



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Tishrei/Chesvan 5781

October 2020



Carrying on the tradition of RBG by Bob Warren

Photo by Viv Shein



AS WE GATHERED for Rosh Hashana we learned that our Tzaddek (righteous one), Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had passed. Our congregation celebrated Rosh Hashana with a mixture of joy and sadness with this sudden news. Although not unexpected, the timing of Justice Ginsburg's death could not have come at a worse moment. Gratefully, our community has made Voter Mobilization our number one priority

through election day. The Voter Mobilization Project is a tremendous success as scores of CDT members have participated with postcards, texting and now phone banking to mobilize as of this writing over 8,000 underrepresented voters who live in states with high levels of voter suppression to check on their voter registration and to plan their vote. We are doing our small part in this very large national effort.

While Voter Mobilization is our current Congregation-wide campaign, CDT's Board of Directors recently committed to the following programmatic work for the coming year:

First, we will continue to guide the Congregation as we adapt to living and functioning in a world of the pandemic. For several months our Re-Entry Protocol Task Force developed a set of guidelines for CDT gatherings both in the present and in the future (CDT members can

access the guidelines in the Covid-19 Resources section of the website). I want to thank the members of the Task Force who are our immediate past president Lissy Medvedow, Lisa Samelson, Rob Saper, Linette Liebling, Lauren Stefano, Melissa Colten, Rabbi Toba and myself for their great work in a short period of time as that work has concluded.

Now, we are recognizing that we have to learn to live with COVID-19 for the near and mid-term future. To support the congregation as we navigate this reality, the CDT Board will give guidance to our staff and ultimately the congregation as far as the big policy decisions around COVID as it impacts CDT. More directly, we have an on-going concern about the mental health and well-being of our members during the pandemic. To that end, the Board will be planning at least one event for the Board on mental health concerns while living during the time of COVID and life in general with the physical and political upheavals we are experiencing.

Secondly, the Board has affirmed Undoing Racism as a critical congregation-wide goal. Becoming an actively anti-racist congregation will touch on all aspects of our congregation's programming, and we want to spend this year thinking strategically, implementing programs and learning more about how to do this work in the most powerful and long-lasting way. To this end we will be putting together a Working Group on Racial Justice consisting of Board and non-board members

to do external research and learning best practices from other congregations and Jewish organizations; learning about what our different CDT constituencies need in order to be able to move forward; learning about the overt and hidden barriers that make engagement in our congregation difficult for members of color; and proposing concrete goals and actions that the congregation can take to become an authentically anti-racist congregation. We hope to have a set of goals and ideas to a members meeting in the coming year.

Finally, we have committed to developing practices for fostering new leadership for the congregation. A task force on developing new leaders is in formation to work to foster leadership among the diversity of our members of different ages, family statuses, sexual orientation, gender identification, race and national identities in as inclusive a manner possible.

Staff News

We are excited to welcome Jordan Leonard as CDT's Interim Zoom Coordinator:

Hello everyone! My name is Jordan Leonard, and I'm so excited to be joining the team at CDT as your Zoom Coordinator! I look forward to getting to know you as we begin the start of a new year. I recently graduated from UMass Amherst with a degree in English and concentrations in Technical Writing and Classics. I was also active in my community through organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the Center for Education Policy and Advocacy (CEPA). Community outreach and grassroots organizing have always been important to me both as a student and future educator, and I'm so excited to have the opportunity to work with such an involved and dedicated group of community members.

I grew up in Mansfield, Massachusetts; I recently relocated to Cape Cod with my dog Milo, and I will be joining you remotely from Orleans.

Rabbinic Liaison

Rabbinic Liaisons: While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with **Rabbi Toba**, 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**.

Justice Ginsburg's passing highlights the importance of constantly having great leaders ready to carry our core values forward.

The writer Molly Conway, wrote that "when we say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a *tzaddeket*, we don't just mean that she was a nice person. What we're saying is that she was a thoughtful person who worked tirelessly to create a more just world. One that perpetuates equality and access, one that wasn't reliant on charity, one that was better for people she did not know, without the expectation of praise or fame. THAT is what it means to be a *tzaddeket*, and I can't think of anyone who better embodies the pursuit of justice."

And that is who Congregation Dorshei Tzedek aspires to be - "Seekers of Justice."

Shana Tova.

The unanticipated shift to remote technology was a long and difficult process for many of us, which makes the issue of access even more essential. I will be working with Earnest, Melissa, and the rest of the staff at CDT to ensure that parents and students feel supported as we all begin a new school year together. I'll mainly be assisting during school hours on Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons, but I will also be around to assist during some of the Shabbat programming.

Before I go, here are three other quick facts: my favorite band is They Might Be Giants, I recently started learning Latin, and I love to rollerblade. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, or even if you'd just like to chat! I'm looking forward to working with you.

Email: **zoom@dorsheitzedek.org**

Phone: (774) 284 3303

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.

Staff & Board

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org

Melissa Colten, Executive Director

m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org

Earnest Vener, Director of Congregational Learning

e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org

Amira Shulman-Kumin, Inclusion Coordinator

inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org

Liz Krushnic, Interim Administrative Assistant

officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org

Jordan Leonard, Interim Zoom Coordinator

zoom@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee

President: Bob Warren

Past President: Lissy Medvedow

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

Secretary: Ro Weichman

Vice Presidents

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

VP Education: Diana Fisher Gomberg

VP Leadership: Sheree Galpert

VP Tikun Olam: Stacey Chacker

Board Members-at-Large:

Ellie Axe, Linda Kramer, Carla Naumburg, Dan Rome,

Jonathan Rosenthal & Lisa Samelson

Off-Board Chairs

Children's Education: Sarah Birkeland

Chesed: Elaine Landes

Nediv Lev: Debbie Waber

Newsletter: John Holohan

Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling

DCL Liaison: Lissy Medvedow

Space: Steve Siegel

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

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.

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

Shabbat, Holidays, & Spiritual Practice

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evenings, October 2, November 6,
December 4, from 6:00pm - 6:45pm,

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba online at 6:00pm for candle lighting, a musical service, and a Shabbat story. Have your candles ready! In October we celebrate Sukkot, see page 4 for details. The *siddur*/prayerbook for this service can be found on the CDT home page, dorsheitzedek.org, and Zoom information is there as well.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah, beginning at 10:00am. Zoom info for each service can be found that week on the CDT website; just click on the calendar link on the right side of the homepage. Services are

followed by virtual "Kiddush" chat rooms, for anyone who'd like to connect with CDT members and guests. The first two Shabbat morning services of October fall during the week of Sukkot see page 4 for more information!

Shabbat Morning, October 7

All are welcome to morning services as **Sam Lent** is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah!

Please join our family as we proudly celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Sam Lent who is an 8th grader at Day Middle school. Sam loves theater (especially 'Hamilton'), plays guitar, and has been part of the backstage crew for a year, supporting three different productions at school. She loves making videos, making art, and building things. She has taken EARwoodworking for years and has built a

popular lending library at our home. Sam loves cats and had hoped to volunteer at a shelter, but could not because of COVID. Instead she has been approved to take care of foster kittens and cats (we await our first one) and also has helped with collections of paper bags and egg cartons for the Newton Food Pantry during the pandemic. We are proud to be a gender-affirming family, and Sam plans to join her GSA at her school and advocate for herself and others. —Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent

Shabbat Morning, October 24

All are welcome to join CDT members for a morning of song, prayer, and Torah study.

Shabbat Morning, October 31

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for a morning of song, prayer, and Torah study. On this Shabbat, we will be remembering CDT member **Eugene Black**, husband of **Fran Malino**, on the occasion of his 7th *yahrzeit*.

Guidelines that the Second Church Has Put in Place

While CDT is not holding any events at the church right now, here is some guidance from the church about their current protocols.

1) The back (Chestnut Street) door is now for the Second Church Nursery School exclusively. Everyone else may enter through the main Highland Street door (including Clearway students and staff).

2) The upstairs library is now for the exclusive use of Clearway School during this time of Covid restrictions. Any small group meetings you used to have in the library may now be held in the Living Room or Fellowship Hall only. Room 111 is also available for small groups to meet. Please send all requests to Melissa.

3) You may use any of the restrooms in what we call the parish hall—the same section of the building where the CDT offices are located—upstairs and downstairs. They are being thoroughly cleaned nightly. We prefer you not use the bathrooms in the worship area of the building (in the choir rooms), as we are not having them cleaned daily.

4) Second Church is host to a number of twelve-step recovery groups. They are gradually returning to the building. They will meet only in the Fellowship Hall and may not use the kitchen. They are allowed to use the bathrooms in our section of the building.

5) Only staff members—CDT, Second Church, the Nursery School or Clearway—may use the kitchen. Otherwise, it is restricted. There won't be Clearway classes there and the Nursery School won't be using it.

These restrictions are in place while both our congregations are not meeting in groups larger than 3 persons:

- All visitors must wear masks;
- Staff members must wear masks when they are in the presence of other people;

Signs with some of these restrictions outlined are up around the building. All common areas used this fall are cleaned nightly Monday-Friday. This includes the schools, bathrooms, the Fellowship Hall when there have been twelve-step meetings there, and so on.

TOT SHABBAT!

Friday evenings October 9, November 13, December 11, from 5:00-5:30pm

Families with children aged 2-5 are invited to this special musical Shabbat service with songleader Adam Blotner and DCL Earnest Vener. We will bring in Shabbat with song, dance, and stories!

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Monday and Thursday mornings, 8:30am-9:15am

This twice-weekly session of guided and silent meditation is open to all, regardless of level of meditation experience. Led by experienced CDT members and Rabbi Toba, Mindful Mornings is an opportunity to cultivate qualities of patience, equanimity, compassion, and resilience. Drop-ins are welcome! Beginning in October, those in mourning or observing a *yahrzeit* are invited to recite Kaddish at the end of each meditation session, at approximately 9am. Zoom info is available on the CDT website. For non-members, please email office@dorsheitzedek.org for Zoom info.

continued on page 4

Shabbat, Holidays, & Spiritual Practice (cont'd)

SHABBAT AFTERNOON FAMILY PROGRAMS

Saturdays from 4:30-5:30pm, Oct 3, Nov 14

October 3: Sukkot in the park!, November 14: Havdalah outside!

We are so excited to invite our CDT families with kids in preschool-7th grade to join us for three outdoor gatherings this fall at Auburndale Cove. Masks and social distancing required.

4:30-5:15pm: Kids will split into three age-based cohorts with a teacher and madrichim for outdoor games. Parents are invited to shmooze with friends or take a moment alone in the park.

5:15-5:30pm: Everyone comes back together for a closing circle for havdalah, the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the new week.

SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

Sukkot is the "Festival of the Ingathering," the Biblical harvest holiday where we celebrate the abundance in our lives, while remembering the precariousness of our ancestors' journey through the wilderness. On Sukkot, we "live" in the *sukkah* (or at least try to have some meals there), wave the lulav and etrog at services, and are commanded to be joyous! Here are some opportunities to do all three:

HAVE A MEAL (AND MORE!) IN THE CDT SUKKAH

Friday, October 2 through Saturday October 11

With gratitude to Linda Kramer and Steve Zisk, the CDT sukkah is available in their backyard (on the Newton/Waltham line, not far from West Newton Square) for anyone who'd like to have a meal, do yoga, meditate, play cards, or whatever you'd like! The sukkah is big enough for a few households to have a socially distanced meal together. Sign-up information is available on the CDT website in the Members section and in the individual CDT calendar event listings (see the home page for the link).

EREV SUKKOT ALL-AGES SERVICE

Friday, October 2, 6:00-6:45pm

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this Zoom service (hopefully broadcasting from her sukkah!) as we welcome the Sukkot holiday with Shabbat blessings, songs, and a Sukkot story.

SUKKOT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, October 3, 10:00-11:45am

For this special Sukkot & Shabbat morning service, we'll be singing Hallel and shaking the lulav. If you've got a sukkah set up and can participate from there, please do!

SUKKOT IN THE PARK

Saturday, October 3, 4:30-5:30pm

We are excited to invite our CDT families with kids in preschool through 7th grade to this outdoor gathering at Auburndale Cove (masks and social distancing required). From 4:30-5:15pm, kids will split into age-based cohorts with a teacher and madrichim for outdoor games. Parents are invited to shmooze with friends or take a moment alone in the park. We'll gather back together at 5:15-5:30pm for a closing circle and havdalah. Register on the CDT website!



Remembering celebrations from years past. Photos by Viv Shein.



SHEMINI ATZERET/END OF SUKKOT GOT SHABBAT!

Saturday, October 10, 10:00-11:30am

For this closing day of the week of Sukkot, we'll gather as a community for a Got Shabbat program, featuring Morning Blessings and Songs with Rabbi Toba from 10am-10:30am, and an array of workshops for all ages from 10:30-11:15am, including movement, art, music, text, and more! Services will continue in the main Zoom "sanctuary" with Rabbi Toba, including Hallel and Yizkor, until 11:45am. Check out the CDT website for details and Zoom info. All are welcome!

SIMCHAT TORAH

Saturday evening, October 10, 7:30-8:30pm

We bring the week of Sukkot to a close with a special Simchat Torah program. Sadly, we can't dance together with the physical sifrei Torah, Torah scrolls, this year. But we will celebrate the rolling of the Torah from the end of Devarim/Deuteronomy back to the beginning of Bereshit/Genesis with a program incorporating a bit of study, creative midrash, and more, with Rabbi Toba and Earnest Vener. Come find out what happens at the very end and the very beginning, and how they are connected! This program is geared toward older kids and adults.

As Dorshei Tzedek takes precautions during the Covid-19 pandemic, all of our programs have been moved to a "virtual" format for the time being. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, challenged by the Power that liberated them from slavery to create a new kind of society, we too are on a journey to foster our community connections, spiritual practice, Jewish learning, and social justice work in new ways. Please read on for descriptions of our on-line programs; information for logging onto any specific program can be found on the CDT website, dorsheitzedek.org.

Community



Socially-distanced tashlich with CDT! Pictured above: Sheree Galpert, Adlai Hess, Sharon Gorberg, Josh Lieberman, Marcia Okun, Allison Peiser, Beverly Peiser. Photo by John Holohan

MAZEL TOV

To **Bonnie Tenneriello** for being honored with the "Lawyer Award" from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, for her long-term commitment and accomplishments, in special recognition of work on behalf of the civil rights of incarcerated people. Go Bonnie!

To **Jen Kaplan** for having her new film "A Father's Kaddish" accepted into the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (October 2020) for its World Premiere and the Boston Jewish Film Festival (November 2020) for its USA Premiere! The film tells the story of how Needham resident Steven Branfman used the art of pottery to help him work through his grief after the death of his 23-year-old son. The film is a potent and moving journey through the universal experience of loss, mourning and rebuilding a life. Watch the trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/196327333>.

Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT members **Efrem Goldberg**, **Shari Zimble**, and **Eugene Black**. Efrem's 18th yahrzeit falls on October 2; we will remember him at Sukkot morning services, October 3. May his memory be for a blessing. Shari's 12th yahrzeit falls on October 12; we will remember her at Shabbat morning services on October 10. May her memory be for a blessing. Eugene's 7th yahrzeit falls on November 1; we will remember him at Shabbat morning services on October 31. May his memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Nancy Gertz** on the death of her sister, Betsy Gertz, aunt of Stefan and Julian Cohen. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Ellie Baron** on the death of her father, Joseph Baron, father-in-law of Kate deBethune, grandfather of Jonah. 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:

<https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/mourning>.

Avelut: Support for those in mourning

Tuesday, October 13, 7:30pm

A group of CDT members in various stages of the journey of mourning meets via Zoom each month to support one another, to reflect on loss on the occasion of a yahrzeit, and to remember the legacies of the loved ones we carry with us. Any CDT member is welcome. For more information, please contact **Stacey Chacker**, chacsjc@gmail.com.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to **Dan Halbert**.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member **Matthew Valleau**!

CDT ARTIST HIGHLIGHT

This month we highlight CDT musical artist **Nathan Aronow**. Nate received a Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College in Boston, and later studied piano with Boston's own "jazz guru", Charlie Banacos. He has played with, composed for, and led a number of bands in the Boston area over the last couple of decades ranging from the "Jazz Avengers" to the horn/funk band "Landlords of Soul". Until recently, the "Nate Aronow Nextet" was performing original jazz, fusion and R&B at venues throughout the Boston area. Nate also has a second project called the "Eclectics" that plays original vocal Pop, Rock and R&B. Nate has released four CDs of original music, and has had three tracks included on two Sony/BMG releases in Europe. Nate's website is located at www.AronowMusic.com.



CDT Artist of the Month Nathan Aronow and the Antibody Driveway band!

Chesed

OUR CARING COMMUNITY

October 2020

Ellie Goldberg

Our congregation values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness, especially when members have a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness.

Under "Chesed Inspiration" on our webpage (<https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>), you'll find several articles that describe common feelings that sometimes get in the way of participating in Chesed, as a giver and as a receiver. These resources are part of our ongoing effort to build connections for a caring community.

- A Small Pot of Violets
- How Not to Say the Wrong Thing
- Accepting Meals from Strangers as Caregivers
- When The Time Comes: Tips For How To Visit The Dying
- How to Help a Friend Who's Going Through Something Horrible

For the time being, the Chesed Committee has changed the way we manage meals to avoid concerns about safety. When a Chesed need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about allergies and food preferences. She then orders a meal from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, and sends out a request for a volunteer to pick up and deliver the meal. Rabbi Toba uses the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to buy the meals.

The Chesed Coordinators for October are **Meryl Epstein, Melanie Ader, and Gail Pressberg**. If you have questions about Chesed, please contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

To join CDT's Chesed Caring Community (Updated) please go to: <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated>.

For more information about Chesed see the articles and resources on the CDT web page: Chesed (Caring Community) <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>.

Chesed Q&A: What Do the Shiva and Chesed Committees Do?
<https://tinyurl.com/Shiva-Chesed>

*The Chesed Committee
would like to thank everyone
whose acts of kindness
manifest the spirit of Chesed
in our community.*



Sasha Goldberg

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 t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org. Rabbi Toba does not check email 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

In what way did you miss the mark this year

spending slacking technology stubborn rushing
didn't honestly much not taking risks i'd fought
time that's things ok new getting always
friends inside procrastinating staying keep
help rather use angry being mean myself
enough for not forgiving gossiping work
impatient going too fast school selfish distracted



A word cloud representing the collective *al hayt*/transgressions list from the 4th-7th grade service

Tikkun Olam

PRISON BOOK PROJECT

Anyone interested in supporting the PBP during their temporary closure due to COVID-19 can order books from the PBP's wish list on Amazon. Books ordered from this list are being sent to a PBP volunteer staffer, who is sending out individual, specially requested books to prisoners from her home. Other books that come off the wish list will be set aside until the PBP is reopened. The link for the PBP wishlist is: <http://a.co/1Yr7Tkv>.

JERICHO WALKS IN BURLINGTON, MA --CANCELLED FOR NOW

CDT is committed to a more humane immigration system and has been a solid participant in the monthly interfaith Jericho Walks at the ICE offices in Burlington MA. Unfortunately, given the current restrictions, this activity has been cancelled until we can once again march safely. Thanks to **Amy Mazur** (acmazur@comcast.net) for her leadership in this important effort.

VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT

The Voter Mobilization Project is launching the next phase of our actions as we approach the November election.

Environmental Voter Project

Join the EVP team to do texting every Thursday at 5pm. Join us for a full hour or just for 15-20 minutes. You can send over 100 texts in just a few minutes. Join in with a community of members to learn this simple platform and reach out to voters. You will receive training if you are new to the texting program. Teens (8th grade and up) welcome to participate in this effort. Questions? Contact Alan Epstein (ade26g@gmail.com)

College-aged CDT Members

Join fellow college student, **Leah Coen-Tarbox**, and connect with other young adults in the CDT community to brainstorm ways to get involved in the upcoming presidential election. Please RSVP to Leah at leahjoyct@gmail.com.

SUKKAT SHALOM: POETRY OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Monday, October 5, 7:30pm

Join the IPPeace group for a special hour long program of poetry in honor of Israel and peace. In observance of Sukkot, we thought that hearing the words and poetry of those who have longed for Israel, expressed love for Israel, as well as those who have called for peace in the land of Israel and Palestine would fill our souls and spirits in a unique way for the holiday and the start of a New Year.

If you have written any Israel-related poetry or have a special poem about Israel that you have recently discovered or have returned to over the years, please let

Jonathan Rosenthal

(jonathan@just-works.com) know that you would like to be a reader in our program. For those who are interested in listening and taking it in, stay tuned for a link to join the event.

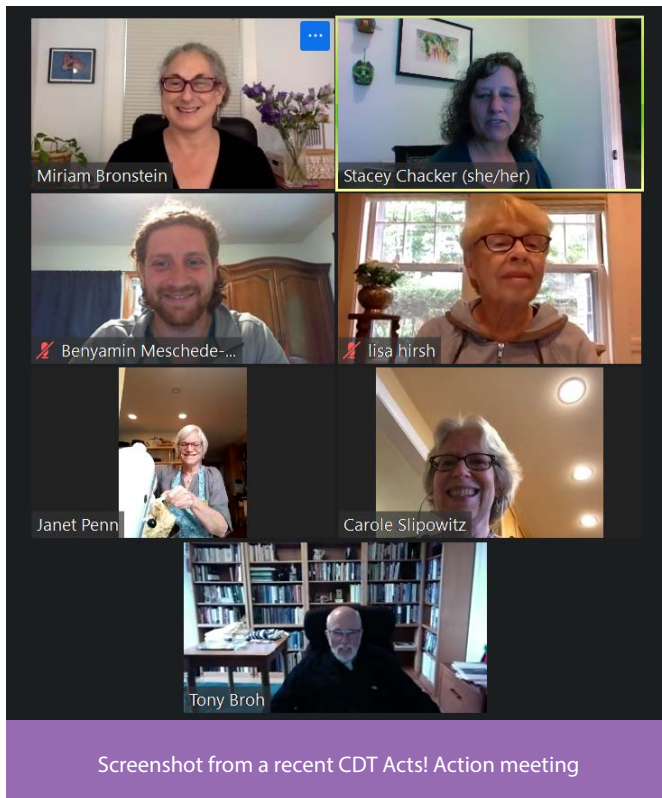
CDT ACTS! ACTION

Stacey Chacker

On Erev Rosh Hashanah, 8 CDT members (not pictured, Danielle Klainberg) jumped in for our first CDT Acts! action. We started with a Shehecheyanu prayer, and then went on to make calls and send emails to stand up for immigrants for two issues: a) public health conditions for immigrants in detention in MA ; and 2) in support to No Cost Calls legislation S2846 for all in detention, including detained immigrants. Black and Brown families are disproportionately harmed by prison profiteering.

We learned some quick lessons on how to improve CDT Acts! and look forward to continuing to join in action! Those on the Tikkun Olam listserv, keep your eyes peeled for CDT Acts! emails from time to time. These are sent in support of issues stemming directly from CDT initiatives.

For more information, contact **Stacey Chacker** at chacsjc@gmail.com, or, for immigrant justice issues, **Janet Penn** at janetpenn559@gmail.com.



Screenshot from a recent CDT Acts! Action meeting

Learning

NEW CLASS!

Jewishness, Whiteness, and Race in America

Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm-9pm, October 28, November 4, 11 & 18

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Dr. Jenny Sartori

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the uprising against police brutality, many American Jewish communities are grappling with what it means to become actively anti-racist. As Dorshei Tzedek takes on this challenge, this class offers an introductory exploration of the intersections of Jewish identity, antisemitism and anti-Black racism, and the American construct of "whiteness." What does it mean to say that European Jews "became white" in the 20th century? How do we understand the intersections of the different traumas held in white, Black, and Jewish bodies? How do systemic racism and antisemitism operate in 21st American society? What does an embrace of a multi-racial Jewish reality look like? Join us for study, discussion, and personal reflection and exploration (we hope that those who participate in the class will attend all of the sessions if at all possible). To register for the class, please go to the Adult Education page of the CDT website.

Joining Rabbi Toba in teaching this class is CDT member Jenny Sartori. Jenny has a PhD in history and taught in the Jewish Studies program at Northeastern University; she is currently Editor of the Encyclopedia of Jewish Women at the Jewish Women's Archive and Co-Director of the Adoption & Jewish Identity Project.

LEARN TO BE A CDT ZOOM HOST IN 90 MINUTES!

Zoom 101: Everything you need to know to be a Shabbat and meeting Zoom-host

Thursday, October 15, 5:30-7:00pm

Learn how to schedule, create, and run Zoom meetings. No experience necessary. Maximum 15 per session. Register via the link on the calendar listing of the CDT calendar. Two 90-minute sessions offered:

Zoom 201: Practice sessions.

Wednesday, October 7, 5-6:30pm

Thursday, October 22, noon-1pm

Take some time to practice with other Zoom hosts until you feel absolutely comfortable and can effortlessly share documents and videos, run breakout sessions, message meeting registrants, and download Zoom recordings.



Seventeen families joined us at Auburndale Cove on September 26th for an outdoor Shabbat afternoon program. The kids were divided into three groups for Tevah (nature) time. At the end of the day grown-ups reunited with their kids for quiet reflection time. Family groups sat quietly in the woods for five minutes and then discussed reflection questions about the new year: What am I proud of about the past year? How can I be my best self in the new year? We can't wait for more Tevah Time with CDT kids! Pictured: Emily Mathis and Ruby Diecidue

CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Earnest Vener

We had a great beginning to our 5781 Religious School year! We kicked off the year in September with our opening day. It was so joyous seeing all of our CDT families pop into the Zoom screen for our day one, Z'man Rishon, our whole school gathering at the beginning of each day. We danced, sang, and heard three CDT students sound the shofar! After Z'man Rishon students made their way

to their Zoom Kitah (class) and parents of older children stayed for an orientation.

In our orientation, adults created a word cloud of how they want their child to feel at Dorshei Tzedek. This exercise reflected back the importance of what our CDT Religious School offers children, a place where they can be known, accepted, and inspired. These human needs are essential, and it is an honor to work with our amazing teachers and families to co-create a learning community with belonging at its center. My hope for this new year is that our great Jewish resources of storytelling, cultural arts, song, and learning, which have provided the Jewish people with resilience throughout history, can be a source of strength and blessing for our children.

We are excited to welcome back so many returning teachers: **Ali Moss** (Kitah Aleph), **Shira Moss** (Kitah Bet), **Lia Almekies** (Kitah Gimel), **LilyFish Gomberg** and **Gavi Troper-Hochstein** (Kitah Dalet), **Micah Friedman** and **Liz Krushnic** (Kitah Hey), **Andrea Kamens** and **Adah Hetko** (Kitah Vav), **Rachel Oshinsky** and **Joanna Marcus** (Kitah Zayin), **Adina Mailick** (Hebrew Supervisor and teacher), and **Bayla Kamens** (Tefillah tutor).

We are thrilled to welcome **Talya Guenzburger** (Kitah Gimel), **Kendra Watkins** (Tefillah as Experience), **Liat Melnick** (tutor), and **Adam Blotner** (Nitzanim/Gan Songleader) to our teaching faculty. You can find more information about our teachers on our CDT Religious School webpage.

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Nitzanim/Gan: October 18th, November 1st and 22nd, December 20th

Tuesday Rosh Hodesh: October 20, November 17, December 15

On these dates there is no one-to-one tutoring.

We will celebrate the new moon with a whole Tuesday school program (Kitah Gimel, Dalet, Hey, and Vav), electives, and Ma'ariv from 4:00-5:15pm.

Jewish Community News

T'ruah Webinar Series: Jewish Law and Ethics

CDT is officially sponsoring T'ruah's webinar series: Jewish Law and Ethics: A Hackathon for the Age of COVID-19 featuring CDT's very own **Rabbi Shahr Colt!** Participate in all four classes this October, or drop in for a single class in the series! **NOTE** that while all webinars are on Tuesdays, they do not all take place at the same time of day.

ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER? RENT CANCELLATION AND COVID-19

Dr. Raphael Magarik and Tamar Zaken

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 1:00-2:00pm ET

As we move into temporary dwellings this sukkot, we are reminded how many Americans today are in danger of losing stable housing. What should we do about people who can't pay rent, particularly during this pandemic? Who is responsible for rent shortfalls: landlords? tenants? the state? Can Jewish law and lore reframe the way we think about rental agreements and tenants' rights?

"LOCK DOWN" VS "OPEN UP": HOW MUCH ARE WE REQUIRED TO GIVE UP TO SAVE LIVES?

Rabbi Aryeh Bernstein and Rabbi Dr. Meesh Hammer-Kossov

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 1:00-2:00pm ET

Since the advent of the pandemic, governments, communities and individuals have been faced with the question: do we lock down, or open up? Beyond this binary lies a series of questions: What health risks are worth taking in order to prevent individual or communal economic loss? How should individuals and governments balance risks of virus spread with risks of impoverishment, especially when economic burden and health risk are not evenly distributed?

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS DURING A PANDEMIC

Ranana Dine and Rabbi Alana Suskin

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 12:00-1:00pm ET

As the pandemic persists, some workplaces have shifted seamlessly online; others have continued, or have slowly resumed, requiring workers' in-person presence. How much, and for how long must someone continue to pay an employee who cannot work due to a pandemic? Can my boss insist I come back to work, even if I don't feel safe? How does our tradition speak to vulnerability, risk and responsibility when it comes to labor?

CONTACT TRACING, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Rabbi Shahr Colt and Rabbi Ben Gurin

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 12:00-1:00pm ET

Contact tracing is an essential tool for fighting the spread of COVID-19, but many recent tech-based suggestions about how to implement this public-health strategy broadly and quickly raise serious privacy concerns. How should Jews approach these concerns about contact tracing? How do we maintain values of liberty, privacy and public safety in extraordinary circumstances?

Reconstructionist News

Save the Date! Reconstructing Judaism Convention, 2022

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us on **March 23-27, 2022** for the next Reconstructing Judaism Convention, outside of Washington, D.C., which will be held in partnership with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Havaya Summer Programs.

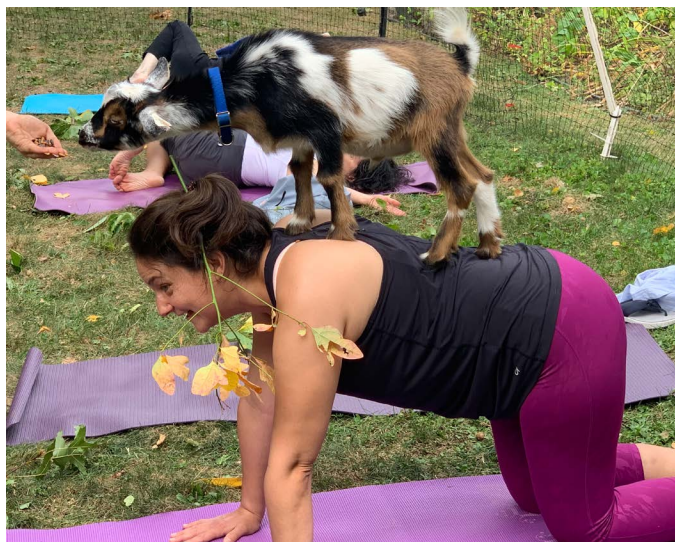
Location & Accommodations:

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102



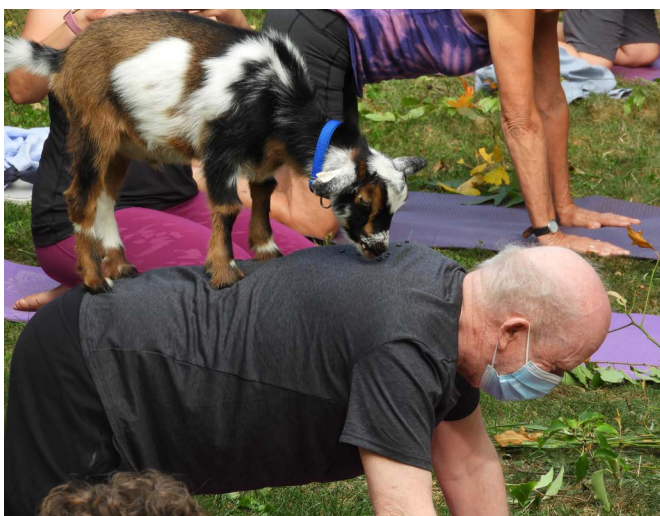
Bookmark the Convention website, **Reconvention2022.org**, which will be updated regularly. Schedule and program details coming soon!

Some Much Needed Levity



CDT Members enjoy a Goat Yoga session after Yom Kippur Services, including, in clockwise order, Steven Zisk (our gracious host!), Elana Cutler, Susan Dargon-Hart, and John Holohan

Photos by Sharon Gorberg.
Pictured left: the beautiful stars of the class



Nediv Lev

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Harriet Budd and Joyce Traister—*in honor of the kindness of Zev Hattis*
Lisa Goodwin-Robbins

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Karen and Reinhard Engels
Jen Kaplan and Susie Tanchel—*in memory of Susan Moser*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous—*in memory of Susan Moser*

VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT

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Matilda and Ed Bruckner
John and Helaine Carroll
Liz Carver and Bryn Austin
Stacey Chacker

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Phyllis and Bill Kantor

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Amy Mazur

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Marjorie Salvodon and Mark Schafer

Emily and David Shumsky

Annie Spanel

Lauren and Andrew Stefano

Scott Tepper

YAHREZEIT DONATIONS

Phyllis and Bill Kantor—*in memory of Murry Waltzer*

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Buy your books, electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time! As an Amazon Associate Congregation Dorshei Tzedek will earn money from qualifying purchases! Go to the CDT website:

<https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/amazon>
to find the link. It's an easy way to support the congregation while doing the online shopping you were planning to do anyway.



Congregation **Dorshei Tzedek**

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West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Celebrate Sukkot 5781

