshuva, our

turning this year, is part of a truly global turning and if we can hold on to the power of this moment, we may truly be entering a new era of very real change. We will never reach a perfect world, but like so much else in our communal and personal histories, this time of loss can only lead us forward.

This year, the holidays will feel different, but then again our entire world is not the same. We can mourn for what is lost, but no matter how different these holidays will be, what we know for sure is that we will be doing it again next year. In the constant cycle of days, months and years, of life and its ups and downs, this is nothing more than a bump. It will knock us off balance, but this year is an opportunity to take the shock of change and mourning and turn it into a hope and Teshuva like we have never experienced before. Like the overpowering blast of the shofar, the year can wake us up to the vision that we can live in a more hope-filled world. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

Shana Tova, and blessings for a meaningful holiday season.



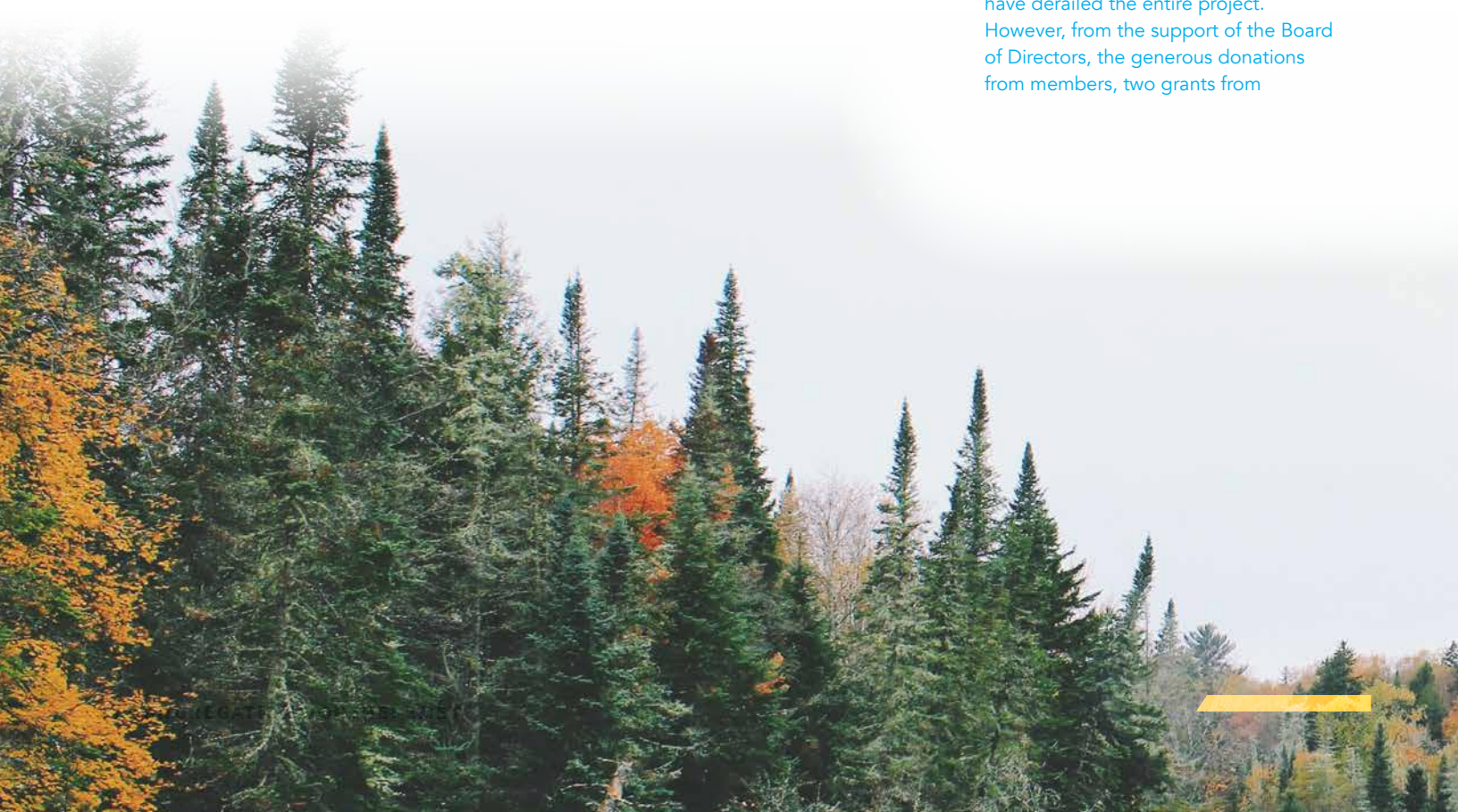
Cynthia  
Weinstein

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The last several months have been full of challenges, but they have also been a very inspirational time when I have been so impressed with the community spirit of the Dorshei Emet family.

The Shabbat Meal Deliveries program was an idea that I came up with early on when the new pandemic situation seemed like a bad dream. I had never administered a project of this nature but I was determined to do something tangible to help, and my *yiddishe mama* instinct always looks to food as a comfort.

There were so many details that might have derailed the entire project. However, from the support of the Board of Directors, the generous donations from members, two grants from





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

Federation CJA and help from the City of Hampstead, I have been amazed by everyone's generosity with time and resources. Members volunteered to drive and many helped time after time. On a few occasions we were even lucky enough to have live musical accompaniment while we packed the bags - so Dorshei!

It would be easy to dwell on the difficulties and things we could not do in the last few months but instead I would prefer to look back with gratitude at what we accomplished. Four hundred and fifty meals were delivered without impacting the operating budget of the shul. Members felt supported and happy to be included, and we brought some joy to people in a dark time. Patrizia, our dedicated in-house caterer prepared the meals whenever we asked. The office staff all worked so hard to make everything go smoothly - this is what I want to remember about being part of Dorshei Emet at this time.

It is easy to be generous and forthcoming in good times. True character is shown in a time of crisis and I think the character of Dorshei Emet shone through admirably. We have much to be proud of!

Wishing you and your family a Shana Tova, and may we go from strength to strength!

meaningful to us and to those around us. We take stock of where we are morally and ethically and wonder about the very nature of our souls and how we can navigate this uncharted new world. Can our actions make a difference? This question is one which we have asked at Dorshei Emet during this COVID period.

We, the Board of Directors, the various operating committees, and the staff, have worked tirelessly over the last several months to respond to the needs of our community during this period. According to Lawrence Hoffman, author of 'ReThinking Synagogues', synagogues are living organisms that "interact with an environment with considerable unpredictability". This is certainly the situation we have found ourselves in since COVID 19. We have tried our best to respond to the unpredictable environment and we will continue to do so into the New Year and beyond. Synagogues, according to Hoffman, as living organisms, require regular conversations on who we are and who we want to be. Much like our personal reflections that we will be engaging in over the High Holidays, Dorshei Emet will and has been undergoing its own reflection on how

we can best engage with our community during these trying times.

I ask you, the Dorshei Emet community, for your comments and suggestions. We are all responsible for shaping our community and ensuring we maintain our vision and values. Together, working in an open and transparent environment, we can accomplish many things, difficult things. We have already done much and there is still more to do. The year ahead is waiting for us. Let us use it to build our community together.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our High Holiday committee, chaired by Chava Diener, and which includes: Sheila Greenberg, Sheila Caplan, Natalie Amar, Mark Berner, Ivan Presser, Carmela Aigen, Jodi A. Lackman, Bernie Weinstein, Rami Negev, Elana Cooperberg, Cynthia Weinstein, Brahm Shiller, and Sharron Schwartz. This group has worked very hard to ensure that the High Holiday services we are offering this year stay true to who we are, acknowledging our traditions and our history, while embracing the innovative and distinctive.

I wish you all a shana tova v'metukah!



# Keep on Dancing: A Simchat Torah Like No Other

by Rabbi Boris

Traditionally, Simchat Torah is one of the most joyous holidays of the year. Marking the end of the holiday season and finishing off the week of Sukkot, this is a day of celebration and hope. We have made it through another year, we have reflected and been brought forward by the days of awe and now we can dance!

The day marks the completion of the yearly cycle of Torah reading when the final lines of the book of Deuteronomy are read, the Torah scroll is rolled back to the beginning and we read the opening words of Genesis. For the past few years, we have had the wonderful tradition of unrolling the entire Torah scroll (delicately of course) around the entire sanctuary, laying out every letter, word and story of the Torah for all to see. After a brief tour of the highlights, the scroll is rolled back up as we get ready to read again.

Our community also has the tradition of celebrating a Chatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit, honored members of the community who receive a special aliyah for the final words of the Torah and the first words of Genesis. Symbolically, like two lovers, this unites the Torah into one beautiful and never ending cycle of wisdom and strength. This year's honorees, chosen by a committee and myself, will be announced soon, with

the goal of choosing members who represent the diversity of our community. It is traditional to make a donation to the synagogue in honor of the honorees.

While there are many powerful moments in the Simchat Torah rituals, it is the dancing that really stands out during this day. During seven hakafot, seven cycles of dancing, the Torah scroll is passed around the room from person to person as music is played and as a powerful energy fills the room.

This year, of course, we do not know yet what we will do for Simchat Torah. In the midst of a pandemic, it is nearly impossible for obvious reasons to follow social distancing rules for this holiday, and energetic dancing and Torah passing clearly is not safe in terms of preventing the spread of the virus. We may be able to meet in small groups in person but there is also a good chance that Simchat Torah, like so much else in the past few months, may have to be online. Yet no

matter what happens, the joy that these days bring is something that will reach beyond any challenges we may face.

Our tradition tells us that while the Torah symbolizes life, the scrolls themselves are entirely still. Through our actions, our dreams and our hopes, we keep the Torah moving and we ensure that all that is contained inside remains meaningful and filled with the energy and passion it needs to survive.

Even during these difficult times, let us remember that the Torah cannot dance without us.



Photos from Simchat Torah 2018



## 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.



# New: Dorshei Emet's Code of Ethics

by Liz Freedman  
on behalf of the HR Committee

As we head into the New Year 5781, you will begin to see our newly created Code of Ethics popping up in various places around our virtual shul, on our website and included in new membership packages going forward. Once we are able to meet again in person, you may notice the Code in key spots around our building. Here is your sneak peek.

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 with 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.

Even though, as some of our Board members have said, "Who could argue with any of these?", we still felt it was important to codify these core values of Jewish ethics. As we approach the Days of Awe, we may reflect on how we have treated others during the past year and how the citizens of the world have been treated. 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





## Programs at Dorshei Emet

by Oria Lissak

I remember Rabbi Boris coming into the office one day and telling us about this great new app called Zoom. He told us that he would start to use it in some of his courses for people who couldn't make it to class. I asked him, "Show me how it works". He leaned over my computer and said, "You download this, click here and there you go". It seemed simple enough.

Who would have ever thought that 10 months later we would be using Zoom daily? When the pandemic began, we realized that we would need to learn how to use this program quickly in order to reach out to our members. I tried to remember what the Rabbi had taught me all those months ago... Cynthia and I signed up for a few webinars, and soon we became pros! Along that route, family and friends got phone calls at all hours of the day and night to get on Zoom immediately so that I could practice every time I learned something new!

Before long Zoom had become part of our daily life at Dorshei Emet. It opened up the door to a multitude of programs from our pandemic-related topics, to our Movie Maker series, to our "Growing up in" talks, to hobbies, art and even dance parties.

Thank you to all our members who have contributed wonderful programming these past few months! We have had a vast array of talks from very serious to touching to ones with plenty of laughter. Not only have we learned so many new things and heard amazing stories, we have gotten to know each other better and made many new friends.

A big thank you to my partner-in-crime Cynthia for helping out whenever needed, by coming up with wonderful ideas, doing security checks and pitching in to moderate.

Looking forward to more Zooming together! Check out the weekly for all upcoming programs.



## Youth

by Sarah Dolin

Like so many parents, I can say that this has been an overwhelming few months! From the simple daily task of keeping my kids busy, to trying to figure out the plan for their schooling and activities, it seems like the work is never done. Yet beyond the practical needs of raising kids, there is also the bigger task of maintaining hope and joy during such a challenging time. Even a pandemic shouldn't stop us from finding the blessings around us and I want my kids to know that through adversity we can all grow and make a better world.

In the Dorshei Emet community, as you know, we have been doing our best to keep a full calendar of programs, from Zoom classes and services to a few in-person, socially-distanced gatherings. We have had some programs for families and kids but I know that in the busy lives of parents, and with kids who were "Zoomed out" many months ago, maintaining this important connection to the community can be tough.

As we prepare for the High Holidays, we are working hard to make the best of our situation and have a program that will connect with your children and your family to make sure that this can be a meaningful and fun holiday season even during these strange times. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there will be multiple pre-recorded services and activities to access either during the holiday or at your convenience. There will also be a holiday activity pack that can be picked up at the synagogue so you can take home a few fun projects and activities to work on during this time.

I hope that this holiday season can be one of growth and learning for all of us and that we can use it as an important spiritual "checkpoint" for ourselves and our children to remember to focus on what is really important in our lives. There is so much to hold onto, so let the sweetness flow!





## 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.**

**- Limited Spots Available -**



## Join Us

**Will begin after the High Holidays**

**To register contact:**

**Cynthia Weinstein, Exeutive Director**  
[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:

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	
Head Parnass	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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## Committee Chairs:

### Finance Committee

Chair: Howard Ellner

### Fundraising and Resource Committee

### Membership Committee

#### Inreach Committee (Kehillah)

Chair: Marilyn Takefman

#### Kumsitz Committee

Chair: Terrye Perlman

#### Outreach Committee

Chair: Natalie Amar

### 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 and Jodi Lackman

### 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

### Speakers Series Committee

Chair: Deena Roskies

### 2020 High Holiday Planning Committee

Chair: Chava Dienar

### 2020 Simchat Torah Committee

Chair: Ilana Shiller

### Life and Legacy Committee

Chair: Russel Copeman

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



## Launching the Rabbi Ron Aigen and Rabbi Lavy Becker 2020-2021 Speaker Series: *Can We Agree to Disagree?*

by Deena Roskies

There is a synagogue, a *beit hakesset*, a house of gathering, at 18 Cleve Road in Hampstead, Quebec. During these days and weeks and months of pandemic, the structure itself is more memory than active meeting place. But maybe that's why, in my imagination, it has become a tent, a tent that stretches back, far back in time. Pandemic or not, I dwell within it.

For the past two years, inside our tent, we have observed a moratorium on talks about Israel and Palestine. In 2018, there was a call for balance and transparency in synagogue programming about Israel. The immediate result has been a quiet time, a time to reflect on our own personal views and to consider the opinions of others.

But the difficulties that face Israel and Palestine – and Jews and Palestinians around the world – have not disappeared. Nor have other thorny questions that face a community that “seeks truth.”

Thanks in large part to the vision and initiative of board member Ronit Yarosky, we are moving out of the quiet zone and launching the 2020-2021 Rabbi Ron Aigen and Rabbi Lavy Becker Speaker Series: *Can We Agree to Disagree?*

Within the series we will consider questions concerning Israel and Palestine, definitions of antisemitism and our own reconstructing of Judaism.

We invoke the names of Rabbi Ron Aigen and Rabbi Lavy Becker to guide us into and through the privilege and the richness of dialogue. Their lives and their teachings help us to define our differences and to recognize the values we share. *Zichronam l'vracha!*

### So, Are You Listening?

We are certainly a tent of passionate, sometimes conflicting, convictions. Listening, especially when “buttons” are pushed, is not easy.



Tellingly, the Chinese ideogram for listening has many parts. The ear dominates, but the kanji character includes you, eyes, undivided attention and the heart.

Enter Michael Soberman and his I Center team, via Zoom! Michael has a reputation for helping Jews talk about uncomfortable topics. On the Wednesday evenings of November 18, November 25 and December 9, Michael will lead us through exercises designed to help us to maintain reasonable heart rate, blood pressure, concentration and self-control while listening to the opinions of people with whom we disagree. The secret to dialogue is, in fact, listening. The workshops are free, but you must register by Oct. 21.

The speaker series will begin in 2021. Details are forthcoming.

What will happen as we begin this new year of 5781 with listening training and then introduce controversy and disagreement? Maybe we will learn more about each other's points of view. Maybe we will have been listened to respectfully. Or maybe we will feel frustrated and misunderstood. If it is frustration and misunderstanding, the synagogue can revert to more neutral

topics. Many, maybe most synagogues avoid controversy. That might be for good reason. We are a rich and diverse community – wherever this series takes us.

### Coming Clean

I have strong opinions. And I often disagree vehemently with people I admire greatly. Especially within the synagogue. This strikes me as a precious and sometimes painful paradox. I feel bereft when people leave the synagogue because of disputes that are “for the sake of heaven.”

Special thanks for creating this two-part journey go to speakers committee members Chaim Colman, David Hill, Miki Harrer, Margaret Douek, Ronit Yarosky, Cynthia Weinstein and Rabbi Boris. I owe a personal thanks to Sharon Gubbay Helfer for teaching me to listen with my heart.

Shanah tova





# YOUR MONTREAL HOME FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS:



CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET

2020/5781

## Join Us For Our Online High Holidays Services

**Slichot Service, Film & Discussion:** Saturday, September 12 8:00 pm



### Rosh Hashanah Services

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** Friday, September 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Day 1 & 2 Services:** Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20, 10:00 - 12:30 pm  
**Online Children's Program:** On both days starting at 9:00 am / All day  
**Tashlich Gathering:** Sunday, September 20, 4:30 pm @ Pierre Trudeau Park, CSL



### Shabbat Shuvah Service

**Service & Speaker:** Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am



### Yom Kippur Services

**Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre:** Sunday, September 27, 6:30 pm  
**Yom Kippur Services:** Monday, September 28  
**Shacharit:** 10:00 am  
**Yizkor:** 12:15 pm  
**Afternoon Program:** 2:00 pm  
**Speaker:** 4:00 pm  
**Mincha/Neilah:** 6:00 pm  
**Havdalah:** 7:23 pm  
**Online Children's Programs:** Starting at 9:00 am / All day



### Additional Holiday Dates

**Sukkot:** Friday, October 2  
**Sukkot Services:** Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am  
**Shmini Atzeret/Yizkor:** Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am  
**Simchat Torah Gathering:** Sunday, October 11, 10:00 am

**Contact:** [admin@dorshei-emet.org](mailto:admin@dorshei-emet.org)

## **Congregation Dorshei Emet**

# **BOOK CLUB 5781**

**Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm**

**September 23, 2020**

**Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love  
by Dani Shapiro**

**October 21, 2020**

**Panchinko by Min Jin Lee**

**November 18, 2020**

**Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell**

**December 16, 2020**

**3 Floors up By Eskol Nevo**

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**The Little Old Lady Who Broke All The Rules -**

**By Catharina Ingelman- Sundberg**

**American Dirt - by Jeanine Cummins**

**The Song of the Jade Lily - by Kirsty Manning**

**The Accidental Empress - by Allison Pataki**



**Dates will follow for the above books**







## 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. In hindsight, we were also incredibly fortunate that my dad, Ernest Chonchol, turned 100 before COVID-19 changed the world and shut so many things down.

My dear dad 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 just a bit about my dad.

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. 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 having any idea where he was, nonetheless were urged to leave the country because of the increasing level of danger. Fortunately, my dad was released unharmed after three months and, thanks to the Red Cross, reunited with 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.

My parents loved Canada, except possibly the weather. They had good careers and gave their only child plenty of love and attention. My dad made his connection with Dorshei Emet when he was nearly 70 years old, joining after hearing a CBC program about Reconstructionism. He has always loved its openness, intellectual ferment, and warmth. And in 2019, I accompanied him just about every week and shared some profound and moving moments with him.

None more moving than his 100th birthday. We were fortunate to have with us, along with his Dorshei Emet friends, other friends, and family members who are not members, including my dad's cousin Jeanne and my partner Murièle.

There was, as you might expect, an Aliyah. 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 my dad 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 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.

Amazingly, my father has somehow come through the pandemic free of illness thus far. Of course, it has been hard on us, as it has been on every family that includes a very elderly person. I try to take courage from his continuing resilience and patience.



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



## Body, Mind and Spirit

by Laura Yaros

COVID-19 has made life difficult for everyone, but for those of us who are older, immunosuppressed or both, simple outings such as shopping, visiting friends or attending synagogue services have become far too dangerous. We are obliged to stay home at all times, making us more dependent on others to obtain the supplies we need on a daily basis.

It is amazing what you can have delivered these days without ever having to leave the comfort and safety of your home. We are very grateful for this, but in many cases, you just don't get that personal touch. We didn't realize what we were missing until we actually got it!

For the past few months, we have been receiving biweekly Shabbat meals provided by the shul. Every other Tuesday, we enjoy a friendly chat over the phone with Cynthia, who tells us what our menu choices are and asks how we are doing. Then, on the subsequent Friday, Oria delivers a bag of Shabbat goodies with a note attached, saying "Shabbat Shalom, from Dorshei Emet, with love." We get the chance to have a short, socially distanced visit with Oria and this is always so enjoyable.

Every time we see the bag and the note in our kitchen, we feel really good knowing that there is a whole team of people out there who care about us and volunteer their time and energy to do something kind for us, making our lives a bit easier as we prepare for Shabbat.

Just as DE Shabbat and holiday services, thought-provoking classes and interesting programs on a wide range of topics nourish our minds and spirits, these wonderful Shabbat meals nourish our bodies and gladden our hearts as well.

Thank you, Dorshei Emet!



## Wednesday Morning Minyan

by Lois Lief

Bright and early every Wednesday morning, the Meditation Minyan continues to meet. In the spirit of our siddur - HADESH YAMEINU – we are renewing our days in new ways to adapt to new circumstances. Although we miss our intimate physical space in the Shul, Zoom has enabled us to create a different kind of closeness even as our numbers have grown to encompass three Dorshei Emet generations in three countries, unhampered by the vagaries of weather, traffic, alarm clocks or even time zones. We also respect those who have opted out of the online format. Here are some comments from participants:

The MM has been an anchor point for me since it was introduced by Rabbi Ron. Participation has brought me closer to many of our Kehillah. It also returned me to the laying of tefillin which, for me, ties me to my grandparents. During the pandemic, the MM has allowed me to maintain the practice and connections to those I no longer see in person. I am grateful.

Zoom has allowed me to re-join the minyan from my home in Boston. This in turn has brought me into close contact with old friends and to get to know new friends who introduce me to new thoughts to ponder while meditating.

Many years ago I attended the then-Monday and Wednesday morning minyan to support a friend who was

saying Kaddish for a parent during the 30-day mourning period and then I just continued. Now it is because of the learning, exchange of ideas and camaraderie.

The weekly Meditation Minyan enables me to experience a feeling of connection with other people during prayer. Our small group developed an intimacy in our meetings before the lockdown that I feel continues unchanged during COVID as we have moved to the Zoom platform. Another benefit is a first taste of the weekly Torah reading, which is presented by one of the group in a meaningful way that enriches my experience of the text as discussed later in the week.

I particularly enjoy when parts of the parasha are presented as subjects for consideration during the meditation section of the service.

Always interested in meditation, I started attending early Wednesday Meditation Minyan when it was in Shul.

It was important to me and I tried not to miss it. Now during the pandemic, it is really important and I continue. It is a time of "spiritual peace" with a group that has become cohesive, even as more people keep joining.

You are more than welcome to participate in the Minyan any Wednesday at 7:30 am. For the Zoom link, contact [wednesday.morning.minyan@gmail.com](mailto:wednesday.morning.minyan@gmail.com) by 6 pm on Tuesday.







## DAF YOMI

by Sheila Caplan

Way back on January 5, in what now seems like another lifetime, a new 7½ year cycle of Daf Yomi (reading one page of Talmud daily) began around the world. About 20 of us started meeting with Rabbi Boris on Fridays at noon to share our thoughts on the week's readings and to study the page of the day. For some, it was our introduction to Zoom meetings; little did we know how much we would come to depend on this technology!

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. Today, not only is it available online and in English, there are also countless groups, blogs and podcasts to explore. Like learning a new language, this is a novel way to exercise a brain and keep it fit! 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. There are no prerequisites other than an open mind.

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 it meanders like a stream of consciousness, at other times we can detect a sense of humour. Peeking through this window, we get a glimpse of life during the Babylonian exile, adapting to conditions after the destruction of the Temple. Antiquated and removed as the text may be, it has been uncanny how much resonates with our lives today, especially during this pandemic.

Our introduction, Berakhot (Blessings), covered 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). We are now coming to the end of the second tractate, Shabbat, learning the ins and outs of permitted and prohibited actions.

Opinions may be supported by proof texts or by examples of behaviours of other rabbis. Strikingly, with all the divergence, no opinion is excluded and respect is shown. Not always is a conclusion 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 and already more than a half-year in! Perhaps you would like to try a taste of Talmud with us?

Come study Daf Yomi with us! We meet every Friday at noon and 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.



### INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020 @ 7:00PM

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



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**Liz Freedman & Avrum Warshawsky**, in appreciation of our wonderful Dorshei Emet community, whose support from across the screen brought the congregation into our living room and made Jonah's bar mitzvah experience as "real" as ever.

**Dorothy Stober**, in memory of Carlee Berner-Hurl

**Dorothy Stober**, in appreciation for the meals

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Carmela Aigen, in memory of Natalie Stoljar's father  
Eleanor Bonder, in appreciation of the online events at this difficult time, also celebrating wonderful memories of her 21year membership at Dorshei Emet  
Neil & Marilyn Caplan, to mark Rabbi Ron's yahrzeit  
Barbara Leiter, in memory of Charles Nuez  
Barbara Leiter & Howard Richler, in memory of Don Goldenberg  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of David Garmaise  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Stanley Cohen  
Carmela Aigen, to mark the first yahrzeit of David Wenkart, father of Chava Dienar  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Oria Lissak  
Barbara Leiter, in memory of Giovanna Pergolari Di Cori  
Brahm & Ilana Shiller, to mark the yahrzeit of Marvin and Lyon Shiller  
Barbara Leiter, in memory of Carlee Berner-Hurl  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Ruth Hundert for her retirement  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Carlee Berner-Hurl  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Cynthia Kalaygi's Bat Mitzvah  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Jonah Warshawsky's Bar Mitzvah  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of David Hill  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Laura Winer

#### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Deborah Salmon and Garry Beitel, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Lise Winer, in memory of Herbert Winer  
Maurice Levitan and family, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris

Gregory McKenzie  
Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Brian Rocklin's birthday  
Nathan & Laura Schertzer, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
Laura Winer, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
Barry Lazare & Celina Segal, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
Ellen Moss & Steven Merovitz, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris & family  
Aviva Wolman Wener and Stephen Wener, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
Eleanor Bonder, to mark the yahrzeit of Jack Bonder  
Leslie & Leigh Dolin, in memory of their daughter Jessica Dolin  
Carmela Aigen, in honour of Rabbi Boris  
Eleanor Bonder, in appreciation of Dorshei Emet  
Ruth & Gershon Hundert, in memory of Don Goldenberg  
Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
Merle Wolofsky, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
Paul Grunberg  
Audrey & Mark Berner, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris  
Leigh & Leslie Dolin, in memory of Benjamin Dolin  
Liz Freedman & Avrum Warshawsky, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris on Jonah's Zoom Bar Mitzvah  
Nathan & Laura Schertzer, in appreciation of the meals  
Claudie Pfeifer & Joseph Douek, in memory of Carlee Berner-Hurl

#### **SIDDUR FUND**

Carmela Aigen, in memory of Charles Nuez  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Yoine Goldstein  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Elliot Singerman  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Don Goldenberg  
Carmela Aigen, to commemorate the first yahrzeit of Hedy Edelstein  
Carmela Aigen, in memory of Rhoda Angel  
Chava Dienar and Micha Karpfen in memory of my father, David Ernest Wenkart at the first anniversary of his passing away, 10 Iyar.

#### **CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMING FUND**

Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Reshef Laor's Bar Mitzvah  
Lois Lieff, in memory of Giovanna Pergolari Di Cori  
Cynthia Weinstein & Aviv Laor, in honour of Cynthia Kalaygi's Bat Mitzvah  
Olga Gross, in honour of Jonah Warshawsky's Bar Mitzvah  
Myriam Avetisyan & Sarkis Kalaygi





#### **TIKKUN OLAM FUND**

Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's special birthday  
Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Florence Kalin  
Laura Winer, in memory of Natalie Caplin

#### **MEMORIAL FUND**

Leanore Lieblein & John Harrod, in memory of Leanore's parents,  
Morris (Moyshe) & Sadie (Surah) Lieblein

#### **EMPTY BOWLS FUND**

#### **PROGRAMMING FUND**

Carole Shiller  
Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in appreciation of Oria Lissak  
Merle Wolofsky, in appreciation of Oria Lissak  
Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in appreciation of Cynthia, Oria  
and Rabbi Boris

#### **ISADORE AND SARAH GOLDSTEIN FUND**

David & Marion Berger-Sohmer, in honour of Benjie Sohmer  
and Jonah Sohmer's special Aliyah  
David & Marion Berger-Sohmer, in honour of David Berger-  
Richardson & Sara Berger- Richardson reading from the Torah  
David & Marion Berger-Sohmer, in honour of Yael Acre singing  
Kol Nidre

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

Don & Jean Goldberg  
Audrey & Mark Berner, in honour of Cynthia Kalaygi's Bat Mitzvah

#### **BARRY FRANK MEMORIAL FUND**

Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of Ernest Chonchol's  
special birthday  
Lois Lief, in loving memory of Barry Frank  
Rita Tenenbaum, soffit in memory of Barry Frank's first yahrzeit  
Donnie Frank, in appreciation of Lan Le Pham  
Pearlann Goldenberg, in memory of Carlee Berner-Hurl

#### **JOYOUS CHORUS FUND**

#### **PERPETUAL KIDDUSH FUND**

#### **KIDDUSH SPONSORS FUND**

#### **LANDSCAPE AND GARDENING FUND**

#### **TZEDAKA PROJECT FUND**

#### **SIMCHA FUND**

#### **TZEDAKA FUND**

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#### **HUMASH FUND**

#### **PLANNED GIVING FUND**

#### **RUTH RICHLER ENDOWMENT FUND**

#### **SYRIAN REFUGEE FUND**



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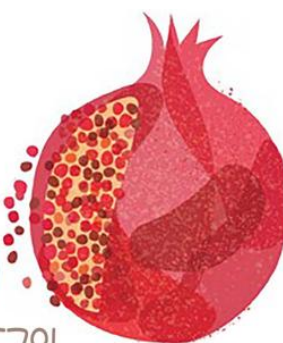
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