



Hello Tavor Families,

Greetings and salutations! I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season and is getting their new year off to a terrific start, and you haven't had a rough time with the ever-tricky new year's resolution.

While the new year is a time of new beginnings, it also provides the opportunity for reflection. Before a new year begins, I find it helpful to think about the one we are leaving behind. What does 2019 represent? How can we use it to determine where we want 2020 to go? For me, 2019 wasn't the easiest year, but it was one that I will learn a ton from as I move on. 2019 was a year stuffed with change: both good and bad. Perhaps contradictorily, I expect change to be a big theme for 2020 as well. As I enter the year in which I'll graduate from college, change feels inevitable. The chief difference in my thinking lies in how I approach it. The change I experienced in 2019 snuck up on me, took me by surprise, and challenged me when I least expected it. In 2020, I look to embrace change rather than fight it, taking where I felt confusion and replacing it with love.

There is no shortage of places that need love right now. You only need to watch the news for five minutes to see a story centered around hatred. Some of those stories take place far away, and feel less personal, and others hit close to home. Unfortunately, one hit extremely close to home recently, as Camp Miriam, the Habonim Dror camp in British Columbia, was vandalized with swastikas and other symbols of hate speech. As a participant of both MBI (Habonim Dror's 5-week Israel trip) and Workshop (Habonim Dror's gap year program), I made many strong relationships with my peers from Miriam. Having grown with them over the years and see the love they pumped into their beloved camp; it breaks my heart to see this unfold. Yet if my time at Tavor and in Habonim Dror has taught me anything, it's how to act out of love. It's that we are a family. It's that it is



never too late to lend a helping hand. I've seen the power that both Camp Miriam and Camp Tavor have. Despite this event, I know that Camp Miriam will continue to produce lovely people, sharing the same fondness of the power of love and kindness that Tavor has instilled and me, and that I have seen it instill in countless others.



I think of the words of former First Lady Michelle Obama, who wisely said "When they go low, we go high." Be it in the Tavor community or the greater Habonim Dror community, it is our responsibility to set an example for the future by acting not out of fear, but out of love. With

this in mind, my challenge to all of you in 2020 is to find places in your life that you can give more love to: be it yourself, your neighbor, your community, or some community you've never personally interacted with, a little bit of love goes a long way. I'll be right there with you, trying my best, and hopefully making the world feel a little less scary and a little bit warmer.

In solidarity with Miriam and those facing hate around the world.

Shabbat Shalom,
Nathan