

CBI Cafe

Fall 2021

RABBI'S CLASS (with R. Justin David)

The Dimensions of Tzedakah

10-10:50am, Sundays, Oct 10-Nov 14 (six sessions)

Tzedakah is not "charity," and it's much more than donating money. But what is it? Part social policy, part spiritual discipline, and part radical vision, tzedakah may be the single most enduring and evocative practice in Jewish tradition. Join us to explore the wide-ranging sources on tzedakah as we think about its connection to our yearnings for economic justice, spiritual wholeness, and day to day living with moral integrity.

INVITED SPEAKERS

11-noon, Sundays, Oct 3-Nov 28 (nine sessions)

Oct 3 "Searching for Sefarad: Food, Culture and People"

Nancy Sternbach (Prof. Emerita, Smith College) will talk about her Sephardic upbringing in New York, her teaching career in Spanish, her search for family history in Spain and Turkey and the ways in which all of these intersect, especially with food. It is a historical, personal, educational and culinary tour of her search for what she considers "Sefarad" to be.

Oct 10 **Kathleen Anderson** (Co-Chair of the New England National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) chapter) will speak as part of a series of talks on the subject of Reparations.

Oct 17 "An academic and personal journey with religious extremism"

For twenty years, **Dan Price** (Westfield State University) has studied the connection between religion, democracy, human rights and terrorism. His Master's thesis compared religious extremism in Israel and Egypt in the 1980s. His doctoral thesis and first book focused on the relationship between Islam, democracy and human rights. His most recent book focuses on religion and terrorism. This presentation outlines his research findings, and traces his personal journey, including living in Morocco and his complicated relationship with Judaism.

Oct 24 **Devorah Jacobson** (the multi-faith Chaplain at JGS Lifecare and a Board member of Critical Connections) and **Jeffrey Gold** ((mostly) retired clinical psychologist who, along with Devorah Jacobson, has co-chaired the JCA Reparations Committee) will speak as part of the series of talks on Reparations.

Oct 31 "Journalism, Judaism and Justice"

A founder of the Alliance of Black Jews, **Robin Washington** is the editor-at-large of the [Forward](#). He is also a host for [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) and a contributing reporter for [Boston's GBH](#). Raised in Chicago by Black and Jewish civil rights activists, Robin participated in sit-ins and protests when he was three years old - events he recalls fondly as "family outings." He later chronicled the movement in his acclaimed PBS documentary, "[You Don't Have to Ride Jim Crow!](#)"

Nov 7 "A Jewish Community in a Slave Society"

The largest Jewish communities in the early modern Americas emerged in slave societies. **Aviva Ben-Ur** (Prof. of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, UMass) will speak on the most unusual of these—the Dutch colony of Suriname, north of Brazil. There, Jews were among the earliest white settlers, and could hence negotiate for religious liberty, their own court, and ownership of a communally-owned village, located on the edge of the rainforest. The most consequential privilege accorded to these Jews: the conversion of people of African descent to Judaism, an example that highlights both the political autonomy of Jews and the violence endemic to all slave societies.

Nov 14 **David Ragland** (co-founder and former co-director of the Truth Telling Project of Ferguson, and he also serves as visiting professor at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Community Liberation and Eco-Psychology) will speak as part of the series of talks on Reparations.

Nov 21 "Wear Orange: A Virtual Art Exhibit (the movie)"

Doris Madsen was the artistic director of this 25-minute movie completed in early June 2021 with the Massachusetts chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. The movie was based on a virtual art exhibit Madsen curated, which includes many local artists as well as others from all over the country. These artists remember those lost to gun violence, honor their loved ones, mark the resiliency of communities combating gun violence every day, and recommit to fighting the root causes of gun violence and working for change. Join Doris Madsen for this screening and discussion.

Nov 28 **Aryeh Bernstein** (Director of Avodah's Justice Fellowship in Chicago, Educational Consultant for the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; Curricular Director for Anshe Sholom-B'nai Israel's youth Mishmar program) will speak as part of the series of talk on Reparations.