



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

# Ometz welcomes new president, board members



Nancy Cleman, Dany Pollack, Janis Levine, Mia Goodman and Dominique McCaughey.

Agence Ometz recently held its first annual general meeting since the pandemic. The event began in the Cummings Centre Peace Garden with a cocktail dînette sponsored by iA Private Wealth, then attendees moved inside the centre for the main program, which featured remarks from CEO **Dominique McCaughey** and the board, as well as first-person client testimonials.

The event opened with a powerful speech from Ometz caseworker **Tihon Petanov**, a Ukrainian immigrant who now helps Jewish Ukrainian refugees – overwhelmingly women and school-aged children – re-build their lives in Montreal.

Outgoing president **Joel Shalit** gave a snapshot of the past year's accomplishments, highlighting that Ometz reached almost 12,000 people through its wide-ranging immigration, employment and social services.

Incoming president **Jeff Berkowitz** noted how fortunate he felt to be "part of this organization: helping ..... the vulnerable and provid- continued on p. 22

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Gail Small, Lesli Green and Mitch Shiller.



Janice Heft, Brigitte Fortin and Lianne Haimovitz.



David Martz, Igor Bernadski, Joel Shalit, Dominique McCaughey, Jeff Berkowitz, Karen Sigman, Bonnie Lester and Genevieve Busbib.



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ing support for people to help themselves.” The 160-year-old organization is in a period of active renewal, and the AGM marked a significant changeover in Ometz’s board of directors.

In addition to welcoming a new president, two new board members were introduced and four departing board members were honoured for their service. Noted during the evening were Nancy Cleman, David Martz, Igor Bernadski, Joel Shalit, Jeff Berkowitz, Karen Sigman, Bonnie Lester, Genevieve Busbib, Eric Fleury, Efrat Sterling-Harel, Frédéric Dayan, Nick Shinder, Lesli Green, Mitch Shiller. Janice

Heft, Brigitte Fortin, Lianne Haimovitz, Jonathan Sigler, Dany Pollack, Janis Levine, Mia Goodman and Ometz CEO Gail Small.

The evening closed with moving testimonials from three clients who described the profound impact Ometz has had on their lives. Agence Ometz is a Jewish human services agency offering social, employment and immigration services to help people fulfill their potential and to secure the growth and vibrancy of the Montreal community.

Please send information on your upcoming events to: [veronica@redgravepr.com](mailto:veronica@redgravepr.com).



Jonathan Sigler.