

*Event raised quadruple the amount expected*

## Proceeds from Dorshei Emet concert to sponsor four Syrian refugee families

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Congregation Dorshei Emet in Hampstead hosted a cross-cultural musical event on January 23, which exceeded the synagogue members' goal of raising funds for one family of Syrian refugees and instead took in enough for four.

People attending were invited to make a voluntary contribution of \$20 per person at the door, with net proceeds going towards Syrian refugee sponsorship. Among those attending were Côte des Neiges-NDG borough mayor Russell Copeman and consul general of Israel in Montreal Ziv Nevo Kulman.

"Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of our congregation, we are able to sponsor four Syrian refugee families, whom we hope to welcome to Montreal within the year," Laurie Usheroff, fundraising co-chair, said in an interview with the *Free Press*. According to Usheroff, the congregation hopes to welcome the families personally in around six months.

"Tonight when we first talked about this concert we wondered 'Who will come?'" added Usheroff. "We felt at that point we'd have more musicians on the stage than people in the audience." As it was, the event was completely sold out. "It's been a real success, the whole project," she said.

In an address, Dorshei Emet's Rabbi Ron Aigen said he had encountered some people days and weeks before the concert who "were surprised and questioned how it is that our Jewish community got involved in this project.

"They don't seem to realize that our response as Jews flowed naturally from our own history, from our own memories of parents, grandparents, relatives who were refugees fleeing from Nazi Europe and the Holocaust.

"But it goes back even further to the ethos of our founding narratives: we were

slaves in the land of Egypt, but now we are free," he continued. "And the Torah teaches us over 36 times that you must not oppress the stranger, you must love the stranger, you must reach out to the stranger because you were strangers in the land of Egypt and you know the heart of the stranger.

"As proud Canadian Jews, we work together with all people who seek liberty and freedom."

The evening was a showcase of musical styles, from traditional Middle Eastern instrumental performances by a group of eight musicians and singers known as 'The Musical Chairs,' as well as well-known American folk songs that have become synonymous with the peace and civil rights movement, which were performed by singers, musicians and congregation members.

The Ensemble Zaman, a group of four musicians, played Syrian music and old Arab-Ottoman songs on Middle Eastern instruments that included the oud, kanun and riq as well as the violin. Pianist Mohammad Abdou, a recently arrived refugee from Syria, gave a solo performance and spoke about his experience of coming to Canada.



A concert at Congregation Dorshei Emet in Hampstead for the benefit of Syrian refugees succeeded in raising enough money for four refugee families.

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### AVIS PUBLIC DÉROGATION MINEURE

AVIS PUBLIC est donné par le soussigné qu'à une séance régulière du Conseil qui se tiendra le **lundi le 7 mars 2016 à 20h00** au Centre communautaire, 30 chemin Lyncroft à Hampstead, le Conseil municipal statuera sur la demande de dérogation mineure suivante :

**Site concerné:**

261 Croissant Netherwood  
Lot 2 090 086, Zone RA-2

**Nature de la demande:**

Demande d'approbation d'une dérogation mineure au Règlement de zonage numéro 727, pour l'article suivant :

### PUBLIC NOTICE MINOR EXEMPTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is given by the undersigned that, at a regular Meeting of the Town Council to be held on **Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.**, at the Community Centre, 30 Lyncroft Road in Hampstead, the Council will deal with the following request for minor exemption:

**Location Concerned:**

261 Netherwood Crescent  
Lot 2 090 086, Zone RA-2

**Nature of Request:**

Request for approval for a minor exemption to Zoning Bylaw number 727, to the following articles: