

DOROT Generations

40TH ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

JUNE 1, 2016



Herman Bomze and Zachary Targoff

DOROT is pleased to announce our 40th Annual Spring Benefit for Wednesday June 1, 2016.

DOROT is proud to honor Kim and Josh Targoff for their support of DOROT's Intergenerational Chess Program, which was started in 2014 by their son, Zachary Targoff.

The program started when Zachary began playing chess with Herman Bomze, a retired engineer and Holocaust survivor. Their games soon developed into a beautiful friendship, which led the Targoffs to realize the power of chess to bring the generations together.

The program brings seniors together with middle and high school students to play chess and provides opportunities for critical reflections about our shared histories and values.

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Next Dor committee members at DOROT Cycling Event.

DOROT Next Dor

When deciding on the name for a new group of philanthropically minded young professionals at DOROT, "Next Dor" was suggested. "Dor" means "generation" in Hebrew, and Next Dor would be the next generation of DOROT.

Since the group's founding in December of 2013, its members have been committed to generating awareness about the challenges of social isolation among the elderly. The group is chaired by Logan Fedder, as well as Brian and Caryn Doppelt, who are the third generation of their family to hold leadership positions within DOROT.

Some members of Next Dor are also a part of DOROT's long standing Young Professional Leadership Circle (YPLC). YPLC participants plan and lead important group volunteer efforts including the annual *Ballet Hispanico* event and a networking brunch before Holiday Package Deliveries.

Members of Next Dor help raise resources for DOROT, using their skills and connections to organize fundraising events, make personal contributions, and mobilize their peers to become more

involved with DOROT. They raised more than \$25,000 for the organization in FY2015.

According to Mitchell Moss, a member of Next Dor who is now also on DOROT's Board of Directors, "Next Dor often serves as a platform for innovation at DOROT, because it is comprised of young professionals who can contribute to DOROT in new and exciting ways."

At this year's first event, members of Next Dor organized a cycling class called "Rotations for Generations." The event brought 47 young professionals together to enjoy a class, learn more about DOROT's services, and help raise money for intergenerational programming at DOROT.

"We hope that this event will help raise awareness about the amazing work that DOROT does," said Jenny Edelman, a co-chair of Rotations for Generations. "Next Dor is a perfect opportunity for me and other young professionals to get involved in a meaningful way."

DOROT is proud to have groups of young professional leaders who exemplify DOROT's intergenerational model.



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* *presidents emeriti*

The Year Ahead

This year marks DOROT's 40th year of service. As I reflect on those 40 years, I cannot help but feel immensely proud of this organization and its achievements. Our success, past and present, rests firmly on a foundation built by an array of outstanding current and former staff and board members, volunteers, and donors.

Whether it's finding a permanent home for a homeless senior through DOROT's *Homeless Prevention Program*, or a volunteer forging a life-long connection through our *Friendly Visiting Program*, the simple fact is that DOROT makes a difference by improving the quality of life for the seniors we serve.

Going forward, I want to preserve the special character of our programs with a commitment to excellence and by delivering the highest quality of service to our clients. As the demographics and needs of our aging population change, we must find innovative ways to address the evolving needs of the elder and volunteer communities, while preserving the character that makes DOROT unique.

Of course, DOROT depends heavily on the generosity of our donors, many of whom name DOROT in their wills through our Planned Giving program. These members of DOROT's Generations Society help ensure DOROT has the resources it needs to uphold our values of compassion, communal responsibility, and innovation. Through the Generations Society, we are proud to help these generous donors stay connected to the DOROT community.

This past November, DOROT launched our second successful #GivingTuesday campaign. #GivingTuesday was established in 2012 in response to the commercialization of the holiday season with "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday." It encourages people to give philanthropically on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, and it has become a major fundraising effort for many non-profits. We were very successful this past year, due in large part to a generous matching donation from the Miriam and Arthur Diamond Charitable Trust. The funds raised will support our Door to Door Program, which provides professional travel companions who escort older adults to the doctor and other essential appointments.

Looking ahead, it is important that DOROT continues to innovate and expand our impact in addressing the devastating consequences of social isolation. And in that spirit, we will continue to provide compassionate care to the older adults in our community and engage volunteers in meaningful activities.

At some point in our lives, we all know someone who could use DOROT's support or who would like to give back. If that's you, please reach out to us. We will be there to take your call.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Meridy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark L. Meridy

DOROT Does Thanksgiving: An Inspirational Package Delivery



Bobby and Calvin

After Calvin Hall tore his ACL, he was completely homebound and immobilized. “I was confined to my apartment, sometimes making do with what I had to eat in the house since I couldn’t get out. You can’t believe how creative you can get with just a few ingredients.”

When an elderly neighbor offered to help him buy groceries, a lightbulb went off. Calvin knew he wanted to help his isolated and elderly neighbors in the same way he had been helped. “I made myself a promise to help the elderly as soon as I recovered fully.”

He had the perfect opportunity to help; he was getting married. He and his husband decided to have their wedding guests create birthday cards through DOROT’s card making program for isolated seniors living in New York.

After seeing what a hit the birthday cards were, Calvin and Bobby decided to deliver packages for DOROT’s *Thanksgiving Meal Delivery*.

Calvin and Bobby were all smiles as they set off to visit Mr. G., a longtime client of DOROT. “[The experience] made us realize how grateful we should be with the basics in life,” said Calvin.

While they were out delivering their meal, along with other volunteers who visited with 247 homebound seniors, DOROT was preparing to host its annual *Thanksgiving Banquet*.

The Banquet was a hit, with over 300 seniors attending. We sang. We danced. We brought the generations together to celebrate. The Banquet was a wonderful reminder of just what Thanksgiving is all about.

DOROT WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER

DOROT welcomes Dr. Joyce Silberstang to the Board of Directors. She will chair the Board of Directors’ new Research and Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Silberstang is an industrial/organizational psychologist who specializes in leadership development, team building, and organizational transformation. Dr. Silberstang’s strong relationship with her grandparents as a child inspired her to contribute her professional skills to DOROT.



Joyce Silberstang, PhD

“Joyce brings talent, expertise, and a lifelong commitment to the Jewish community to DOROT. We are very fortunate to have her join us, and I look forward to working with her as we continue to strengthen the DOROT community,” said Mark Meridy, the Executive Director of DOROT.

We welcome Dr. Silberstang to the Board of Directors and look forward to a successful year ahead.

SAVE THE DATE

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Zachary’s parents, who are honorary board members of DOROT, have supported the program since its inception, and hope to see it expanded to the other areas DOROT serves.

“The intergenerational chess program provides an opportunity for kids to give the mitzvah of companionship to the seniors in the community,” said Josh Targoff, Zachary’s father.



Old and young come together to enjoy chess and companionship

“It stokes the intellectual and even (at times) competitive flames of the seniors,” Kim added. “We continue to be inspired by the connection made between our son Zachary and Herman Bomze. We are thankful to be honored at the upcoming Benefit, and to help raise awareness and support for DOROT’s innovative intergenerational programming.”

For the past 40 years, DOROT has been creating innovative intergenerational programming. The Intergenerational Chess Program continues that legacy in its espousal of DOROT’s values, and in its commitment to alleviating social isolation among older adults. DOROT is proud to honor the Targoffs for their generous support of this program.



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Celebrating
40
YEARS

DOROT Generations

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two shades of grey

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DOROT WESTCHESTER ON BROADWAY

This past November, DOROT Westchester saw *The Gin Game* on Broadway starring James Earl Jones and Cecily Tyson. The two actors played nursing home residents whose frequent games of gin rummy slowly develop into companionship.

The audience was inspired by the performances of Jones, 84, and Tyson, 90. Watching these passionate and engaged actors reinforced DOROT's mission to help seniors live independently as valued community members.

"I think the play represents what DOROT is all about," said Patricia Cipora Harte, the newly appointed Director of DOROT Westchester. "At DOROT, we try to break down stereotypes and show that seniors are funny, caring and, above all, human. I think the two actors did a wonderful job of showing how important it is to ensure that older adults remain a welcome part of our Westchester community."

DOROT Westchester relies heavily on volunteers, who, in partnership with staff, often make the difference between companionship and isolation for seniors. DOROT's mission involves partnering with volunteers because it creates an opportunity to bring the generations together in a mutually beneficial relationship.

DOROT Westchester works precisely because we receive so much wonderful support from caring volunteers and donors. Their support ensures that DOROT Westchester will continue to excel in its role as a community leader serving isolated older adults in the years to come.



Dinner after the show

Pictured (left to right): Rabbi Judy Bardack; Patricia Cipora Harte, Director, DOROT Westchester; Joan Taback Frankel, Chair, DOROT Westchester; Donna Jakobovitz, President, DOROT; Emily Cohen, DOROT Westchester Committee member; Richard Cohen; Andrew Frankel; Audrey Stein, Chief Development Officer.