



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Elul 5779/Tishrei 5780 September 2019

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
617-965-0330 | www.dorsheitzedek.org | info@dorsheitzedek.org

A Season of Turning

by Lissy Medvedow



AS WE WIND down from our heat-laden and sunshine-filled summer days, we have the opportunity and mindset to think ahead.

September brings the start of the academic calendar for some and the end of vacation time for others. September also invites us to begin the process of “turning” as we prepare for the High Holydays (the first night of Rosh Hashanah is Sunday, September 29th). That process of turning manifests itself differently for each of us. We might be turning towards a new adventure, job, or family situation. Conversely, we might be turning away from situations better left behind or painful to leave behind. Our High Holyday services offer the space, literally and spiritually, to meet our individual and collective needs. As a community, we will once again join together to celebrate, grieve, and contemplate the past and coming year. Judaism gives us the opportunity to spend entire days reflecting, studying, praying, and being mindful. I’m often struck by the notion that notwithstanding time differences, during the High Holydays, Jews across the world are sharing a common experience. Our cultures may differ but our core values are strikingly similar. I love the fall season and its hallmarks of change, promise, and hope (yes, even in these incomprehensible and challenging times).

Over the past year, we have taken some twists and turns. We weathered a major change, most significantly saying goodbye to beloved Marla Lichtman and hiring our first ever Executive Director, **Melissa Colten**. Melissa has taken on her new job



Rabbi Toba addressing the Tisha b'Av vigil at the JFK Federal Building

with vim and vigor. If you have not had the chance to meet her, stop by the office sometime. You’ll be delighted. In the realm of turning, I’ll spend this year preparing to turn the reins over to **Bob Warren** who has accepted the position of First Vice President (which means he steps up to President next year) while keeping his current Executive Committee position of VP of Tikkun Olam. As we turn the page from 5779 to 5780, we’ll welcome **Debby Saltzman**, our newest Executive Committee member, who is taking up the mantle as VP of Membership. Happily, we’ll also welcome back **Rob Greenly**, VP of Leadership; **Ezra Hausman**, VP of Finance/Treasurer; and **Ro-**
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chelle Weichman, Secretary. I'm excited that **Ellie Axe**, **Jonathan Rosenthal**, and **Lisa Samelson** are now officially Board Members-at-Large; they'll be joining returning Board Members **Laurie Gould** and **Dan Rome**.

In other Board news, **Bill Shorr** is stepping down from his position as VP of Education. He spent the past two years collaborating with **Rabbi Shahar**, sharing thoughtful ideas, meeting with the Children's Education Committee, and giving so much of himself. Thank you, Bill, for your years of dedication on the Board. We hope to present a candidate for the VP of Education role at the next Members Meeting (November 17th, 10-12 at JCDS; save the date). And, as we usually do, the Board will kick off the year with a Retreat, happening on September 8th, which encompasses learning, goal-setting, collegiality, and contemplation (and food, of course).

As we turn towards the coming year, we will continue to strengthen our infrastructure. ShulCloud, the new database that allows us

to streamline much of our operations (e.g., register for school, renew memberships, and pay online) has been implemented (thank you **Dan Halbert**, **Lidia**, **Marla**, **Melissa**, **Ezra Hausman**, and **Nancy Gertz** for all the initial research). The "institutional portrait" that **Dan Rome** and **Ro Weichman** have been painting will be completed soon.

We've hired an accountant and plan to move forward with an independent financial review. Melissa tells me she loves her new job. I am proud of our community. From virtually every vantage point, we are an enviable congregation. We're growing, our Religious School is respected and kids genuinely like going there (so not true when I was a kid), and we are financially stable. Most importantly, we are a kind, supportive community, full of truly good human beings, great programming, and meaningful rituals. But there

is always more to do. Please reach out to me at any time if you have ideas, thoughts, or concerns you would like to share about CDT. I welcome your input. Though a bit early, l'shana tova to everyone. May all our turnings be for the better.

That process
of turning
manifests
itself
differently for
each of us.

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

Rabbinic Liaisons: While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with **Rabbi Toba** or **Rabbi Shahar**, there are other avenues through which to bring concerns. The **Rabbinic Liaison Committee** exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between Rabbi Toba and the congregation. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at **cbsrome@comcast.net**. Rabbi Toba, as Rabbi Shahar's supervisor, is the person to whom to bring any concerns relating to Rabbi Shahar and her work for the congregation.

Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to **dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org**. Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address.

Volunteer Staff: John Holohan (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Liz Holohan, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Board

Staff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt, dcl@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Director: Melissa Colten, execdirector@dorsheitzedek.org

Program Associate: Lidia Prunte, officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org

Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin, inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedow

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

VP Education: TBD

VP Leadership: Rob Greenly

VP Tikkun Olam: Bob Warren

Secretary: Rochelle Weichman

Board Members-at-Large:

Ellie Axe, Laurie Gould, Dan Rome, Jonathan Rosenthal & Lisa Samelson

Off-Board Chairs

Children's Education: Sarah Birkeland & Webster Pilcher

Chesed: Elaine Landes

Nediv Lev: Debbie Waber

Newsletter: John Holohan

Inclusion: Susan Nitkin

Ritual: Marion Ross and Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling

Space: Steve Siegel

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Benita Danzing

Shabbat & Holidays

All-ages Erev Shabbat & Open House—Dinner provided!

Friday, September 6

6:00pm Candle-lighting and catered dinner

6:45pm Service

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We are also welcoming all those who might be interested in Dorshei Tzedek and our children's education program for the coming year, so bring a friend! We'll begin with candle-light-



ing and the Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by a vegetarian dinner, provided by the congregation. We ask that you sign up beforehand, so that we can order enough food. There is a sign-up on the CDT website (www.dorsheitzedek.org) under "upcoming events." Services begin at 6:45pm, and we'll end with an Oneg Shabbat dessert at 7:30pm.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

8:45am-9:40am, September 7, October 12, November 16, December 14

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion before Shabbat morning services, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

Shabbat continued on page 11

THE DAYS OF AWE

Selichot Program

Saturday evening, September 21, 2019

8:00pm - 10:00pm

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Joining together with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, we begin our journey into the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of Turning, with a Selichot program including:

8:00pm Havdallah, dessert and schmoozing

8:25pm Spiritual & Social Repair – Atonement and Reparations: Rabbi Toba will lead a study session exploring Biblical models of sin and atonement as a way into contemporary conversations about the legacy of slavery and racism in America today. How might the ancient Yom Kippur rituals described in the Torah, and other priestly rituals, help us collectively atone and make amends for the profound damage done to native and African peoples in the building of our nation?

9:30pm Music and meditations for teshuvah, "turning/return"

Rabbi Barbara Penzner and HBT member Tracy Rich will lead a contemplative Selichot service, featuring chant and meditation, to help us begin our journey of teshuvah.



Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

We welcome our members and the larger Jewish community to our High Holydays services, held at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Sunday, September 29, at 8pm, with a musical, participatory service. Yom Kippur begins Tuesday evening, October 8. For a full schedule of services and children's programming, please go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/high-holydays>. While we do not want finances to be an obstacle to anyone's participation, we do rely on contributions from our guests, as well as fees for child care, to cover the considerable expense involved in our High Holydays programming. All non-members who pre-register for services will have a name tag awaiting!

To make our services accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask everyone to remember – and to remind your guests and family members – that we seek to make our services fragrance-free. This means to please refrain from using any kind of perfume, hair or body spray, cologne, and the like

Shabbat Shuvah Contemplative Service

Saturday, October 5, 9:45am - 12:00pm
60 Highland Street: Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Rooms 109, 110, 111

This Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called "Shabbat Shuvah"—the Shabbat of Return/Turning. The service will incorporate song and silence, guided and silent meditation, from 9:45am-11:15, and then Torah study from 11:15 to noon (Mourners Kaddish will be recited at the end of the service). Please join us for a reflective celebration of Shabbat and an opportunity to continue and deepen the experience of the High Holydays.

Community

MEMBERSHIP MISHIGAS: COMMUNITY PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY!

Sheryl Koenigsburg

Rosh Hashanah has always been one of my favorite holidays. As a child, I loved how it fell at the beginning of the school year, giving me a chance to think about how to approach the year. As an adult, I like that it gives some shape to my year after the joyful laziness of summer.

My first association with Rosh Hashanah is food. Apples and honey, raisin challah, tzimmes. But a close second association is that of music. There are numerous melodies and songs that I associate with Rosh Hashanah – Avinu Malkeinu, Areshet Sifatainu, Hayom, and what my family has always affectionately referred to as the “Oompa Loompa Kaddish,” to name a few.

But there are other songs that are also on my mind as we start preparing for the new year. These are secular songs – about freedom and new beginnings and hope – that thematically are becoming my soundtrack for 5780. So I’ve started a community playlist on Spotify. Sound technologically scary? I promise it’s not. Just go to <https://spoti.fi/2TwyQIE> and have a listen.

Even better, you can add to this playlist! If you have a favorite song that’s been on your mind as we start a new year, or a song – secular or otherwise – that captures a goal or hope or vision that you have for 5780, go ahead and add it. By the time we break-fast on Yom Kippur, we should have a wonderful playlist for the rest of the year!

L’shana Tova to all.

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT member **Debbie Sher**, whose 8th yahrzeit falls on September 14. We will be remembering Debbie at Shabbat morning services that day.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Lynne Brandon** and **Bob Ross**.

CONDOLENCES

The entire CDT community mourns the death of **Noah Elan Marcus**, and we send blessings of comfort to Noah’s parents, **Susan Nitkin** and **Jeff Marcus**, and his siblings, **Caleb** and **Joanna**. May Noah’s memory be for a blessing, and may his Torah of kindness, thoughtfulness, playfulness and perseverance continue to inspire those who knew him.

We extend our sympathies to **Margo Michaels**, on the death of her father, Arthur Michaels, may his memory be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure “*Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek*,” available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members:

Jon Adler & Jonathan Lewis and their children **Miles** (6) and **Zoe** (4). Thank you to **Karen Arnold** for the referral!

Ayelet Lipton and her son, **Shai** (11)

CDT GARDEN: EXPERIENCE THE ABUNDANCE AND THE BEAUTY

Laya Steinberg

Rachel Carson believed that the abundance and beauty of nature has the power to ground us and renew us.

On a recent picking day at the CDT garden, Ellie Goldberg and I experienced this abundance first hand with our single biggest tomato harvest day: 69 pounds! We have been the sole source of tomatoes thus far to the Newton Food Pantry so they are extra appreciative. Along with some pattypan squash, collard, and kale, the total brought us to 432 lbs. so far this season. In the coming months there will be more tomatoes, greens, beets, summer squash and in fall the students in the CDT religious school will harvest the winter squash and other fall vegetables. We also have an abundance of

weeds, so if you are looking for a way to ground yourself in beauty, please consider coming to the garden for an hour or two. After five years of running this worthy and important project I am ready to pass the trowel on to a new garden manager. Feeding those less fortunate in our community has been a humbling experience—a reminder that everyone deserves wholesome and delicious food. Please get in touch (lasword@rcn.com) if you think you might be interested. I’m happy to share my knowledge and experience (and participate on a limited basis next year.)



Record breaking tomato harvest! Donated to Newton Food Pantry.

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Religious School Notes

DEAR CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILIES,

All summer long we have been working to get ready for another year of deep and meaningful Jewish learning and community.

I am delighted to share that our staff this year includes many beloved returning teachers: Devora Rohr, Adina Mailik, Ali Moss, Lia Almekies, Sivan Ben Hayun, Lilyfish Gomberg, Andrea Kamens, and Joanna Marcus. In addition, we will be welcoming Micah Friedman, rabbinical student at Hebrew college to teach Kitah Vav (6th grade), and Shira Moss, veteran Got Shabbat workshop leader, to teach Kitah Bet (2nd grade). As I write this in mid-August, I've been interviewing several other wonderful prospective teachers and assistant teachers, and I look forward to introducing them to the community once our staffing is finalized.

In the process of staffing for this year, I have been in conversation with members of our community who are part of multi-racial families about how our school can best support the needs of students of color. One key ask is that we prioritize finding staff whose diversity reflects the identities

HOW THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN 2019-2020

Webster Pilcher and Sarah Birkeland, Co-Chairs of the Children's Education Committee

The Children's Education Committee (CEC) is back and better than ever and we're really excited to get the religious school year started!

We see so many ways to support and complement what is happening in religious education on Sundays and we would love for you to join us in making this a memorable year for the students, families, and congregation.

of our students, so that all our students are able to imagine themselves growing into actively involved Jewish adults. I reached out to communities and leaders of groups for Jews of Color in the Boston area as well as nationally. In addition to putting out the word that we were interested in hiring teachers of color, these efforts included seeking feedback about how to do this recruitment and as well as ideas for how to support such teachers in working in our school context, where most of the staff present as white and Ashkenazi (myself included, though I have Sephardic heritage as well.)

I've had several valuable conversations about how I as a white person can best recruit, support, and empower Jews of color to participate in our school. These efforts have led to an exciting idea about building a fellowship to develop Jewish educators of color by creating a cohort of teachers across multiple communities. This is very much still in the idea stage, but I am inspired to continue to explore the idea with folks at CDT and beyond. However, I still am doubtful that we will be successful this year in the racial diversity we hope for. In the meantime, I intend to continue to include staff-wide conversations and trainings around

Tikkun Olam and service work connected to the religious education experience will be priority #1. We will be organizing 5 opportunities for students and parents to get out and serve our communities and we would love for you to get involved. Social experiences for the kids' classes will be key too and if you would like to brainstorm ways to bring the kids together then please speak up. Of course we always love when new families join the community so don't be surprised when we ask for your help with recruitment towards the end of the year. Finally, we'll be working closely with Rabbi Shahar and Rabbi Toba to ensure that everything goes smoothly while they're out on maternity leave and sabbatical respectively.

To make all this happen we would very much like additional volunteers to join the Board. Specifically, we're looking for CEC Board representation from parents with children

Jewish cultural diversity and anti-racism in Jewish education contexts. We will continue to set aside time for conversation and education on topics related to anti-racism and parenting. We have important work to do, and I am honored to be working with such committed and thoughtful parents in our community, along with dedicated and caring teachers, to best meet the needs of all our students.

--Rabbi Shahar

Invitation to 4th-7th Graders: Join our Bima Band!

For the past several years you may have noticed some awesome musical accompaniment by young people in our community during services. This year we are building out this experience to any 4th-7th graders who want to participate in a "Bima Band." Our own talented Tal Shalom Kobi will organize a 4th/5th grade band and a 6th/7th grade band. The bands will each practice from 12:00-12:30 after Sunday school on eight Sundays during the year, culminating in performances as congregational events and their class' siyyumim. More information coming soon on how to join!

in grades 2, 3, 5 and 6. So if you believe in the power of religious education and want to help support our students, families and congregation then please speak with me, Sarah, Melissa Colton, our new Executive Director, or Rabbi Shahar. All we're asking for is one meeting a month and the power of your passion and imagination to make this CEC mission a reality. Thanks!

We look forward to seeing everyone soon and getting the religious school year started!

Learning

ELUL PROGRAMS

The month of Elul – the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah – are a time to prepare ourselves for the spiritual work of the High Holydays. Try out one or more of these learning opportunities to help you prepare!

Turning/Returning - New/Old Metaphors for the Divine With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday evening, September 12, 7:30pm-9:00pm
60 Highland Street

The God imagery we encounter on the High Holydays can be off-putting and alienating. But Jewish tradition is rich with metaphors for the divine that are drastically different

than the King and Judge we associate with this season. This class will explore the richness of Biblical and rabbinic metaphors for God – as Water, Voice, Rock, and more – that open up new paths for our spiritual work over the Days of Awe.

Music of Elul - Preparing Our Hearts & Minds through Song With Rabbi Shahar Colt

Thursday, September 19, 7:30-9:00pm

There is a rich tradition of singing selichot, “penitential” poem prayers, all throughout the month of Elul, leading up to Rosh Hashanah. In Ashkenazi tradition, selichot tend to focus on concern about our actions over the past year -- what if we can’t make it up to ourselves and to God? Sephardi selichot often include more major key tones,

joyous singing based on the assumption that we are praying fully and will be heard. In this workshop we will learn some traditional and contemporary Elul music, exploring their meanings while singing our hearts out.

God, Prayer, and the High Holydays With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Sunday morning, September 22, 11:00am-Noon
JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

For parents in our religious school and any other interested adults, this workshop will explore some of the material covered in the “Turning/Returning” session on September 12.

Chesed

CHESED at CDT

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed (Loving-Kindness) is an important Congregation Dorshei Tzedek value. The Chesed Coordinators reach out when a member has a significant life event such as a birth or adoption, illness, or death in the family. Whether a meal, errand or ride, these gestures of practical comfort and caring acknowledge each other’s life transitions or stressful times.

Chesed Coordinators facilitate the match between the recipients and volunteers on the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) website. Note: Chesed will be moving to the updated LotsaHelpingHands website. Look for the email with instructions for joining the new community site.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. The Chesed Coordinators for September are **Lisa Hirsh, DB Reiff, and Elaine Landes.**



If you have questions about Chesed, as a recipient or as a volunteer, please contact the Chesed coordinators at **chesed@dorsheitzedek.org**.

Chesed Q&A: What Do the Shiva and Chesed Committees Do?

<https://tinyurl.com/Shiva-Chesed>

Rabbi Toba is available to talk about any spiritual, religious or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an appointment, please contact **Rabbi Toba** (confidentially) at **rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org** or **617-965-0330**. **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, our Director of Congregational Learning, is also available and can be contacted at **dcl@dorsheitzedek.org**. Rabbi Toba does not check email or voicemail on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off). For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. This fund is completely confidential.

Learning (cont'd)

Mindful Mornings

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15am

60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, helping us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, clarity and compassion. This month, **Rabbi Toba** will lead a teshuvah-themed session on September 5, and **Karen Arnold** will lead a meditation preparing for Rosh Hashanah on September 12. Other group members will facilitate the meditation on other mornings. All are welcome, whatever your level of meditation experience (or lack thereof!).

CDT Events

CDT FILM CLUB

The film club is on hiatus until the fall. See you in October!

For information about the film club or if you'd like to host a film, contact the co-chairs, **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper**, film-club@dorsheitzedek.org.

Community

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TODAH RABAH

To **David Lobron** and **Karen Arnold**, for their beautiful chanting of Lamentations during our Tisha b'Av observance.

Thanks to everyone who provided kiddush in June, July and August:

Sheree Galpert (Captain), **Rebecca Byard**, **Becca O Murchadha**, **Rosalyn Goldburg**, **Rachel Davenport** (Captain) & **Mark Paley**, **Rebecca Byard**, **Rosalyn Goldburg**, **Wendy & Charles Frankston**, **Paul Hattis**, **Linda & Peter Katz**, **Ellie Goldberg** (Captain), **Erica Streit-Kaplan** (Captain), in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of **Joan & Roger Streit**, **Deborah & Mike McEwan**, **Steve Gomperts**, **Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx**, in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary, **Diane Lior** (Captain)

Nediv Lev

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program) and, most important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers; this fund allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Benis Bernstein and **Hugh Fenimore**—*In Memory Of Harry S. Bernstein*

Nancy Gertz—*In memory of Noah Marcus*
Lauren Gibbs—*In memory of Noah Elan Marcus and in honor of Emily Sper and Steve Flax who hung Mara's exhibit at the O'Neill library; Cheryl and Jeff Sacks in memory of Cheryl's father, Ed Weiner; and to thank Linda Kramer for making our morning coffee special*

Ellie Goldberg—*In memory of her mother, Theresa Koenigsberg, her mother-in-law Rava Goldberg, her brother Jesse Koenigsberg, and her Aunt Pauline Fine*
Steffi & Eric Karp—*In memory of Freyda Karp*

Annette Jacobs—*In memory of her grandmother, Sofie Loewenherz*

Mei See Law-Sandson—*In memory of Noah Marcus*

Dianne Lior

Miranda Phillips and **Bobby Kleinberg**—*In honor of Cindy Schulak Rome and Dan*

Rome in thanks for their generosity
Amy Pollack-Howard and **George Howard**—*In memory of Arthur Michaels*

Bill Shorr

Cindy Shulak-Rome & **Dan Rome**—*In memory of David Farber, father of Mark Farber, and in memory of Jeff Weichman, nephew of Rochelle Weichman*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lissy Medvedow & **Cliff Cohen**—*In honor of our new grandson, Sawyer, and Rabbi Toba*

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

SCHOOL FUND

RETREAT FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

Tikkun Olam

Prison Book Project

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30-9pm

Volunteer with the Prison Book Program at the United First Parish Church in Quincy on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. Volunteers work at various tasks to respond to prisoners' requests for specific books and send them out. The Church is very close to the Red Line/Quincy Center stop or volunteers can organize a carpool. CDT members can sign up in the Members section of the CDT website.

Come Learn about Tikkun Olam at CDT!

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Room 111

Stacey Chacker

"Whoever thought that we'd be doing the core of our activism through our synagogue," Bob Warren, CDT Vice President of Tikkun Olam, recently remarked to me. My 30-year old self would have been stunned. But here we (many of us) are... happy to act with others who are smart, concerned, and committed, while building a stronger CDT community.

I have never been a weekly "shulnik." Many years ago, most of my weekly interactions with CDT members were through my daughter's participation in the religious school – Tot Shabbats, drop off and pick up times, and class Shabbat potlucks. Parents – you know the score.

Now, I find my CDT connections built, nurtured, and enriched largely by my participation in CDT Tikkun Olam work – primarily through our sanctuary/immigrant justice work and the Tikkun Olam Committee. For others, it's the Greater Boston Immigration Organization (GBIO), Prisoner Book Program, Israel-Palestine Peace (IPPeace), Understanding Race, Economic Diversity, and/or Sustainability Green Team.

Come learn about the many ways to engage in Tikkun Olam at CDT at our general Tikkun Olam meeting in October. There are



Tikkun Olam Steering Committee

many ways to get involved in many pressing issues, help make a stronger community, and who knows, you may just make a new friend.

Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative (NSSC) Update

Stacey Chacker

Over the past two and a half years, over 80 CDT members have volunteered with the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Committee (NSSC) – with Danielle Klainberg serving on the NSSC Core Committee and Sandy Goodman as our Volunteer Coordinator. In June, the family decided to depart from the Sanctuary. Below is a letter that the mom, Sofia, wrote to NSSC volunteers. This letter gives us a glimpse into her harsh reality, and the respite and love that we jointly, as a part of NSSC, offered her and her family.

To the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative,

Before all of you welcomed me into this sacred space, I had already been in detention. Every night before I went to sleep, I would wonder how my son was doing. I wondered if he had eaten something, I wonder if he felt OK in school. Every night, I was in detention, I cried myself to sleep, and every morning I would wake up and tell myself, "Dios Mio (my God), am I still here?"

It deeply affected my son to be separated from his mother and it deeply pained me to be separated from my son. It is because of these experiences; I appreciate and am grateful, that with your support, my family and I have been able to find a home in

this sanctuary. I am deeply grateful for your company throughout all this time. I am grateful to all of you: to those people who I had the opportunity to meet as well as those who I never saw, but I knew were there next to me, right in the companion room. Even though there are a lot of you who I never met, I knew you were there. I knew you were present. I knew you were with me. Although I was still afraid, your presence made me feel that I was never alone. Your presence allowed me to sleep with peace and tranquility because I knew I was not alone. You are part of our lives and we are part of yours. I feel you love me, and I love you, I will never forget you.

Throughout my time here, I have had the chance to rest and recover from the overwhelming reality that haunts me. The time spent here has given me the space I needed to come to terms with my situation: to accept, to gain strength, so that I may be able to decide how I will continue carrying on my struggle. I don't want you to think that the decision we made has anything to do with any of you. Because of personal reasons and for my son's well-being, we have decided that we have to leave. When I made the decision to come into this sacred space it was for my son and my daughter. In the same way, by prioritizing them, I have chosen to leave also.

I am still afraid. I am still afraid of being detained, I am still afraid of being deported. But it is because of my family that I have chosen to confront my overwhelming reality in a different way now. I am deeply grateful for your support and the sacrifices you made all this time. They have sustained me and my family so that we wouldn't confront this overwhelming reality along. I always knew that if something were to happen, we would have confronted this together. Gracias!

Much Love, Sofia

Immigration Justice Group: Assessing our Direction

Sept. 11th

7:00pm- Orientation for those new to CDT immigration justice work

7:30pm- Meeting

Dorshei Tzedek members individually and as a community have been deeply involved in immigration justice work over the past two years. As the focus of the sanctuary work and needs in our community shifts, it is time for us to reflect on and assess our work so far. This gathering is for anyone in our community who is involved in immigration justice work- through sanctuary, BIJAN, or other individual projects, education programs or events. Through a series of facilitated activities we will share about our experiences in this work so far and explore together our priorities for the coming year.

Join the Jericho Walks in Burlington, MA

Every third Tuesday of the month at
1:00 pm (3-2-1)

March in Solidarity with those being mistreated by an inhuman immigration system.

The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. “The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths.”

Walks take place at the ICE offices in Burlington, MA (1000 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803) on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. (An easy way to remember is “3-2-1” for “third week-second weekday-at 1pm.”) For anyone interested in taking part and carpooling from Newton, or for additional information, feel free to contact **Amy Mazur** at acmazur@comcast.net.

GBIO Activity

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Liaisons for CDT and GBIO Health Care Captains lead three congregational meetings to discuss issues related to health care and the campaign for health care reform in Massachusetts. Those attending the meetings described their own experiences with paying for prescription drugs, addressing mental or behavioral health problems in their immediate family, and receiving “surprise billing” related to medical tests and laboratory expenses.

Under the banner, “Real Reform,” a GBIO campaign supports legislative action about each of those issues, which are not only

prevalent among CDT congregation members but also common concerns among virtually all residents of Massachusetts. Through communications such as the CDT meetings over the summer, the GBIO Health Care Team has drafted model legislation that it will roll out during the “GBIO Health Care Strategy Teach-In” on September 5. CDT members are invited and encouraged to attend this event.

If you think you might join others at the September 5 “Teach In,” have interest in becoming more involved in GBIO activities, or just questions about the Health Care Campaign, contact CDT Liaisons **Louise Enoch** or **Tony Broh** or CDT Health Care Captains **Paul Hattis** or **Rob Saper**.

IPPeace Update

Louise Enoch

As events in Israel/Palestine continue to be as complex and frustrating as ever, our IPPeace steering committee is in the process of planning Israel/Palestine related programming for the upcoming year. We hope to engage congregants wherever they are in their thinking about Israel, as well as challenge those who are willing to learn more and deepen their understanding.

Last year’s varied programming offered CDTers the opportunity to do just that. IPPeace brought “IfNotNow,” the young adult led organization which is opposing the occupation, to tell us about their strategies; we gave a second round of our BDS presentation for those who had missed it the previous year; we took that presentation on the road to Kahal Breira, the Cambridge Humanist Judaism congregation, where it was well received; we cosponsored an evening with Combatants for Peace; and we conducted a three part, very intellectually interesting study session about Israel titled “Jewish and Democratic.”

The first session of that study group looked at some historical documents and Israeli Basic Laws. In the second session, we studied scholarly analyses and arguments for the compatibility of the terms “Jewish” and

“democratic” in the context of the State. The final session considered two issues that have been seen as major challenges to Israeli democracy: the State’s reliance on Jewish religious law and the status of non-Jewish citizens.

Coming up for 5780, on November 9, our J Street members, who attended the national conference, will speak on Israel within the context of elections both there and in the United States. Later we will be hosting Amir Qudaih for his presentation, “A Boy From Gaza,” and at another point, Ilana Hammerman, journalist and professor, whose anti-occupation activism is featured in her new memoir. We are planning another study group, topic to be decided by a survey of our listserv and we hope to have a community wide program on attitudes about Israel.

Our hope is that many of you may join us for these programs and that we will gain in knowledge and hope as we do so. If you would like to sign up for our listserv please contact **Elaine Landes** (elainefelson@gmail.com) or **Sue Lanser** (lanser@brandeis.edu).

IPPeace Planning Committee: Louise Enoch, Elaine Landes, Sue Lanser, Jonathan Rosenthal, and Ruth Paris

CDT Calendar

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Office Closed	3 CDT Sings Rehearsal 7:30pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111	4 Tikkun Olam Steering Committee Meeting 7:30pm to 9:00pm 60 Highland Street: Library	5 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	6 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck & Open House 6:00 pm	7 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Quinn Caputo 9:45am to 12:00pm
8 Religious School Staff Training 9:00am Board Retreat 11:30am	9	10 CDT Sings Rehearsal 7:30pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111	11	12 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am Elul: Preparing for the High Holidays 7:30pm	13	14 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
15 Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm	16	17 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 7:30pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111	18	19 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am Elul: Preparing for the High Holidays 7:30pm	20	21 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Ezra Sugarman-Brozan 9:45am to 12:00pm Leil Selichot Service 8:00pm Temple Hillel Bnai Torah
22 Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm	23	24 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	25	26 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	27	28 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 12:45pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111
29 Erev Rosh Hashanah: Welcoming the New Year 5780 8:00 pm	30 Rosh Hashanah-Day 1 9:30 am	October 1 Rosh Hashanah-Day 2 10:00 am CDT Sings Rehearsal 7:30pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111	2	3	4	5 Shabbat Shuvah Chanting & Meditation Service 9:45am to 12:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 12:45pm 60 Highland Street: Room 111

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton.

No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

SEPT 6, EREV SHABBAT:

Setup/Cleanup: Idit Klein (Captain) / Daniel Lesser / Janelle Winston / Myra Schwartz

SEPT 7, SHABBAT:

Quinn/Caputo Bar Mitzvah

Sanctuary Cleanup: Stephanie Hackett / Nem Hackett

Ushers: Melody Komyerov / Joshua Komyerov

SEPT 14, SHABBAT:

Setup/Cleanup: Reva Kasman / Sue Kline / Danielle Klainberg

SEPT 21, SHABBAT:

Ezra Sugerman-Brozan Bar Mitzvah

Sanctuary Cleanup: Pamela Rosenstein, in memory of Becky Wilson / Becca Gutman
Kiddush Setup: Allison Andrews / Arthur Lent / Erica Streit-Kaplan / Jennifer Sartori / Barry Gilbert / Scott Gordon

Kiddush Cleanup: Becca Gutman / Rachel Pytel / Rachele Rosi-Kessel / Adam Rosi-Kessel / Barry Gilbert / Karen Leitner

Ushers: Josette Akresh-Gonzales / Rebecca Cohen

SEPT 28, SHABBAT:

Setup/Cleanup: Ellie Baron (Captain) / Susan Silberberg / Barbara Harris / Kate deBethune

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up.

Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades, who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held weekly, starting at 9:45am. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in rooms 109-110. For the comfort and health of our members and guests, we ask everyone attending our services to avoid wearing fragrances (perfume, cologne, hair and body sprays).

Shabbat & Holidays

Shabbat continued from page 3

Sukkot & Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 13, 4:30pm

FUUSN: 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Save the dates – our **erev Sukkot program** is on **Sunday, October 13**, beginning with a program for families of children aged 0-5 at 4:30pm, a gathering in the sukkah at 5:30pm, Sukkot potluck dinner at 6pm, and a program about immigration at 7pm. There are Sukkot morning services on Monday, October 14. We'll be celebrating the end of the Sukkot week with Simchat Torah on Sunday, October 20, beginning with a program for families of young children at 4pm, and an all-ages service, featuring dancing with the Torah, at 7pm.

Bar Mitzvah of Quinn Caputo

Shabbat morning, September 7, 9:45am

We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our son, **Quinn Joshua Caputo**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. A kiddush lunch will follow the service. Quinn is a rising 7th grader at F.A. Day Middle School in Newton. Quinn spends nearly all of his free time underwater as a swimmer with Crimson Aquatics. During this past year he traveled to Indiana and

Florida for meets. He spent four weeks this summer at JCC Grossman Camp working closely with special needs campers who needed extra help during their swim lessons. He also loves to run track, train on American Ninja Warrior obstacle courses, and hang out with his friends. We are very excited about this occasion!

—Marni & Tim Caputo

Bar Mitzvah of Ezra Sugerman-Brozan

Shabbat morning, September 21, 9:45am

Please join us as our son Ezra is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Ezra is an eighth grader at Meridian Academy in Jamaica Plain where he is a member of the Scaly Animal Committee and participates in the school's Model UN team. For his Tik-kun Olam project, he has been volunteering with Birthday Wishes. Each month he and several classmates walk to a homeless shelter near his school to throw a birthday party for all the kids at the shelter whose birthdays are in that month. Please join us downstairs for Kiddush luncheon following the ceremony.

— Jodi and Alex Sugerman-Brozan



GBIO Health Care Strategy Teach-In Organizing for Better Health Care

Gather together to learn about our health care legislative strategy to:

- Lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Increase access to affordable mental health and substance abuse disorder care
- Lower out-of-pocket expenses for health care

Where: Grant AME Church, 1906 Washington Street, Boston MA 02118

(Public transportation available or parking in nearby City of Boston lots)

When: Thursday, September 5th, promptly at 7:00 pm

RSVP online gbiohc.org/hcst323.

For more information, contact your congregation's health care captain, Michael Rubenstein (michaelcrubenstein@gmail.com), or Bonny Gilbert (bonnyg@fairwaymc.com).



Address correction requested



Rabbi Toba visiting CDT campers at Camp Havayah:

Rose & Frieda Naumburg; Ava and Jonah Levine-Fried; Evan and Ruby Gan; Tali Edelstein; Lev Gordon; Sam Lent; Greer Howard; Eva & Noah Pytel; Jesse Dash; Nuriel Gutman; Jane Robinson; and Noa Nasoff, honorary lifetime CDT kid!

