CONGREGATION DORSHEI EMET WINTER 2017 • TEVET • ADAR 5778 KOLHAYKEHILAH THE COMMUNITY VOICE of the community of the community



TAKING The Step

by Rabbi Boris Dolin

I was honoured to be chosen a few months ago to be part of the Clergy Leadership Incubator program for the next two years, a group of 20 rabbis from across all the denominations and throughout North America, meeting and studying together to look at the "big picture" of the changing Jewish world. Working with the visionary thinker Rabbi Sid Schwarz (who visited Dorshei Emet as a scholar in residence a few years ago), leaders from the business and non-profit world and rabbinic mentors, we will be exploring how to strengthen our communities, and how to work through some of the problems we encounter on the way.

Amazingly, when we met in person for the first time last month, it became clear that we all were dealing with many of the same challenges in our communities, and only a few of them had to do directly with religion and faith. Jews are feeling less connected, some communities have declining membership and people are feeling less "obligated" to each other and to Jewish community. From the Orthodox to the Conservative, Reform

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Antebi

As a child, in the years after the 1967 Six-Day War, I would imagine myself as an IDF soldier on a spy mission. Similarly, during Chanukah, I was a Maccabee part of a brave group of fighters battling a much larger and far more formidable foe, and overcoming incredible odds to finish victoriously. It appears that I was not the only one to associate Judah Maccabee to the new found identity of Jews living in Palestine or in the Diaspora.

Orde Wingate, the rogue British Intelligence officer stationed in 1938 Palestine, established the "Special Night Squads". He convinced the leadership of the Haganah to form Jewish armed groups and ambush Arab saboteurs who were terrorizing the Jewish settlements. To motivate the Jewish settlers on these night missions he would yell at them "Are you not Maccabees???!!!" The philosophy of aggressive pre-emptive strikes rather than staking a defensive position characteristic in later years of the IDF, stems in part back to Orde Wingate's training.

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TAKING THE STEPS, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

and Independent, Jews are simply not connecting the way they did in the past. People want meaning, people want relationships, and above all, people want Judaism to be relevant and not something disconnected from their lives. While we all have no choice but to accept this new reality, Dorshei Emet, and Reconstructionism as a whole, I truly believe are uniquely ready to take on this task.

But to deal with this new Jewish world will take some very real changes, and possibly a bit of chutzpah. To put it simply, if we want to survive, and even more, if we want our community to thrive, we have to take some big steps and possibly even take some risks.

While making sure to honor what we already have, and the traditions we hold, we also have to first meet people where they are. We need to ask what you need and what is important to you, instead of us telling you how you should connect to us. To get out into the community, to the places where people gather to experience life, into the cafés and bars, into the forests and ski slopes, and to bring Judaism to the people, instead of waiting for the people to come to us. We need to always preserve the traditions and our heritage, to hold on to what we have so that there is that strong and time-tested core to bring forward. Yet without conscious and intentional change, too much focus on preservation may instead hold us back.

When I talk to people who connect with our community it is easy to see what matters most. If you step into our synagogue home, you will know that we will accept you for who you are, for the choices you make and for the beliefs you hold. You do not have to be religious, or connect with one kind of theological belief, or come from a certain background or practice. Our inclusiveness and creativity is what makes us unique.

But Reconstructionism is not a do-asyou-wish Judaism. In fact it is quite the opposite. Reconstructionism demands that we always challenge ourselves to connect more with Jewish tradition and history, to never give up on Judaism simply because something doesn't make sense, or might not fit with our contemporary values or our busy schedules. Instead we are asked to learn, to study, to sometimes be bothered. We want you to do what is necessary to make Judaism your own. We work together, and make decisions together, and we believe this is the most authentic way to experience Jewish life. If something doesn't work, if you don't connect to services, or can't reconcile a certain belief or practice, then reconstruct it into something that makes more sense. But don't give up.

"I'm not religious, I don't like services, I'm simply too busy." In our community, the old rationalizations simply don't hold as much power when there are just so many doorways for entering Jewish life. As you will see from this newsletter, in our community, we now have many new programs and opportunities to gather, in addition to our usual religious services. I invite you to give something new a try, and I know that you too will find your place.

When we celebrate Chanukah this year, let us all be able to celebrate with light and unending joy. As we are asked to place the Chanukkiah in our windows for all to see, we are also asked to stand with pride in who we are as a people, to remember that we have overcome so much and and can gain strength from our traditions and our communal story.

But like that eighth candle, the one beyond the usual seven that we might expect, we also have to take those steps into the unknown and use our own light and our own story to bring this Judaism into the future. This is the time to celebrate not only who we are, but also the potential for who we can become.

Hag Urim Sameach, With Blessings for a Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Boris

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

On Chanukah, we have two parallel stories. The first story highlights the revolt of the Hasmonean priests led by Mattathias Maccabee, then by his son Judah Maccabee, against the Seleucid Empire which, by 167 B.C.E., had looted the Temple in Jerusalem, outlawed Judaism, banned brit milah and were sacrificing pigs at the altar of the Temple. The first story is one of fighting for religious freedom, and through organized guerilla warfare, overcoming our adversary.

The second parallel story of Chanukah, emphasized by the Rabbis, is the miracle of the flask of sealed undefiled olive oil, enough to burn for one day, found by the Maccabees in the Temple, which burned miraculously for eight days. Eight days was the time required to prepare a supply of kosher oil to burn in the rededicated Temple.

So which story resonates with you?

In one story, we are sole masters of our destiny and impose our will to impart change. There is no divine intervention and hubris becomes a real possibility. We are the creators.

In the other story, there are forces at play beyond our control which appear to affect our destiny. Rather than being sole creators, we are partners in creation. The miracle of the oil does not negate our efforts. However, we acknowledge a creative force outside of ourselves. This force inspires us, empowers us, forgives us when we fall short, and then challenges us once again to be the best that we can be. In this way, we are truly partners in creation: not only promoting religious freedom, but also furthering freedom in general, justice, equality and peace for us all.

Something to think about when we light the candles this year!

Happy Chanukah!

Roger Antebi, President.



Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

With the High Holidays behind me I can reflect on the first four months of my job as Executive Director, and look forward to a busy and exciting year ahead for the Shul. There is a buzz in the air about everything going on here, and a real sense of momentum.

When I started this position at the end of July the aspect that I was most worried about was the membership calls over the High Holidays. I shouldn't have been nervous, most of the conversations felt like catching up with old friends. The common theme for the calls was the affection and connection that we all associate with Dorshei Emet. People shared with me the most wonderful stories about Rabbi Ron z"I, and their assessment of Rabbi Boris's first year. They told me their hopes for Dorshei Emet and the path they felt we should be taking. Regardless of the amount of their membership pledge, they are members because they believe in our community and they want it to be strong, they feel part of something important.

Chanukah is around the corner and I am feeling much more at ease than four months ago. I am looking forward to celebrating the holidays with my immediate family and my chosen Dorshei Emet family. I encourage you all to participate in the wonderful programs that our new Program Director, Oria Lissak, is organizing. Meet people, get active, make friends, and take your place in our strong, unique and vibrant community.





YOUTH

by Sarah Dolin

One of my favorite parts of working as an elementary school teacher was the challenge of bringing curriculum to life. I encouraged students to express themselves through art, writing, thoughtful conversations and to make connections with stories and their own lives. Through this process, I built caring communities of children, unknowingly deeply invested in their lessons. Now I approach my work at Dorshei Emet with the same goals – to create community through our youth programs.

We appreciate that sharing Jewish moments with your child is important to you. We design experiences to foster the connection to Judaism and our community. There's a certain spirit, or "ruach", that can be felt in a room full of children connecting to our tradition. This feeling of connectedness is our goal.

Mordecai Kaplan wrote, (sic) "... Jewish education can develop in children a Jewish consciousness, allowing them to be integrated with Judaism... and gives meaning to their life and value to their personality."

By providing children the opportunities to choose how they learn and showing them that they can have fun exploring and experimenting, they will find a value and connection that will stay with them as they grow, and hopefully throughout their lives.

Piece by piece, our youth programs at Dorshei Emet are coming closer to this vision. Sometimes our programs work for as many different children and families as possible, like our children's Rosh Hashanah program. In addition to a short service with songs and stories, the children explored symbolic Rosh Hashanah foods at stations led by teen volunteers. The children chose the activities that interested them most, and were able to work at their own levels. Looking around the room I was delighted to see children, parents and grandparents working together to make Judaism fun and meaningful.

Other times we achieve this goal by increasing diversity of programming to appeal to more children and their families. For example, we have added KidsSing, an engaging Shabbat "instant chorus" for kids of all ages and their adult family menbers with singersongwriter Fran Avni from 10:00-10:30 on Family Shabbat mornings. Children who love music might find this to be just what lights their Jewish spark.

I have been working hard to provide some new programs and to strengthen what we already offer to ensure that more kids and families will have ways to connect and learn, but really we are just getting started! At this point we need the input, participation and leadership of parents and families. I invite all parents interested in helping to brainstorm ideas, and explore the goals our youth programming to gather for an informal meeting on January 14th at 10 am.

Babysitting will be provided if needed. If you are unable to attend and would like to share your thoughts by email, please reach out to me at youth@dorshei-emet.org.

Sarah Dolin, Director of Youth & Family Engagement

HARVEY KAHN CHANUKAH BASKETS FUND

This year Chanukah begins on December 12, 2017. The holiday lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the eight nights of light sustained by a minuscule amount of oil thought to last barely one night.

Our Chanukah Basket Program for this year is well on its way. For the past 25 years, we at Dorshei Emet have raised funds which have gone towards the purchase of food baskets that are then distributed to those in need in the Montreal Jewish community. This year the baskets were packed by the Jewish Journey Kids and their families on Tuesday, November 28th. Through this mitzvah, the children learn to share their blessings with others less fortunate. This year we delivered 175 baskets on Sunday, December 3rd from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Our baskets cost approximately \$30 each and provide the recipients with food in the Chanukah tradition. We invite you to celebrate this year by sharing your blessing with others in our community. If you would like to make a donation and/or are available to drive, please contact the Synagogue office.

Thank you, Paula Merovitz & Jack Rudnicki, Chairpersons

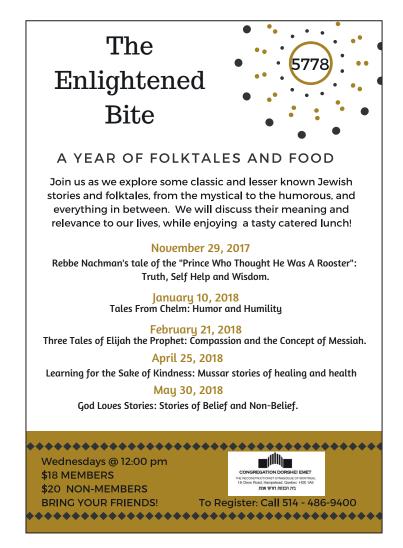


Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpacha

January 26 & April 11 2018 @ 6:30 pm

Join us for a warm and inviting, casual Kabbalat Shabbat experience designed for families and open to all. We start with an upbeat kid-friendly service lead by Rabbi Boris followed by a potluck dinner.

Bring a vegetarian and/or dairy dish to share, cut and ready to serve to feed at least 10 people. Also bring a challah, candlesticks and wine for your table.







VISION 2020

by Bram Freedman

In January 2016, as we were in the midst of selecting our new Rabbi, the synagogue's leadership turned its mind to the future.

Like all congregations and Jewish institutions throughout the world, Dorshei Emet was grappling with its engagement to its community and our financial realities. While we were not in a crisis situation at the time, the Board was preoccupied that the economic model for the congregation was challenging and not sustainable

The Vision 2020 Committee:

Led a consultation process with the membership that explored the challenges facing the congregation
Offered the membership an opportunity to share their input and preoccupations with the options being explored

• Carried out preliminary, exploratory discussions with other groups and congregations in order to gather information

• Examined new methods of increasing and retaining membership along with revenues

An Open Meeting was held in March 2016 and over 80 members attended. The Committee heard the reactions of those present at the Open Meeting loud and clear. They were adamant that they believed in the future of our Shul and that we should invest all of our efforts in examining ways to increase revenues and fundraising before we looked at any other options.

To that end, the Vision 2020 Committee focussed its work on an in-depth look at revenue enhancement. This is actually a broad topic and covered everything from looking at removing barriers to membership (which itself is a broad area that covers our policy on intermarriage, pre-b'nei mitzvah program requirements, the level of Jewish literacy required to join etc.), our dues structure, our branding/marketing efforts, our programming offering, the notion of our physical space and offering programming outside of the shul walls, our fundraising approach, etc.

At our most recent meeting in October 2017, we took stock of the work that had been done to date, the new programming offerings initiated by Rabbi Boris and others, along with a financial update from our Treasurer.

We concluded that the need for a separate, overarching Vision 2020 Committee had passed. Instead, we felt that the issues that we were discussing would be best dealt with through the regular Strategic Planning exercise that any organization like ours should engage in.

In short, the shul is making progress on many fronts. Our financial situation, while far from rosy, is stable for now. We are not in a crisis situation but long term sustainability remains elusive at this point in time. What is required is steady and continuous enhancement, experimentation and vision. This exercise is best handled through the ongoing work of an engaged and diligent Board.

I thank all of the members of the Vision 2020 Committee who served over the last 18 months or so as well as all of the Shul members who shared their thoughts and concerns.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to our community.

Bram Freedman, Past President and Chair Vision 2020 Committee

MINHAG by Chava Dienar

Should we allow mock shrimp to be included in festive buffets, such as at Bar/ Bat Mitzvahs or weddings? They look like shrimp, but are made from kosher fish. Addressing this type of complex question is the role of the Minhag Committee.

The Minhag Committee (MC) is a Standing Committee of the Board that meets when required. Our role is especially important during times of transition such as the one our community is going through now.

The Head Parnass chairs the MC. and is responsible for calling meetings when issues arise that require clarification or when there is a need to create new "minhaq" (or customs) or revise old ones. It often becomes the responsibility of the Parnassim to ensure that our minhag is respected. The Rabbi works in partnership to educate and encourage the membership to follow our customs. Anyone, including the Rabbi, the Parnass, the Executive Director or the membership may flag an issue for discussion. The MC is made up of a diverse group, representing a broad set of opinions and attitudes; we strive for a balance among ages, experience, genders, and a mix of old/new members.

Examples of minhagim that have been discussed by the MC in the past years:

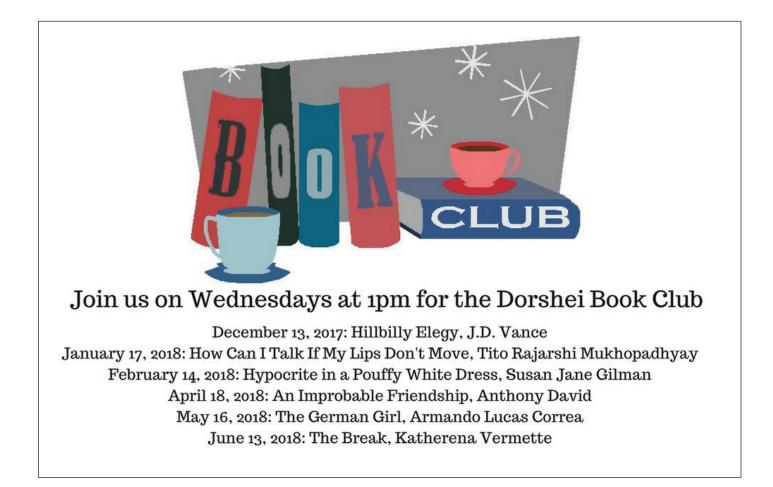
- Do we expect members and guests to wear a Kipa? Talit?
- How do we observe the rules of Kashrut in the Shul?

• Should we throw candies on Bar/Bat Mitzvahs? If so, what kind of candies?

All the decisions of the committee, like the decisions of all the other Shul committees, are subject to approval by the Board.

We encourage you to continue to share your questions, suggestions, concerns with the Head Parnass so that we will remain current and relevant.

Chava Dienar, Head Parnass chavadienar@hotmail.com Please write MINHAG in the Subject



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LUNCH FOR A BUNCH Our 5778 Tzedakah Receipient

In early 2013, a group of women from the Women's Philanthropy division of Federation CJA were seeking to fill a need in the community: there were children arriving at school regularly with nothing to eat. Working with Agence Ometz, they created Lunch for a Bunch, packing and delivering lunches to the schools of these children before the first recess bell.

The lunches, which contain 1 sandwich, 2 snacks, 1 fruit and a juice box, are packed into nondescript bags, which are delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays to day schools across the city. School administrators discreetly slip them into the knapsacks of the recipient. The group pack approximately 5,500 lunches a year.

The feedback from the schools has been overwhelmingly positive. "I can't tell you how many children would show up at school without lunches. It was heartbreaking trying to discreetly find a way to feed them," explained a teacher at one of the schools.

100% of donations made to the program are used to purchase the lunches as well as the bags they pack them in. The Lunch for a Bunch Program currently engages 12 volunteers on a weekly basis. Anyone interested in knowing more, volunteering or making a donation can contact Avigail Aronoff: **avigail.aronoff@federationcja.org**



Clergy:

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

Officers:

- President Immediate Past President Executive Vice President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President Treasurer Secretary Head Parnass
- Roger Antebi Jodi Lackman Elana Cooperberg Vacant Vacant Howard Ellner Vacant Chava Dienar

Yael Acre

Chiara Fish

Susan Stock

Ronit Yarosky

Martin Boodman

Ellayne Kaplan

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Staff:

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Shainy Haim, Administration admin@dorshei-emet.org (514) 486-9400 x 101

Oria Lissak, Program Director programdirector@dorshei-emet.org (514) 486-9400 x 107

Linda Axler, Bookkeeper linda@dorshei-emet.org (514) 486-9400 x 102

Committee Chairs:

Finance Committee Chair: Howard Ellner Fundraising and Resource Committee Chair: Ronit Yarosky

Membership Committee

Inreach Committee (Kehillah) Chair: Vacant **Kumsitz Committee** Chair: Terrye Perlman **Outreach Committee** Chair: Natalie Amar House and Maintenance Committee Chair: David Hill **Cemetery Committee** Chair: Nadav Aigen Programming Director: Oria Lissak **Adult Lecture Series Committee** Chair: Martin Boodman Shabbat Shira Co-Chairs: David Weigens & Olga Gross **Ritual Practices (Minhag) Committee** Chair: Chava Dienar **Tikun Olam (Social Justice) Committee** Chair: Ely Bonder **Chanukah Food Baskets** Chair: Jack Rudnicki **Empty Bowls** Chair: Joan Simand Yahrzeit Committee Chair: Ellayne Kaplan **Gemilut Hasadim** Chair: Toby Shainbaum-Pollak Dorshei Keshet Chair: Patrizia Di Cori **Communications Committee** Chair: Romy Schnaiberg **Bulletin Committee:** Chair: Claudio Smolarz Website Committee: Chair: Vacant Syrian Refugees Committee Co-Chairs: Laurie Usheroff & Eva Echenberg Pre Bnai Mitzvah Kiddush Committee Chair: Yael Acre Summer Kiddush Committee Chair: Vacant Landscape & Gardening Committee Chair: David Hill & Ellen Shalinsky **Office Volunteer Committee** Chair: Dorothy Stober **Nominating Committee** Chair: Eada Rubinger **Security Committee** Chair: David Hill Kabbalat Shabbat Latino Chair: Claudio Smolarz



5777 - 5778

Membership Commitee

We are thrilled to welcome so many new members to the Dorshei Emet community for 5777 and 5778! The Outreach Committee already has been fast at work preparing for our New Members Shabbat Service and Potluck, on Dec. 8.

Dorshei Emet is known as an open and inviting community: This is one of the many events we hold throughout the year and will offer us a chance to officially open our arms to new members.

Of course we are always looking to grow our family, and the Outreach Committee would love to hear about any ideas you might have to share towards this goal.

If you would like to join the committee, or simply participate ad hoc on any of its planning, please contact me at **amarnatalie@gmail.com**

Natalie Amar, Chair Membership Committee



Daniella Mizrachi Michael Kanevsky & Bianca Suciu Vadim & Catherine Di Pietro lla Novak Heather Fox & Sean Taffert Ellen Moss & Steven Merovitz Mark Goldsmith & Masha Braker David Glaser & Perle Feldman Laurie & Betty Breger Michael Lipson & Ceren Belge Dana Breger & Tomer Ben-Zvi Heather Frank Eli & Yasef Eli Gad Zak & Maria Da Costa Aimee Aubuchon Bernie & Sandy Weinstein Ina Fichman Deena Schrier Esther Ross Judith Elman Charles Nuez & Paola Ciambella Tricia Kelly Marla Rapoport & Philip Goldsmith Victory Hegedus **Richard Budgell** Jonathan Cohen & Mona Baumgarten Alice Conlin Charles Bloom Pola & Erick Berman Mark Bassel & Abby Kleinberg-Bassel Jeff Steinberg Aviva Fuchs Lawrence Litwin & Rabiola Netellus Myriam Avetisyan & Sarkis Kalaygi Allison & Michael Dell Renaud Duval & Jana Lichtenfeld Nancy Reich and David Catriel Dr Eftichia Matalon Michael Kanevsky & Bianca Suciu

NEWLYWEDS

Emma Glaser & Karine Valiquette Benjamin Goffman & Katherine Lewis Alana Klein & Noah Weisbord Dana Fruchter & Michael Gratton Rachel Nador & Alex Beauvais Simon Ohayon & Shataniya Ariyarajah Gary Plotkin & Gail Krasner Anna Osadchuk & Michael Ben-Ezra

WINTER EVENTS OORSHEI EMET

DECEMBER

- 13 Book Club 1 pm
- 16 Chanukah Party

JANUARY

- **10** The Enlightened Bite 12 pm Tales from Chelm: Humour and Humility
- 12 Pop-Up Shabbat
- 13 Cercle Français, after Kiddush
- 13 Parents Night Out Program 6:30 pm
- **14** Parents Brainstorming Meeting with Sarah Dolin 10:00 am
- 17 Book Club 1pm
- 20 Family Shabbat
- 21 Shalom Chant at Vidalia Yoga
- 26 Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpacha
- 27 Shabbat Shira 8 pm
- **28** Family Tu B'shvat program with PJ Library 10 am
- 31 Tu B'shvat

FEBRUARY

- 03 Family Shabbat Tu B'shvat seder for congregation
- 09 Kabbalat Shabbat Mizrachi 6:30 pm
- 10 Kehillah conversation after kiddush
- 14 Book Club 1 pm
- 17 Family Shabbat
- 18 Shalom Chant at Vidalia Yoga
- **21** The Enlightened Bite 12 pm 3 Tales of Elijah the Prophet
- 22 Hamentashen Bake 7:00 pm
- 28 Purim Party

MARCH

- 03 Family Shabbat
- 08 International Woman's Day Program
- 17 Family Shabbat
- 24 Parents Night Out Program 6:30 pm

Saturda at 8:00 Dorshe 18 Clev

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Supported

- 25 Shalom Chant at Vidalia Yoga
- 30 Erev Pesach

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SHALOM



sings Yiddish w/The Warhol Dervish string quartet Sunday, November 19, 2017, 4:00 - 5:00 pm tidalia Yoga Studio, 5276 Notre-Dame-de Grace Ava.

A communal experience of uplifting, sacred Jewish Mystica chanting & meditative song with instrumental backup. All spiritual seekers. Jewish and non-Jewish, welcome!

TASTE OF TORAH

JOIN RABBI BORIS AS WE EXPLORE THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION IN THIS NEW INFORMAL DROP-IN GATHERING

We will delve into the text using traditional and modern commentaries, debate the issues and find connections with contemporary life. BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH (optional) All levels are welcome.

Every Tuesday 12:00pm Dorshei Emet, 18 Cleve Road in Hampstead

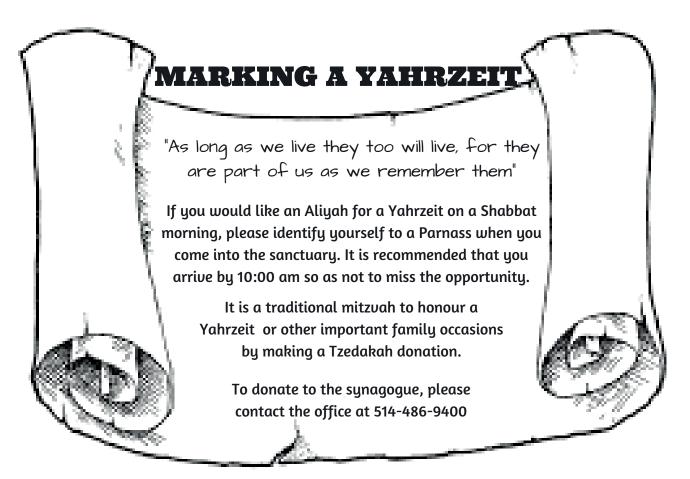
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in part by the Shulamis Yelin Fund

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

TORAH AND HAFTORAH CHANTERS OF ALL AGES

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

Georgette Bensimon - Torah Chanters: 514-738-6721 bengeolife@gmail.com Pearlann Goldenberg - Haftorah Chanters: 514-486-2012 pearlann.g@gmail.com Tutoring and mentoring are available upon request.

TEENS

Looking for community service hours? Earn your community service hours by volunteering with our Children's Program. For more information, please contact - Sarah Dolin: youth@dorshei-emet.org.



YAHRZEIT

by Rabbi Boris Dolin & Ellayne Kaplan

The tradition of lighting a Yahrzeit candle and reciting the Mourner's Kaddish on the anniversary of a person's death is a powerful reminder of the process of mourning.



As we mark this moment of loss in our lives, we take the opportunity to remember privately, and for those who wish, in community. After the initial week of shiva, the shloshim, the thirty days, and the year of mourning, a Yahrzeit ensures that we will always take the time to remember and hold on even as we move forward after loss. Some people make sure to come to Shabbat services during the week of the Yahrzeit to say the Mourner's Kaddish with the community, and others find a special strength from spending more personal time at home.

Kabbalah teaches that the anniversary of a person's death holds a special significance, as the day where all of the accomplishments, every positive act is revealed in the world on that day. On a more practical level, many people use this day as a time to reflect, to remember the life of their loved one and to recall the memories and stories which symbolize their life. As the light from the candle flickers throughout the day of a person's Yahrzeit, it gives a very tangible reminder that even after time has passed, and we have "moved on", the memory, and the sadness is always present even if it lingers in the background. Through this simple annual ritual, we are reminded that loss, and love, are with us long past the time of shiva and mourning.

Rabbi Boris Dolin

One of my earliest memories from childhood is an image of the little clear glass holding a yahrzeit candle, flickering gently on a corner of the kitchen counter of our small apartment. In our family my father was the one responsible for answering questions that had tricky answers, and it was up to him to explain about death and dying, and remembering.

Many years later I became friends with a woman from the Former Soviet Union. Though she knew she was Jewish, she had no knowledge of the holidays – she hardly even knew about Shabbat. Her "Jewishness" consisted of a few fragments of Yiddish and the memory of lighting a candle to mark the death of a loved one.

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows that they live on in our memories, often entering our consciousness when we least expect it, and sometimes when we summon them - to share good news, to ask for their guidance, to tell them how much we miss them.

At Dorshei Emet our dedicated team of callers makes every effort to remind our membership family of yahrzeits, and encourages mourners to request an Aliyah on the Shabbat before the yahrzeit date. Supported by staff, we try to ensure that the yahrzeit lists are up to date. If you didn't know that this service was offered, or if you wish to add more names to your list, please let the office know.

Ellayne Kaplan, Chair, Yahrzeit Committee

DONOR RECOGNITION 5778

GENERAL

Ben & Bluma Stolow, in appreciation of Congregation Dorshei Emet Ben & Bluma Stolow, in memory of Rabbi Ron Ben & Bluma Stolow, in memory of Rabbi Lavi Becker Ben & Bluma Stolow, in honour of Rabbi Boris Reva Bercovitch, in memory of Meyer Israel Kastner Yael Acre, in memory of Jutta Witkowski Vicki Anoff, in memory of Mary Chazan Laura Yaros & Beth Blackmore, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Laura Yaros & Beth Blackmore, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Allan Ptack & Sharon Abish, in memory of Frank Abish Allan Ptack & Sharon Abish, in memory of Morty Ptack Uzi Witkowski & Sara Ravel, in memory of Leila Acre Jonathan Levy & Elana Tzipori-Levy, in memory of Jutta Witkowski Sonya Livingston, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah Harriet & Janice Cohen Bram Rubinger, in memory of David

Ghetler

GEMILUT HASADIM

Neil Caplan, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Neil Caplan, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Neil Caplan, in honour of Fran Avni, on the occasion of her daughter's award Josie & Abe Katz, in memory of Eliezer Tordjman Anne Bellman, on the birth of her great grandson, Gabriel Joseph Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Marjorie Klarer

MANNY BACH TORAH

Hedy Edelstein, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Hedy Edelstein, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Edna Becker, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Edna Becker, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Audrey & Mark Berner, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Audrey & Mark Berner, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit

HARVEY KAHN HANUKKAH FOOD BASKET

Bram Rubinger Terry Ades & David Brown, in memory of Jewel Strom Dubin Family Foundation, in honour of Pearlann Goldenberg Uzi Witkowski & Sara Ravel, in honour of Russell Acre-Hosein's Bar Mitzvah Judy & Mark Caplan, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah Lois Lieff, in appreciation of Joseph Glaser for leading the Kol Nidre Choir Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Pearlann Goldenberg, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Rosana Caplan, in memory of Jewel Strom Rosana Caplan, in appreciation of Carmela Aigen Rosana Caplan, in appreciation of Dorothy Stober Marilyn Takefman, on the occasion of her Milestone Bat Mitzvah Marilyn Takefman, in honour of Russell Acre-Hosein's Bar Mitzvah Marilyn Takefman, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Marilyn Takefman, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Marilyn Aigen, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Marilyn Aigen, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Terry Ades & David Brown Jonathan Levy & Elana Tzipori-Levy, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Jonathan Levy & Elana Tzipori-Levy, in appreciation of Jodi Lackman Jonathan Levy & Elana Tzipori-Levy, in honour of Cynthia Weinstein Audrey & Mark Berner, in memory of Ethel Kesler Audrey & Mark Berner, in memory

of Jutta Witkowski Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in memory of Arleen Rotchin Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in memory of Leila Acre Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of Cynthia Weinstein becoming Executive Director Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of Oria Lissak becoming Program Director Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of Roger Antebi becoming President Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in memory of Marjorie Klarer Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch, in honour of Chava Dienar Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch, in honour of the Parnassim Murray Bronet & Maureen Rappaport, in appreciation of their Aliyah Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in memory of Mary Chazan Miriam (Micki) Keesal, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah

KIDDUSH

Ruth & David Flicker, in honour of Yael Acre Leanore Lieblein & John Harrod,

in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit

Leanore Lieblein & John Harrod, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Donnie & Barry Frank Olga Gross & Emma Halliday, in honour of Sari Warshawsky's Bat Mitzvah

Yael Acre, Chris Hosein & Family, in honour of Toby Graham's Bat Mitzvah

MEIR IFERGAN B'NEI MITZVAH

Dubin Family Foundation, in honour of Pearlann Goldenberg Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in honour of Toby Graham's Bat Mitzvah Lois Lieff, in memory of Leila Acre Bryna Rosman Rubinger, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Bryna Rosman Rubinger, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Dorothy Stober, in memory of Jewel Strom Brigitte Albert, in honour of Cynthia Weinstein becoming Executive Director Brigitte Albert, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Brigitte Albert, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Brigitte Albert, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah Elizabeth Freedman & Avrum Warshawsky Pearlann Goldenberg, in appreciation of Don & Marilyn Goldenberg Dorothy Stober, in memory of David Ghetler

MINYAN

Marilyn Takefman, in memory of Jewel Strom Audrey & Mark Berner, in memory of Jewel Strom Lois Lieff, in memory of Jewel Strom Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Jewel Strom Terry & Irv Perlman, in memory of Jewel Strom Terrye & Irv Perlman, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah Vivian Saginur, in memory of Jewel Strom Joseph Douek & Claudie Pfeifer, in memory of Jewel Strom Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, Shana Tova to Roger Antebi, Sari Weiskopf & Family

RABBI RON MEMORIAL

Leanore Lieblein & John Harrod, in memory of David Ghetler Harriet & Marvin Corber, in memory of David Ghetler Sheila Whitzman, in memory of David Ghetler Suzanne Aigen, in honour of Carmela Aigen's Birthday Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in gratitude of cancer survivorship Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in memory of David Ghetler Carmela Aigen, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Carmela Aigen, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Anna Barber, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit

Anna Barber, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Anna Barber, in honour of Carmela Aigen's Birthday Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Peggi Cohen's Birthday Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Carmela Aigen's Birthday Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in memory of Marjorie Klarer Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in memory of Jutta Witkowski Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner's 1 year anniversary Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Brahm & Ilana Shiller, in memory of David Ghetler Seth Dalfen, in memory of David Ghetler Maurice Krystal & Sheila Caplan, in memory of David Ghetler Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Brigitte Albert, in memory of David Ghetler Brigitte Albert, in memory of Jewel Strom Vivian Saginur, in memory of David Ghetler Archie Fineberg & Elaine Kalman, in memory of David Ghetler Joseph Douek & Claudie Pfeifer, in memory of David Ghetler

RABBI DISCRETIONARY

Marlene Levine, in honour of Dr David Wayne's 90th Birthday Anonymous, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Anonymous, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Richard Finkelstein, in honour of Rabbi Boris Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, Shana Tova to Rabbi Boris, Sarah Dolin & Family

SIDDUR

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in honour of Russell Acre-Hosein's Bar Mitzvah Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in honour of Ruby Gelfand's Bat Mitzvah Roger Antebi & Sari Weiskopf, in honour of Sari Warshawsky's Bat Mitzvah Rita Tenenbaum, in honour of Russell Acre-Hosein's Bar Mitzvah Myra Rabinovitch, in memory of Gerald Rabinovitch Nicole Allio, in honour of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMING

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, Shana Tova to Carmela & Family Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch, in honour of Rosana Caplan as Kallat Bereishit Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch, in honour of Jack Wolofsky as Hatan Torah Peggi Cohen & Mark Rabinovitch Marilyn Takefman Foundation

TIKKUN OLAM

Bernie & Sandy Weinstein, in honour of Max Weinstein's Yahrzeit

BUILDING

Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner, in memory of Jutta Witkowski

ADULT ED AND PROGRAMMING

Lise Winer, in honour of Herbert I. Winer's 96th birthday

ISADORE AND SARAH GOLDSTEIN

Helaine Gould, in honour of Harold & Barbara Berger becoming great grandparents David & Marion Sohmer, in honour of Leah & Shmuel Nemes becoming grandparents

MISSING **DONATIONS** FROM HH NEWSLETTER

RABBI DISCRETIONARY

Ronni Czuzoj & Mitch Shulman, on the Yahrtzeit of Abraham Czuzoj Ronni Czuzoj & Mitch Shulman, in memory of Gabriel Soloway Paula Blitstein, in loving memory of Harry Blitstein Hillel & Mitzi Becker Mark Frankel Cheri Bell, in honour of Rabbi Boris' installation Ilana & Brahm Shiller, in memory of Harold Lecker, father of Linda Axler Paula Schwartz, on the birth of her grandson, Max, to Tanya Lehrman & Marco De Stefani Elizabeth & Joseph Bottero, in honour of Rabbi Boris' installation Michel Bovette, in honour of Rabbi Boris' installation Marlene Levine, in honour of Libby Labell and Dr David Wayne David Shapiro & Shirley Susan Egett Jack and Kay Wolofsky Jack & Kay Wolofsky Linda Camlot Robert Elman, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris Harvey Mandelker Cheri Bell, on the occasion

Cheri Bell, on the occasion of Rabbi Boris' Birthday

TZEDAKA

Rita & Joseph Schulman, in memory of Bernie Lieberman Rita & Joseph Schulman, in honour of Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner's marriage Brigitte Albert, in honour of Rabbi Boris' installation

SIDDUR

Roger Antebi & Sari Wieskopf, on the occasion of Ethan Negev's Bar Mitzvah Roger Antebi & Sari Wieskopf, in honour of Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner's marriage Allan Ptack & Sharon Abish, in loving memory of Morty Ptack Stanley Cohen & Sue Ducat, in memory of Barbara Abrams Cohen Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in appreciation of Rabbi Boris Dolin Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin, in honour of their marriage on Nov 6th, 2016

Romy Schnaiberg & Brian Rocklin,

in honour of Rabbi Boris' installation Audrey & Mark Berner, in honour of Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner's marriage Audrey & Mark Berner, on the occasion of Ethan Negev's Bar Mitzvah Sheila & Syd Greenberg, on the occasion of their granddaughter Ava's Bat Mitzvah Linda & Gary Axler, in honour of Sharron Schwartz & Syd Stepner's marriage Donna & Irwin Kuzmarov, on the occasion of their grandson Marcus Kuzmarov's Bar Mitzvah Lois Lieff, on the occasion of Merle's Grandson Max's Bar Mitzvah Andrea Strom Rancourt, on the occasion of Jewel Strom's 100th birthday Rita Tenenbaum, on the occasion of Sabine Carrie's conversion Rita Tenenbaum, in honour of Roger Antebi as Hatan Torah

MACHZOR Marilyn Aigen, in memory of Rabbi Ron



Kabbalat Shabbat around the world

After the big success of last year's Kabbalat Shabbat Latino, where we celebrated Argentinian culture we are adding the following **Kabbalat Shabbat Around the World** events. Stay tuned for details.

February 9th Kabbalat Shabbat Mizrahi

April 27th

Kabbalat Shabbat Romanian

May 25th Kabbalat Shabbat Latino



THE POWER OF **CHOICE**

by Ronit Yarosky

When my son was preparing for his Bar Mitzvah about a year and a half ago, he struggled to make sense of his parasha that talked about proving a woman's unfaithfulness to her husband by making her drink "bitter, curse-causing waters." If she was guilty, the water would cause "her thigh to fall and her belly to distend," but if she was innocent the water would do her no harm.

"How is this relevant to me?" he kept asking. "This is nonsense." It definitely led to some interesting discussions on how we can make what seems archaic and even non-sensical relevant to a 13 year-old growing up in a secular world.

His speech talked a lot about this, but we were a bit unsure about whether he could include the fact that he himself doesn't believe in god. "You can't say that at Shul on the bima on Shabbat at your Bar Mitzvah!" I said. He insisted that this was his choice... and while I waited for the sky to fall down, he exercised his choice – and the sky did not fall down.

We are amongst the world's fortunate who have the luxury of choice. We elect our leaders; decide where to live and work; choose our mates, our professions and our lifestyles.

How we practice our Judaism is also a choice. As one of the few liberal congregations in Montreal, we don't give up on the past or our traditions, but we also don't shy away from the challenges of moving forward. We are all invited to come with our beliefs and non-beliefs, our life choices and our passions. We are not asked to leave our values at the door. "I am so proud to support Dorshei Emet where everyone is welcome to participate in every level of the synagogue's functions from reading from the Torah to being President of the Shul. I am so grateful that my support nourishes the inquiring, imaginative and egalitarian qualities of this wonderful congregation. Please help me strengthen and grow Dorshei Emet".

-Marilyn Takefman

There is no other synagogue in our wonderful city that is so poised and ready to take on the Jewish future as we are. But this can't happen without every single one of us choosing to do our part.

Dorshei Emet is here to support you, and be with you on your Jewish journey, no matter what it looks like. Please choose to give back by making a Chanukah gift in support of our annual campaign. Please choose to help Dorshei Emet continue to be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community that we all take such pride in.

As you place your Chanukiah in the window this year and remember how fortunate we are to exercise this choice, take a moment to recognize how fortunate we are to have Dorshei Emet.

Happy Chanukah!

Ronit Yarosky, Chair, Fundraising and Resource Committee



BEING PROUD by Mark Bassel

Despite what some of my beloved congregant friends may think, I really am not an overly outspoken person when it comes to voicing an opinion about how things are...

But the time has come for me to speak out.

Although I have been a member for only 21 years, I wanted to share with ALL of you - as you were ALL a critical part of the experience - how unbelievably PROUD I was to be a part of our congregational Simcha , on Shabbat, November 4th, on the occasion of Marilyn Takefman's Bat Mitzvah (which was an event in and of itself, but I digress...).

We hosted Bat Mitzvah guests from synagogues across the city, and in some cases from across the country, and you need to know we did our selves proud. Our congregational singing was magnificent (and on key..), the sharing of the Talesim for SHALOM - a loving gesture extended to guests who had never seen this before, but which brought a wonderful smile to their faces - (and a heartfelt SHABBAT SHALOM) - and how we all were reading and listening during the Torah service - it was a marvellous and uplifting time.

And there was Rabbi Boris - did you see the smile on his face when he was leading us in song and prayer? He was " there"! and he brought us with him.

So, for me, I just wanted to say to all of you - Thank You - for making me reunderstand why I have come to love this Shul, and you my fellow congregants and friends, and Patrizia's party sandwiches, as much as I do. I am very proud to be a member of Dorshei Emet.

Chanukah Pyjama Party @ Dorshei Emet

Sunday, December 17th 6:30-7:30 pm

Candle Lighting, Storytime & Songs With Rabbi Boris. Come dressed in PJ's Have A Cup of Hot Cocoa Bring Cookies To Share





PHOTO MEMORIES @ DORSHEI

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For the potluck, please bring a vegetarian or dairy dish warm, cut, and ready to serve 10 people. \$6 suggested donation, 1/2 of the proceeds go to the Lunch for a Bunch Program

Sponsored by the Marilyn Takefman Fund

The Magnificent Rory Elias

Saturday, December 16 @ 6:30 pm

Outdoor Havdalah & Candle Lighting Latkes and Donuts Potluck Dinner LOTS OF FUN!

Featuring: A Magician, A Juggler & A Pop-Punk Band

Check out the

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=WHd5XWp49Z0&feature=youtu.be

ingl from their new album



Boris The Juggling Rabbi



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כית המדרש לרבנים ליהרות מתחדשת Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

