

## Co-Chair Report - AGM Nov 20, 2022

Dalia:

Looking towards the future I want to focus on two aspects of Board activity. One is the work of the Membership Committee, and the other, the work of our Family, Youth & Children Committee. They are connected - the work of the FY&C committee is bringing in new members. The commitment of our Youth education team - Matthew Gindin and Harriet Frost, under the direction of the Rabbi, has encouraged vital and strong children and youth programming, which in turn has encouraged parents to get involved and create and nourish meaningful programs for parents and their children. At the core of the programming are our young families, and everyone is encouraged to attend Friday night potlucks at the Bayit.

We are currently in the Tora reading section of Breysheit that focusses on the transitions from generation to generation of our ancestors. As we well know, there is strife at every step of the way, issues to be overcome, birthrights stolen, mothers and children banished - life is not easy, smooth, painless. And yet, here we are thousands of years later, a vibrant Jewish people in a vibrant Jewish community, in a vibrant Jewish spiritual playground. The parents of this community have taken the challenge of creating meaningful programs, and in spite of busy work/family commitments have taken it upon themselves to create for themselves meaningful Jewish encounters. I want to honour them with a 'yishar kochechem' - may you go from strength to strength with your commitment to creating a meaningful spiritual life for yourselves and your families.

Membership - 47 new members in total in 2022, and 2 returning members. We now have a total membership of approximately 340 (excluding children under the age of 19). I think that's remarkable coming out of over 2 years of pandemic lockdown. These new members are made up of adults and children, individuals and families. These new members come to us because they like what we're doing, who we are and what we can become.

What is on the horizon? A slowly developing relationship with a local pre-school program that may or may not come to fruition but I am excited about the prospect of partnerships with other local community groups; an exciting building renovation project, a focus on increased financial resources via grant writing, providing a variety of spiritual offerings, including our newly formatted Friday morning Tora study, and increasing our volunteer resources for service leadership. These are our offerings to our membership and community, and we encourage you to attend, learn and participate, both as students and as teachers, in the rich, diverse and plentiful offerings of this east-side spiritual playground. We would like to spend more time analyzing and reporting back the feedback received during our campaign conversations and spend some time following up on community conversations held over the last number of years.

Yasher koach to our Board of Directors, each one of whom brings their special talents to the board.

We say a fond 'lehitraot' (may we see you again soon) to our departing board members - Alexis Kellum-Creer, John MacDonald,

Paul McCurry and Martin Gotfrit, with gratitude for all you have done for this community.

To those remaining on the Board, and to those joining the Board after this meeting, I say a heartfelt thank you for your service. May we go from strength to strength as a holy community that supports and nourishes, in many ways, all of us.