



CONNECTIONS

Response Team Volunteers Are a "Lifeline"

What services do Response Team volunteers provide?



“Response Team volunteers help seniors stay connected and get the assistance they need while maintaining physical distancing during the pandemic. Volunteers can make birthday calls and cake deliveries, pick up books from the library, drop off dry cleaning and so much more!

Kelsey Donovan, Response Team Volunteer Coordinator

To volunteer for the Response Team contact DOROT today at 212-769-2850 or email responseteam@dorotusa.org



Joel Kazis, Master Connector

Joel Kazis is a former Board president, long-time Board member, Honorary Board member and legacy volunteer. His generosity of spirit and dedication to DOROT since its founding has shaped the organization in many ways.

How did you first learn about DOROT?

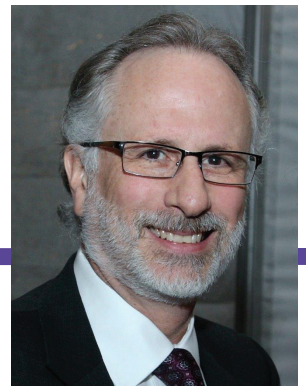
I got involved with DOROT in 1977 while working toward my MBA at Columbia University. My roommate Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, an early Board member, introduced me to DOROT. I started volunteering and saw the impact we could have by creating connections across the generations. In 1983, I joined the Board.

What distinguishes DOROT from other organizations you are involved in?

Two things make DOROT stand out -- leadership and mission. Mark (Meridy) has built a great team, and his vision has so clearly strengthened the organization, deploying staff in creative and impactful ways. Mark's partnership with our outstanding Board of



Letter from the Executive Director



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Dear DOROT Community,

Welcome to *Connections*, DOROT's print and digital newsletter. You may recall our newsletter had been called "DOROT Generations" for many years. Why the name change?

Simply, DOROT is about connections — keeping people of all ages socially engaged because social isolation and loneliness can have devastating consequences.

Our goal for 2021 is to keep the DOROT community informed about the essential work we do and its impact on the people who engage with us. Every issue of *Connections* will remind you that your support of DOROT, whether by volunteering your time, participating in our programs or making a critical financial contribution, transforms lives every day.

If we have learned nothing else this past year, we now know that DOROT is nimble and able to adapt to changing and challenging times as an organization. To the truly incredible DOROT staff and all of you who are weathering the pandemic storm with us, a heartfelt thank you.

Stay connected!

Mark L. Meridy
Executive Director

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Directors and Board Chair, Ellen Marram (who I introduced to DOROT!) creates the firm foundation which brings DOROT from strength to strength. We are so fortunate to have Ellen's tested leadership at the helm at this critical moment.

Given the moment in time that we are now living through, DOROT is uniquely positioned to respond to the current crisis. DOROT's services fill a dire need. I recall one of the leaders at UJA telling me that "If DOROT didn't exist, we would have to create it."

What is your favorite DOROT memory?

It is hard to pick just one story from the past 40 years! I used to visit an older adult, Dr. Ashkin. He was a retired dentist in his 90's. During a holiday package delivery, I took my two young sons and my father, also a retired dentist, to visit Dr. Ashkin. It was a beautiful afternoon, three generations together sharing stories and bringing some comfort to an older adult. Also, Thanksgiving banquets are an important tradition in our family. It is an extraordinary day, my kids and now my grandkids all join in. May we all be together, my family and our DOROT family, for this meaningful event in 2021.

A final note:

Each year, I send a personal solicitation to a list of friends and colleagues supporting DOROT. I have been writing this letter for decades, and still, they continue to step up with amazing generosity. To this group: THANK YOU! Your contributions have changed the lives of countless seniors. To all of you: Join us! It is up to each one of us to do what we can. That is the true gift of DOROT.

Gearing up for Summer

What are you most looking forward to this summer with the teen internship?



"I am already beyond excited to welcome a new cohort of DOROT summer teen interns in 2021! From DOROT classics like Discussion Group and Legacy Projects to new activities like Brain Games and Book Club, I can't wait to see all the ways that our teen interns help us innovate as they take on leadership roles in our community."

Jacob Kaplan-Lipkin, Facilitator of Intergenerational Teen Programs

If you are 65+ and would like to participate in our intergenerational summer program, we would love to have you. Contact sharemywisdom@dorotusa.org or call us at 917-441-3714.

Applications are open for rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. To learn more and to apply, go to dorotusa.org/summerteenapp

Tech Made Easy

DOROT's Volunteer Tech coaches make it easy to learn Zoom or FaceTime or to shop online. All sessions are one-on-one on the phone or videoconference and are available at no cost. You will need your own device and internet access.

Call DOROT today at 917-441-3706 or email or visit dorotusa.org/tech-guide





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Editor

Jan Lauren Greenfield

Design

two shades of grey

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DOROT

A copy of DOROT's most recent financial report may be obtained through the Office of the State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271, 212-416-8000. It is also available on DOROT's website, www.dorotusa.org.



Make a Brighter Tomorrow

DOROT's legacy is built every day by caring for seniors and making meaningful intergenerational relationships. Your legacy at DOROT is easier to create than you may think. You can have a lasting impact on the lives of older adults through long-range financial planning in one of these ways:

1. **THROUGH YOUR WILL:** Include DOROT in your will or living trust.
2. **THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN:** Name DOROT as a beneficiary.
3. **THROUGH YOUR LIFE INSURANCE:** Designate DOROT as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

To discuss any of these options and to learn how to join DOROT's Generations Society contact Mallory King, Director of Development, mking@dorotusa.org