

Congregation Dor Tamid
11165 Parsons Road
Johns Creek, GA 30097

August 2020

Av / Elul 5780

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Rabbinic Reflections



Dear friends,

As we enter into the month of August, we are just coming out of the holy day of Tisha b'Av, the day on the Jewish calendar that marks not only the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, but also the moment on the Jewish calendar that we begin looking towards the near year on Rosh Hashanah just seven Shabbats away. As we approach the Days of Awe and those moments when we will proclaim "*unetaneh tokef kedushat hayom* (behold the sacred power of this day)," we begin to think about our lives and our connections to one another, our community, and the Jewish people.

Later in the month, we will formally enter into this process of introspection with a series of programs, meditations, and spiritual opportunities throughout the month of Elul, which begins on August 21. For the entire month, we at CDT, along with Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner, Cantor Nancy Kassel, and the members of Temple Beth Tikvah in Roswell, will engage in these daily offerings to prepare us for the Days of Awe. I am also excited to announce that we will have the incredible opportunity to study with Alden Solovy for four virtual lunch and learn sessions leading up to the High Holy Days. Alden is a liturgist, poet, and amazing teacher who will help us explore the themes of this season.

Additionally, as we examine who we are and our relationships to one another, it is important to begin looking to the future and what our legacy will be. As we examine our own mortality during these days of repentance, we are urged to think about how our actions and our lives will affect others, even after we are no longer here. Over the next few months, we will begin to share more information with you about an exciting opportunity to explore our own legacies and examine how they can continue to support the Congregation Dor Tamid community well into the future.

I truly miss all of you and hope to see you all, online or safely in person, in the near future.

B'ahavah (with love),

Rabbi Jordan

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Top Play

President's Message



personal schedules. Her death made me moment you have with someone you love, in life, and that NOTHING is more valuable

I am a believer that everything happens for a reason, and I try to find the silver lining in each situation. Sometimes that lining is obvious and other times not so much, but over time we often can find it. When my mom was diagnosed with cancer when I was 12 (in 1976) and subsequently passed away when I was 18, it didn't appear that there could possibly be a silver lining. However, as I made my way through life, I realized that my mom's illness and passing enabled me to become very independent as my brother and I did laundry, household running, and



cooked, kept a managed our appreciate every what is important than your health.

My mom and me circa 1972

Fast forward a few decades. Here I sit in my home, fairly isolated, and I am looking for the silver linings in this situation. I know that it may take years for me to figure out many of them, but some of them are evident right now. I have connected with family and friends all over the world via Zoom and have realized that my "face-to-face" connection with those physically far from me is possible regardless of the miles. We have celebrated long distance birthdays, anniversaries, b'nai mitzvah, and more! I got to spend 10 ½ weeks with my 25-year-old daughter, Carly, and her boyfriend, Dan, as they stayed in our home during quarantine. Having Carly back in the house and having the opportunity to get to know Dan so closely was a gift I never could have imagined receiving — not to mention the time I have gotten to spend with my favorite furry pal, Rogie!

For the past few years, I have been feeling that the world is moving too quickly for our own good. Our kids are being pushed so hard creating intense competition within education, the cost of secondary education is practically unaffordable, and technology is outdated before we even learn how to use it. I believed the race to the "top" was going to make us all implode. Something had to give, and . . . then came COVID-19. For now, our lives have slowed down, and many of us find ourselves with more time around the family table, more time to realize what is really important in our lives and what is just fluff. We appreciate the time we have outside of our homes, even if it is just sitting on the front porch. Obviously, I would never have chosen for something like this to happen, and my family is not immune to the effects of the pandemic. I am hoping that society sees this as a wakeup call, and that we can learn and grow from this as a human race. Until we are in our post COVID-19 world, I encourage you all to find your silver linings.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected!

Leslie Fox, President

Cantorial Soloist's Message



Shalom *chaveirim* - hello my friends,

Well, August has arrived, the summer vacations are almost over, students are just about to return to school (and, with that, school supplies, new clothes, and such must be purchased!), traffic is about to get bad (or just worse) again, college football is around the corner, the baseball season has been fully underway for a few months . . .

Except, besides August having arrived, none of this is actually going the way we would have anticipated things to go — not so many vacations, most of the students in K-12 are actually not going back to school, college students face uncertainty as to their in-person school prospects, college football?, baseball just started, many of us have barely left our homes and don't expect to for some time to come.

We continue to live in such an uncertain time that, for most of us, uncertainty is the only thing we are counting on. And yet, we still make plans. The old Yiddish adage "*Mann tract, un Gott lacht* (Man plans and God laughs)" comes to mind. Still, if that is the case, that all of our plans can simply be upended, especially now, why do we still make plans? At CDT, we are planning for religious school, we are planning and preparing for the High Holy Days, we are still scheduling *b'nai mitzvah*, planning for weddings, seeking to expand membership, creating new ways to worship, and so forth. I am certain that all of us are still making plans — some short-term and some long-term.

I think this speaks to the human spirit and our need to make meaning and find hope during times of uncertainty and tragedy. Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor and the founder of logotherapy, a form of psychotherapy, believed that human beings are motivated by something called a "will to meaning", that is a desire to find meaning in life. He said:

Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.

This is why we continue to adjust and to plan — because of our desire to act with and give meaning to our lives. Even though the past few months indicate that we likely cannot depend on a future return to what we once considered normal any time soon, we are still planning. And with what meaning? Hope. As the Jewish people know, hope — *tikvah* — can sustain us now as it has through the centuries. We plan in the hope that we will soon see our way out of these times of uncertainty.

May the time be near when our hopes and prayers for an end to this period of darkness are fulfilled, and may Adonai bless us and keep us.

As the song says . . . Don't stop believin'.

Mike Zuspan
Cantorial Soloist

Donations

Many Thanks — תודה רבה

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Tammi Wecksler & Family
— *in memory of Robert Krepistman*

General Fund

Sherry & Sheldon Fages
— *in memory of Louis Kunofsky*
— *in memory of Carmella Rosevear*

Marion Waldbaum
— *in memory of Philip Rothchild*

Marcia & Jonathan Kay

Carol & Alan Kovar
— *in memory of Elie Hammerling*
— *in memory of Louis Kunofsky*

Social Action

Ruthie Cohen
— *Sylvia Jacobson*

Religious School Fund

The Rosen Family
— *in memory of Ray Wilenzick*

Yahrzeit Fund

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— *in memory of Peter Jay Nadel*

Gan (Garden) Tamid Fund

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— *in memory of Barney R. Radov*
— *in memory of Elie Hammerling*

Jackie & Larry Berger
— *Jack Meizlish*

Linda Barton
— *in memory of Elie Hammerling*

Caring Committee

The Rosen Family
— *in memory of Diane Dante*

Chesed Tamid

Beverly Mahone
— *in memory Ben J. Karp*
Jackie & Larry Berger
— *in honor of Danny Risner becoming
a bar mitzvah*

Deb Eskenazi
Sharon Rocco
Ruthie Cohen
Leslie & Gregg Fox

Security Fund

Leslie Penuel
— *in memory of Charles Wolf*

Condolences

Condolences

Scott Lushins and Family on the passing of Scott's father
Wally Lushins
Saturday, July 4

Julie Epstein and Family on the passing of Julie's father
Jay Bernsohn
Thursday, July 16

Lynda Galler and Family on the passing of Lynda's brother-in-law
Elie Hammerling
Saturday, July 18

Keith and Tara Spolan and Family on the passing of beloved family member
Jordan Rosenberg
Saturday, July 25

May their memories be a blessing.

Education Director's Message



A *mezuzah* is a piece of parchment, called a *klaf*, contained in a decorative case and inscribed with specific Hebrew verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21). These verses consist of the Jewish prayer *Shema Yisrael*, beginning with the phrase: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord (is) our God, the Lord is One." The *mezuzah* is affixed to the doorpost of Jewish homes to fulfill the *mitzvah* to "write the words of God on the gates and doorposts of your house" (Deuteronomy 6:9). According to *Halacha*, the *mezuzah* should be placed on the right side of the doorpost, in the upper third of the doorpost, within approximately three inches of the doorway opening. Care should be taken to not tear or damage the parchment or the wording on it, as this will invalidate the *mezuzah*, which is considered Torah.

The reason I decided to write about the importance of the *mezuzah* in this month's newsletter is because I wanted to share with you a beautiful experience I had while delivering the summer packets to our religious school students.

While driving from house to house, I looked for one thing to know if I was at the right house. I looked for the *mezuzah*. Once I found the *mezuzah*, it gave me a sense of comfort. I knew that, even if I was at the wrong house, I had common ground with the people living in that house. When I saw the *mezuzah* on the doorpost, I knew that this family was proud to be Jewish and wasn't afraid to show it.

In the uncertain world we live in now, with anti-Semitism rising, it is heartwarming that Jews have the freedom to put a *mezuzah* at the entrance to their homes.

In every house I have lived in, my father has been the one who has put the *mezuzah* up for us. We have always turned the ceremony into a celebration and prayed that with the new *mezuzah* will come health and happiness in the home. Two months ago I moved to a new house. I have been waiting for my father to come from Israel to hang our new *mezuzah*, but due to the dangers of the coronavirus he can't leave Israel.

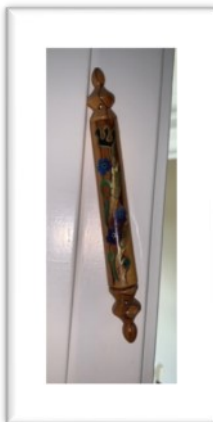
After getting so excited seeing your *mezuzot*, I decided I can't wait. I will hang it up myself, while having the family from Israel on Zoom, so we can still celebrate putting up this very important and symbolic *mezuzah*.

If you don't have a *mezuzah* or you would like to change yours and you have questions or need help, please don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Jordan, Mike, or me for assistance.

I hope your *mezuzah* will continue to watch over you and assure your health and happiness, especially through these very uncertain times. Here are a few *mezuzot* that belong to our amazing teachers!

With much love,

Molly Peled





Introduction to Jewish Genealogy

Not sure where to begin a family search?
Need to get re-inspired to continue a search you started?
Looking for a great family project?

Sunday, August 2
10:30-11:30AM via Zoom

Join us for an informative session, including tips, resources, and Q&A,
with Gary Deutsch, past president and webmaster of the
Jewish Genealogical Society of Georgia.

Gary has been researching his family tree for 40 years
and has found living family in Argentina, Russia, and across the U.S.

Click here to pre-register and receive Zoom link.
Questions? Contact Ruthanne at rwarnick@dortamid.com.



Torah Study

Join Rabbi Jordan for Torah study
each Wednesday at 11 am on Zoom
(<https://www.dortamid.org/zoom>)
as we continue our in-depth look
at the book of Leviticus.

This lively conversation is not to be missed.

Outdoor Havdalah



Havdalah Together

IN PERSON HAVDALAH AT CDT!

Join together outside of CDT
to say farewell to Shabbat.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 • 7:30 PM

- * Social Distancing practices will be followed.
- * Everyone must wear a mask.
- * Restrooms will not be available.
- * In order to attend, you must RSVP by Thursday, Aug. 6.
- * There is limited space available!

***** WEATHER PERMITTING*****

Our B'nai Mitzvah

Daniel Risner — August 1



Danny is a rising 8th-grade student at Webb Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta. In addition to focusing on his academics, Danny plays the flute in the school band and participates in the Jewish Club. He also enjoys music, playing video games with his brother and friends, as well as getting outside and tossing around a football.

For Danny's *tikkun olam*/social action project, he has volunteered many hours at The Cohen Home, an assisted living facility in Johns Creek. He has led Bingo games and has played his flute to delight the residents on numerous occasions. His contagious smile and keen sense of humor brightens their day. Knowing this provides Danny with a warm sense of satisfaction.

Evan Young — August 22



Since he was a young child, Evan's passion has been creating artwork in different media. His mother inspired him to do art, because she is a fellow artist herself. When Evan draws, it helps him with his anxiety, and he feels very relaxed.

His *tikkun olam*/social action project was a set of drawings of sea animals on watercolor paper that he made. He chose this project because of his love for art, and he hopes his creations will bring some joy and peace to the patients at Atlanta Cancer Care when they view them on the wall during their chemo treatments.

High Holy Days



Join members of Congregation Dor Tamid and Temple Beth Tikvah for a month-long preparation for the DAYS OF AWE.

As we enter into the month of Elul, Rabbi Jordan Ottenstein and Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner will share inspirational teachings and spiritual messages, along with the blast of the shofar, that will lead us to the new year on Rosh Hashanah. We will also have the opportunity to study with modern poet and liturgist, Alden Solovy, and be inspired by the music of Cantor Nancy Kassel and Cantorial Soloist Mike Zuspan.

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY:

A daily email from the Rabbis with a spiritual message for the day accompanied by the blast of the shofar.

THURSDAY:

Mysteries of the Machzor with Alden Solovy.

FRIDAY MORNING:

Music with Cantor Nancy Kassel and Cantorial Soloist Mike Zuspan.

FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY:

Spend Shabbat with our congregational family.

ALL PROGRAMS BEGIN ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 21.



Mysteries — of the — Machzor



A Four-Week
Online Adult Education Program
from Liturgist Alden Solovy

Mysteries of the Machzor – Week 1 – The Power of the Day

We'll open our Mysteries of the Machzor series by exploring the Unetaneh Tokef, a four-part masterpiece echoing the themes of the High Holidays. Enter the prayer that is a study in contrasts, and the inspiration for Leonard Cohen's song 'Who by Fire.'

Mysteries of the Machzor – Week 2 – Confessions Past and Present

This week in our Mysteries of the Machzor class, we'll examine the unique language of the two traditional confessionals, together known as Vidui – the alphabetic acrostic (Ashamnu) and the longer "For the Sin" (Al Chet) – contrasting them with modern alternatives.

Mysteries of the Machzor – Week 3 – Mystic Doorway

In our next Mysteries of the Machzor class, we'll look at the Kol Nidre, the dramatic mystical doorway into a full day of deep reflection and prayer, a day with the promise of forgiveness.

Mysteries of the Machzor – Week 4 – A Spiritual Compass

Our final Mysteries of the Machzor class will explore the Aveinu Malkeinu (Almighty and Merciful), a haunting set of supplications which are also a reminder of our relationship to G-d as the source of our blessings.

Social Action



Tikkun Olam — תיקון עולם
Repair the World

We miss seeing our CDT family in person and hope you are all doing well and staying healthy.

Even going through this pandemic, there are still things we can do to fulfill and do a *mitzvah* as a congregation to repair the world. The Social Action Committee is always looking for ways to provide *tikkun olam*. Please consider joining us for our next meeting. We welcome new ideas.

ZABAN PARADIES CENTER HOMELESS SHELTER: This is a very rewarding project, and we need your help in fulfilling our commitment. Include your child, grandchild, friends, or spouse. If your bar/bat mitzvah child is looking for a project, this is something they might consider.

Volunteers are currently being asked to provide a meal — home-prepared or purchased — for the residents. Due to COVID-19, serving the residents is currently on hold until further notice.

The Zaban Paradies Center assists couples transitioning from homelessness to resettlement and independence by providing shelter, basic necessities, and counseling services.



**THE ZABAN PARADIES CENTER ASSISTS HOMELESS COUPLES
BY PROVIDING SHELTER, BASIC NECESSITIES AND COUNSELING.**

**ONCE A MONTH, CDT VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE DINNER FOR THE RESIDENTS
(SERVING OF THE DINNER IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.)**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE DINNERS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:
WEDNESDAY, NOV 18 THURSDAY, DEC 17 MONDAY, JAN 18
THURSDAY, FEB 18 TUESDAY, MAY 18

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LESLEY RADOV - LRADOV85@GMAIL.COM

Social Action (cont.)

BEANIES FOR PREMATURE BABIES: Once the COVID-19 restriction is lifted, we will deliver the growing number of beanies, thanks to our Knit/Crochet Group, to the North Fulton Hospital NICU. If you know of another hospital or charity that can use our handmade beanies as well, please let me know.

HOMES AGAINST HUNGER: On hold due to COVID-19. There is still a need for food to feed families and children. In lieu of collecting food, if you so desire, we ask you to make a monetary donation to:

North Fulton Community Charities - <https://nfcchelp.org/donate/>

Atlanta Community Food Bank – www.acfb.org

MITZVAH DAY — MLK WEEKEND: Rabbi Jordan meets with the Johns Creek Interfaith Alliance on a monthly basis, and he is working with them to do a group project. Watch for more information.


Have an idea for a project? Please share it with us (srocco1951@gmail.com).

Sharon Rocco

Chair, Social Action Committee

Sisterhood

Hoping you are all safe and well.



Join Us!

Book Club

Sisterhood is starting a Book Club. Come join us. Please sign up by sending us the following information by August 7th.

Name

Email Address

And, if you have a recommendation of book or two, you're welcome to include that as well!

Once we have a group together details will follow.

Send your information to:

Sisterhood@dortamid.com

We can't wait to hear from you! - Lisa



Made with PosterMyWall.com



Lisa Danzig
Sisterhood President

A graphic featuring a large, colorful treble clef on the left, with musical notes and a small bird-like figure flying around it. To the right, the text "Musical Moments with Mike" is written in a stylized, cursive font. "Musical" is in blue, "Moments" is in red, "with" is in purple, and "Mike" is in green.

Musical Moments with Mike

Each Tuesday, Cantorial Soloist, Mike Zuspan will lead us in a spiritual teaching and song.

We hope you will join us Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on our Facebook Page to sing along.

Congregation
Dor Tamid



Congregation
Dor Tamid

CONGREGATION DOR TAMID CELEBRATES SHABBAT

Join us Friday evenings on Facebook
or our website as we welcome Shabbat together

- 7:15 pm A special song session and story with Rabbi Jordan and Mike.
- 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Join us Saturdays on Facebook

- 9:15 am Shabbat Story time with Rabbi Jordan.
- 10:00 am Shabbat continues Saturday morning as Rabbi Jordan will lead us, on the CDT Facebook page, in morning blessings as well as a reading and discussion of this week's Torah portion,
- 7:30 pm Say farewell to Shabbat as we make Havdalah.

For Our Youngest People



Congregation
Dor Tamid

Shabbat Storytime with Rabbi Jordan

Join Rabbi Jordan on CDT's Facebook page
each Shabbat morning at 9:15 for a special story time.

The graphic features a cartoon illustration of a boy and a girl sitting on a pink rug on a green hill, reading a book. Between them are two lit candles. In the background, there is a large yellow sun, a blue sky with white clouds, and a brown tree.



Next Tot Shabbat
August 14

The graphic includes a colorful logo for 'tot Shabbat' with a heart and stars, and a row of five cartoon children holding hands.

Knit & Crochet Group via Zoom

We are continuing to crotch and knit beanies
for premature babies from home.

We would love for you to join us on

Every Tuesday 1:00-3:00 pm

to socialize while working on beanies
or any project of your own.

TO JOIN US, CONTACT LESLIE AT LJPENUEL1@GMAIL.COM.

For beanie patterns, contact Sharon at srocco1951@gmail.com.

Primetimers

Join us each week for a lively discussion of a movie that has a Jewish theme or connection.

Next movie discussion: Thursday, August 6 — *Exodus*



Caring Committee



At any moment you may find yourself, your family, or your friends in need of a helping hand, and the CDT Caring Committee is here for you! Acts of loving kindness are our specialty, and we are here for congregants who may need help getting through difficult situations.

The Caring Committee's ability to help starts with you! If you or someone you know could use some support, please reach out to us and let us know what's going on. We will work closely with Rabbi Jordan and the staff to help us be successful in providing for the needs of our congregants. Our committee's goal is to reach out to every congregant who may need us!

If you or someone you know is mourning, undergoing surgery, recovering from an accident or illness, or has something going on in your/their life and could use our assistance, please contact the CDT office or Rabbi Jordan directly at 770-623-8860, or Leslie Fox, Caring Committee Chair, and let us know. It's so important that we, as a congregational community, care for one another.

If you have any questions, or would like to be a part of the Caring Committee, please let us know.

Leslie Fox
Caring Committee Chair
678-296-4646

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Leviticus 19:23

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So, plant a tree(s) today in celebration or in memoriam of your loved one, for the continual growth and welfare of Israel, and to support CDT. A certificate will be mailed to you or your honoree as designated.

Instructions:

1. Please **neatly** complete this form.
2. Write a check payable to CDT Sisterhood.
3. Send form and check to CDT Sisterhood, 11165 Parsons Road, Johns Creek, GA 30097

Honoree/Deceased Name: _____

Certificate type (circle one):

In Memory of

In Honor of

In Celebration of

Message: _____

Closing (circle one):

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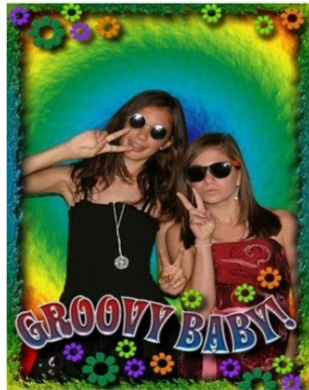
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Finance VP	Julianne Hahn
Facilities VP	Doug Katz
Education VP	Rachel Allen
Marketing/Communications VP	Ian Oxman
Secretary	Jackie Berger
Past President	Dan Rosen

Trustees

Fundraising	Ashley Chenault
Ritual	Sherry Nemiroff
Membership	Robyn Jacober
Trustee-at-Large	Scott Brown
Social Action	Sharon Rocco
Presidential Appointee	Marci Risner
Sisterhood	Lisa Danzig
Men's Club	Larry Benator

Staff

Senior Rabbi	Jordan M. Ottenstein, RJE
Cantorial Soloist	Mike Zuspan
Education Director	Molly Peled
Executive Director	Stacey Jahanfar
Administrative and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator	Ruthanne Warnick
Custodial Staff	Mo Alqaraghuli
CDTTY Advisors	Jaime & Eric Benson