



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Cheshvan/Kislev 5781

November 2020



## PERIL & POSSIBILITY

By Rabbi Toba Spitzer



I am writing this column on Rosh Chodesh Heshvan, the first day of many rabbis' favorite Jewish month — the one with no holidays! But truthfully, while I am appreciating a pause in holiday-related programming, I am still basking in the glow of the High Holydays season that we were able to create together at Dorshei Tzedek this year. From my biweekly meetings with the Ritual Committee in the months preceding, as we brainstormed together different ways to approach these oddest of Yamim Noraim/Days of Awe, to the wonderful shofar-making workshops that our then brand-new DCL Earnest Vener put together, to having so many congregants step up to lead our 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah gatherings, to the amazing Wendy Buglio fulfill-

ing my fantasy of Yom Kippur goat yoga, to watching Melissa figure out how to make the sea of logistics flow properly, to the gorgeous video offerings put together by CDT Sings and the TAM Quartet, and more — it truly took a village. And while I have appreciated the heartfelt feedback I have received about my offerings, I really feel that without everyone's willingness to be open to such a radically different High Holydays experience, nothing I did would have amounted to much. So thank you not only to everyone who put time and effort into our holiday programming this year (you can see a complete list of thank yous on page 5), but to everyone who was willing to Zoom in and add your energy to our collective experience.

If the glow of the High Holydays is in the rearview mirror as I write, the anticipation and dread associated with the election looms ahead.

It already seems apparent that we are facing not an election day or night, but a weeks-long election process. It is also clear that in any scenario, a significant portion of Americans will feel enraged and disenfranchised. Like many others, I fear violence and overt attempts to subvert the will of the American people. Yet I am heartened as I learn about the massive amount of organizing happening to protect the electoral process and to make sure that every vote is counted. From leftwing, grassroots efforts to national bipartisan organizations like Protect Democracy, there are a breathtaking number of people mobilizing to prevent a direct assault on the integrity of the election. As I write this, I am waiting to hear if I might be on the road on election day, joining with other Election Defenders to help protect voters at the polls.

This past January, during my sabbatical, I went on a trip organized by T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, to the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, a project of the Equal Justice Initiative. The Museum focuses on the history of racial injustice in America, from slavery to mass incarceration, and the Memorial is dedicated to the 4,400 African-Americans lynched between 1877 and 1950. The museum and the memorial are both deeply moving and disturbing, laying bare painful truths at the heart of American history and contemporary society.

I was in Montgomery with Janice Fine, an old friend and former CDT member, and we ended our visit with a day trip from Montgomery to Selma. We visited a local museum dedicated to the Freedom Riders, spent time at a National Park Service interpretive center about the Selma to Montgomery march for

voting rights, and walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Visiting these historic sites associated with the struggle waged by African Americans for the most basic of civil rights, I gained a new appreciation of the level of violence faced by those in the movement. Here were people literally putting their lives on the line simply to be able to register to vote. Their commitment and sacrifice was profound.

Two years ago on Yom Kippur, I spoke about the failure of America as a society to atone for the sin of slavery, and how that failure has led us to this political moment. Today, the sins of Jim Crow have re-emerged to threaten all of us. The overt attempts to subvert the ability of people to vote through legal mechanisms, intimidation, and purging of voter rolls is a heinous affront to all those who sacrificed to expand the vote throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

We live in a perilous moment, but also a moment of possibility. The mobilization we are witnessing to ensure a fair election and peaceful transfer of power could be the foundation of a powerful coalition moving forward, a movement to ensure other fundamental rights—to health care, to housing, to education, to a basic income. I hope that it has become obvious that what threatens the rights of Black people and indigenous people, of immigrants, of poor people, is in fact a threat to our entire society. May we move into this election season as if it is its own season of turning, days of judgment and of awe: awe for the power of people when we are organized for the greater good; recommitment to the sacred power of true democracy; a turning onto a collective path of justice and equality for all.

## 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

### Staff:

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, [t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org)  
Executive Director: Melissa Colten,  
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### 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 Tikkun 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: Gail Pressberg  
Nediv Lev: Debbie Waber  
Newsletter: John Holohan  
Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz  
Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome  
Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling  
Space: Steve Siegel  
Website: Dan Halbert  
Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

## 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 [csrome@comcast.net](mailto:csrome@comcast.net).

## Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto: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.

## From the Board

### CDT MEMBERS MEETING

*Sunday, November 15, 2020, 4-5:30pm*

All CDT households are invited to our first Members Meeting of 5781. We'll be taking stock of our communal response to the pandemic and thinking together about the months ahead. Your questions, ideas, insights and creativity desired! Please register at the event listing on the CDT calendar page (and watch for registration info in the weekly announcements).

### 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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

## 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

Esther Kohn—*In memory of Katherine Greenberg*

Matilda and Ed Bruckner—*In memory of our parents, Mary and Michael Tomaryn, Ruth and Sam Bruckner*

Rabbi Everett Gendler—*In appreciation and support of your admirable quest for justice*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In memory of Betsy Gertz and Efrem Goldberg*

### VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT

Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen

JoAnn and Michael Feldstein

Zee Gamson—*In memory of her father, Samuel Finkelstein*

Annette Jacobs

Esther Kohn—*In memory of Barbara Tabachnick*

Janet Penn

Diana Perretta

Barbara and Elliot Pittel

Carol Sklar

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*Sukkah building crew. Photo by Melissa Colten*



# Shabbat, Holidays, & Spiritual Practice

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](http://dorsheitzedek.org).

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

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

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, friendly to kids but meaningful for all! Have your candles ready to light and a kiddush cup ready to bless. Zoom info is available on the CDT website.

## TOT SHABBAT!

Friday evenings from 5:30-6:00pm, November 13,  
December 11

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!

## 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.

## SHABBAT MORNING, NOVEMBER 7— BAT MITZVAH OF TALİ EDELSTEIN

We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our daughter, **Tali Rachel Birkeland Edelstein**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Tali is an 8th grader at Brown Middle School in Newton. She spends much of her free time flipping and spinning with her gymnastics teammates at Energy Fitness in Newton. Pre-COVID, Tali spent Saturday afternoons helping special needs gymnasts train for the Special Olympics. More recently she

has begun designing and screen printing tee shirts to raise both awareness about climate change and funds to support organizations addressing it. Tali loves to craft, read, bake, and hang out with her friends. We look forward to seeing you all in the Zoomiverse on this wonderful occasion.

—**Roy Edelstein and Sarah Birkeland**

## SHABBAT MORNING, NOVEMBER 14 – BAR MITZVAH OF ZIV DUDNIK

We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our son, **Ziv Meir Dudnik**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Ziv is an 8th grader at Day Middle School in Newton. He spends his free time playing on the computer, hanging out with his family, listening to jazz, and playing piano. He has grown up in the CDT community; his heart is in it. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

—**Amy Dain and Misha Dudnik**

## SHABBAT MORNING, NOVEMBER 21 – BAT MITZVAH OF ADELE KAUFMAN-SCHULZ

Please join our family as we joyfully celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of **Adele Kaufman-Schulz**. Adele is a 7th grader at Florida Ruffin Ridley School in Brookline. Adele loves working with children and had begun volunteering with the Early Childhood Education Program in Brookline when schools closed for COVID. Instead, she has read and recorded stories that are shared online with young children through For Love of Children (a Washington DC-based non-profit that her mom worked at twenty years ago!). Adele also organized support for the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which has been raising money to pay off court debts and support the enfranchisement of citizens returning from incarceration in Florida. Adele was delighted that her emails resulted in so many friends and family members — and friends of friends and family members — contributing to this voter rights effort. Adding to

our joy, Adele’s older sibling, MJ Kaufman, has been able to be her Hebrew teacher via zoom from Brooklyn, NY. We are thrilled to see Adele called to the “virtual” bimah at Dorshei Tzedek and look forward to celebrating with you all.

—**Laura Schulz and Susan Kaufman**

## THANKSGIVING SHABBAT MORNING

November 28

All are welcome to celebrate the Shabbat of Thanksgiving weekend with members of CDT leading song, prayer, and Torah study, from 10:00am-11:30am.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Mondays 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! For those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit, Kaddish is recited 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](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org) for the Zoom info).

**Possible changes in Monday Mindful Mornings:** The future format and frequency of the Mindful Mornings Monday sessions are being considered. Please contact **Karen Arnold** if you have opinions or ideas ([arnoldkc@bc.edu](mailto:arnoldkc@bc.edu)) and stay tuned to the CDT website for any Monday changes. Thursday Mindful Mornings will continue as usual!

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Samantha Lent and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Michael Fein** on the death of his mother, Sunny Fein, mother-in-law of Marjorie Feld and grandmother of Izzy and Nathan. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Jenny Siegel** on the death of her father, Mark Siegel, father-in-law of Elizabeth Ferrenz and grandfather of Batya. May his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Cindy Shulak-Rome** on the death of her father, Ken Shulak, father-in-law of **Dan Rome** and grandfather of **Elana** and **Ben**. 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 at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/mourning>.

## AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, November 10, 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](mailto:chacsjc@gmail.com).

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Dan Halbert.

## TODAH RABAH

A huge thank you to **Elaine Landes**, for her leadership of the Chesed Committee!

*Hamon Todot* (many, many thanks!) to everyone who helped create our beautiful, unprecedented High Holydays services — it truly took a village:

To the CDT Ritual Committee, for planning and consultation with Rabbi Toba: co-chairs **Marion Ross & Peter Katz**, and **Matilda Bruckner, Michael Feldstein, Dianne Lior, Fran Malino, Elaine Pollack, Cindy Shulak-Rome**, and **Debbie Waber**.

To the entire tech team: **Mark Bronstein** for making High Holydays services accessible to those who were Zoomed out and wanted audio-only; **Melissa Colten & Wendy Buglio** for navigating a vast sea of logistics, both virtual and actual; **Liz Krushnic**, for administrative support and creating the beautiful Yizkor video; **Jordan Leonard** for providing Zoom back-up to Family and Teen programs, and to **Matt Cohen** of Ecast for the audio-visual support.

To our chazzanim (cantors): **Karen Arnold, Elana Cutler, Doug Hersh, Elaine Pollack, Dan Rome**, and **Bill Shorr**.

To our Torah readers: **Miriam Bronstein, Clara Engels, Izzy Feinfeld, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Audra Karp, Reva Kasman, Steffi Karp, Sue Lanser, Scott Tepper**, and **Debbie Waber**.

To **Karen Arnold** and **Sue Lanser** and all of the members of CDT Sings, for the amazing videos: **Michele Arons, David Felson, Doug Hersh, Judy Hersh, Marcia Okun, Ruth Paris, Rebecca Pomerantz, Jo Radner, Cindy Rivka Marshall, Carole Slipowitz, Andrew Sofer, Bob Warren**, and **Steve Zisk**, and special guest **Hayim Kobi** on drums! And for their video-making prowess, Karen's students, **Frank Marrone** and **Madeleine McCullough**.

For the fabulous "Im Atah Maamin" video — to **Tal Shalom-Kobi** for organizing and playing, to musicians **Ayla Kobi, Terry Traub & Malka Pomerantz**, to **Scott Tepper** for lending his beautiful voice, and to **Rebecca Pomerantz**, videographer!

To **Kate DeBethune**, for the beautiful cello rendition of Kol Nidre.

To **Fran Malino, Debbie Waber, and Bill Shorr**, for their help in creating the Second Day Rosh Hashanah Shofar/Tashlikh ritual, and to all those who led one of the gatherings (we had 13 locations for over 260 in-person attendees, plus Zoom!): **Bill Shorr, Miriam Bronstein, Marjorie Salvodon, Jo Radner, Sue Lanser, Laurie Goldman, Fran Malino,**

**Debbie Waber, Elaine Pollack, Michael Feldstein, Ayelet Lipton, Debby Saltzman, Sue Weil, Sandy Goodman, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Dan Rome, Sheree Galpert, Emily Mathis, Ilana Streit**, and **Roy Edelstein**, and to all of our *baalei tekiah*, shofar blowers: **Liz Carver, Marla Cummins, Mark Schafer, Marie-Carmel Schafer, Earnest Vener, Matthew Valleau, Nina Dudnik, Stacey Chacker, Diana Perretta, Karen Wasserman, Jacqui Bloomberg, Evan Gan, Ezra Hausman, Josh Lieberman, Michele Arons, Alex Stanton, Abby Edelstein, Sharon Gorberg**, and **Jacob Morrow-Spitzer** on Zoom. With a special thank-you to **Karen Wasserman** for teaching her shofar skills and helping create a new cadre of *baalei tekiah*!

To **Deb Albenberg, Doug Hersh, Liz Krushnic** and **Jamie Tessler** for leading the Yom Kippur afternoon nature walks; to master storytellers and Shehecheyanu Stories facilitators **Jo Radner, Cindy Rivka Marshall**, and **Lisa Hirsh**; and to **Matilda Bruckner** for Yom Kippur afternoon text study. And thank you to **Lauren Gibbs**, for compiling the Yizkor list of CDT members who lost loved ones this past year.

To all those who created and helped lead wonderful programs for our children and their parents: **Earnest Vener, Ora Gladstone, Esther & Ammi Kohn, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Lilyfish Gomberg, Izzy Feinfeld, Leah Coen-Tarbox**, and **Kitah Zayin**!

To **Colleen** from **Acres to Grow Farm** and **Melissa Belliard** for goat yoga (and **Wendy Buglio** for making it happen), and to **Linda Kramer & Stephen Zisk** for making available their yard (and bushes).

And a huge Todah Rabah to all those who helped with our Sukkot programming:

To **Linda** and **Steve** for their backyard, and the entire sukkah set-up crew: **David Shumsky, crew leader, plus Emily, Elliot & Jacob Shumsky; Erica Streit-Kaplan, Doron Gan, Scott Tepper, Scott Gordan, Miranda Patton**, and **Steffi Karp**; and take-down crew: **David Shumsky, crew leader, plus Emily, Elliot & Jacob Shumsky; Steffi Karp, Doron Gan, Jake Weinberg, Scott Gordan**, and **Steve Zisk**.

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## GBIO MAKES FINAL PUSH IN ITS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

By Louise Enoch and Tony Broh

With the extension of the Legislative session beyond July 31, GBIO pushed to get the police reform bill, including a qualified immunity provision, out of Conference Committee and to the Governor's desk for signature. Over the summer volunteers made over 1000 phone calls to the House and Senate Leadership and nearly 1000 more participated in zoom meetings with representatives, including 120 people from congregations in GBIO's Refounding effort. A zoom meeting in late September, joined by 21 members of CDT, celebrated accomplishments in the 2020 Racial Justice Campaign and organized the final effort to pressure legislators. GBIO efforts were instrumental in passing several elements in health-care, reform housing relief, and police reform. The GBIO team gives a special "Thank you" to all who participated in each of these activities over the past several months.

## VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT—CDT ACTS!

By Cindy Shulak-Rome

The Voter Mobilization Project was launched at the end of June with the aim of mobilizing voters and working to counter voter suppression that is rampant in the south. The response from the Dorshei Tzedek community

calls and texting for the Environmental Voter Project (EVP).

Our community sent a total of 8500 postcards for Reclaim Our Vote to people of color in eight southern states with a long history of voter suppression. Special gratitude to **Judy Hersh** who expertly led this effort and purchased, organized and distributed multiple packets of postcards over the past three months. Our thanks also to **Melissa Colten**, who printed a massive amount of packet materials, **Phyllis Kantor**, who eagerly did much of the packet preparation and **Elana Cutler**, our webpage wizard. Yasher Koach to the many CDT volunteers who together sent all of these carefully handwritten postcards!

We have learned from ROV that they have had over 30,000 volunteers working across the country on their actions; they have sent over 6,400,000 postcards. As of last week, ROV volunteers have made over 1,000,000 phone calls. While these numbers are so impressive, the work of Reclaim Our Vote extends well beyond these actions. They have active campaigns putting up billboards, designed like the postcards, in the southern states to empower voters. They also have implemented a See Something, Say Something campaign, "See Say 2020" that tracks and logs citizen reports of voter suppression and intimidation so that groups on the ground can receive real time alerts and act to protect the vote. Another project is providing free rides to the

their twelve target states. As of mid-October, they have data that approximately 100,000 first time environmental voters they have been targeting have already voted. They have over 5,600 volunteers contacting voters daily and as our members have experienced, their texting platform is easy to use and allows EVP volunteers to contact hundreds of voters in a short time.

In addition to our actions to mobilize the vote on so many fronts, we have had a vibrant youth community who have engaged in learning about elections and voter suppression and helping with actions. Spearheaded by **Corinne Lofchie**, **Marjorie Feld**, and **Valerie Graf**, we've held a number of virtual youth events that have been co-led by our teens along with adult members. Thanks to **Izzy Feinfeld**, **Nuri Gutman**, **Ila Albenberg**, and **Sara Coen-Dash**, along with **Esther Kohn** and **Earnest Vener**, our Director of Congregational Learning. It has been powerful to see the way our youth have embraced the leading and learning opportunities as part of this project, and this is portrayed beautifully in a short video with clips from two of the sessions, skillfully edited by **Ayla Kobi** with the support of **Louise Enoch** (view it on our Voter Mobilization Project web page). We are also grateful to **Tal Shalom-Kobi** who organized two outdoor postcard writing and decorating events for our youth community.

There are many people who have stepped up to make this work happen. I know I cannot adequately express gratitude and appreciation to everyone, and at the risk of unintentionally omitting someone, I want to try to acknowledge the many who have been working continuously on this effort since we started in June:

- **Laya Steinberg** for introducing us to the work of the Environmental Voter Project and **Alan Epstein** and **Marla Cummins** for partnering with Laya and leading the text and phone bank actions weekly.
- **Janet Penn**, **Ora Gladstone**, **Miranda Phillips** for facilitating our Reclaim Our Vote phone banks.
- **Louise Enoch** and **Allison Hausman** for working with me to plan our two Zoom events for this project
- **Jeni Rhodes** for initiating the video idea and creating our first video about the importance of voting.

**Our community sent a total of 8500 postcards for Reclaim Our Vote to people of color in eight southern states with a long history of voter suppression.**

has been overwhelming. We have had over 150 members, along with extended family and friends, participate in this effort. As I write this, in mid-October, we have made over 23,000 voter contacts! Our original goal of 10,000 contacts was met this summer and this September we increased our goal to 18,000 — and wow, look what we have accomplished! Thank you to everyone in our extended community who has been involved, writing postcards and calling for Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) and making

polls for elderly and low-income voters. The work of this organization has been impressive, and I know many of us have learned so much from being part of the extended Reclaim Our Vote volunteer community.

The Environmental Voter Project informs us after working for almost four years, testing and fine-tuning messaging to mobilize voters, they have accurately identified 2 million potential first-time environmental voters in



## Tikkun Olam (continued)

Our amazing Voter Mobilization Project Committee — **Marla Cummins, Elana Cutler, Louise Enoch, Alan Epstein, Marjorie Feld, Ora Gladstone, Valerie Graf, Allison Hausman, Judy Hersh, Corinne Lofchie, Janet Penn, Jeni Rhodes, Laya Steinberg.** Amazing thought partners and mobilizer — it has been an honor and pleasure to work together.

Our work is not over — we will continue our actions until 5pm on Election Day to help get out the vote. Our committee has also been considering the role we might play following the election, given the many well-documented concerns that our democracy may be threatened by the President refusing to accept election results if he loses. As this goes to press, we learned that we have unanimous approval from the board to continue our work beyond the election to provide information, resources and actions people can take. You can always find up to date information on our Voter Mobilization Project web page and if you are not already signed up for the Voter Mobilization list serv, you can do so on that page. Thank you — todah rabah, to everyone who has stepped up to engage with this work. May we experience a positive and satisfying outcome in the weeks ahead.

### MILK WITH DIGNITY ACTION

On Sunday October 4, Rabbi Toba and seven CDT members (including kids) took part in the Milk with Dignity Day of Action by serving as a delegation to deliver the Milk with Dignity Biennial Report to Hannaford Supermarket in Waltham.

**Nadav**, part of the CDT delegation, reported:

*We went to support migrant farmworkers by asking Hannaford to make sure farmworkers are treated well. We want them to buy milk from them (from the farmers in the Milk with Dignity Campaign). The farmers in the Milk with Dignity Campaign have made some promises that are good for the workers.*

*Some farmers who are not in the Campaign are not very nice to dairy farmworkers. The farmworkers may be afraid of being sent back to their country. They may be paid very little, or not have good working conditions. Some farm-*



*workers may want to go to the police to tell them about the bad work conditions, but they are too afraid to do that. And their housing might not be good. And these farmworkers, if they get sick, may be afraid to go to hospital, which is scary with COVID.*

*It was important that we went to talk to Hannaford because we want them to buy milk from farmers that pay and treat them (farmworkers) fairly so they can take care of their families. My mom, **Jeni Rhodes** said, "I took your sisters and you (to be part of the delegation) because we are in a position of privilege and we can use that power to request that when we buy milk, that the milk is supporting farmers that are fair to the dairy workers. When we stand up and ask people to do better for everyone in our community then we all benefit from living in a more just society."*

*My sister **Anya** (age six) said, "I like to drink milk. I want to drink milk that comes from farms where the workers are treated fairly. I got a COVID test and everyone should be able to get one, including the dairy farm workers".*

More information: Hannaford claims that they require their suppliers to comply with "standards of engagement" to fairly treat workers. But dairy workers behind Hannaford-brand milk are suffering systemic human rights abuses on their farms. The Milk with Dignity Report documents the reality for farmworkers in the dairy industry; it also demonstrates how the Program is transforming conditions and ensuring human rights for hundreds of workers. Ben and Jerry's signed on a few years

ago. The Campaign has been trying to speak to Hannaford management for a year, but they still have not responded (CDT was part of a rally at Hannaford in Waltham in November 2019). You can assess the report here: <https://migrantjustice.net/sites/default/files/2020M-DReport.pdf>

### PRISON BOOK PROGRAM — ACTIVE AGAIN!

The Prison Book Program In Quincy has resumed regular volunteer hours, but volunteers must now sign up in advance (no drop-ins) and only 7 volunteers per session are permitted. Volunteer slots go very quickly. For the foreseeable future, CDT will not be volunteering as a group. If anyone wants to volunteer individually, the signup site is : <https://signup.com/go/ZeaXPfL>.

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/iYr7TkV>.

Books can also be donated directly to the PBP by dropping them off during regular volunteer hours at the door to the PBP (back door of church), Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30–9 pm and alternate Saturdays 1-4 pm.



Books. Photo by Josette Akresh-Gonzales

## CDT Artist Highlight: Filmmaker Jen Kaplan

**Jen Kaplan's** first love was always the magic of stories – listening to them, learning from them, and telling them in a visual way through film, since 2000. Her first film “Mixed Blessings: The Challenges of Raising Children in a Jewish-Christian Family” was shown in film festivals across the globe and aired on several PBS stations. She worked as a Fundraising Producer at Connecticut Public Television and served as the Associate Director of Filmmakers Collaborative in Boston. She currently serves as a member of the Newton Cultural Commission. Since 2011, she has focused her efforts on producing 5-7 minute films for a variety of clients. *A Father's Kaddish* is her most recent film from her company Spencer Films.



Jen Kaplan's wonderful new film, *A Father's Kaddish*, will be screening at the Boston Jewish Film Festival, running from November 4–15, 2020. To purchase a ticket, go to the BJFF website and click the “Buy Ticket” button on the home page. When you purchase a ticket to view the film, you also get free ticket to a Q&A with Jen and Steve on Sunday, November 8th, at 4pm.

## Nediv Lev (cont.)

### COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

Jeffrey Kichen and Leslie Pinnel—*In memory of Jack Minkoff, father of Ellen Pashall and grandfather of Jules and Sam Pashall*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Nancy Gertz—*On behalf of me and my family, with gratitude to Rabbi Toba and Melissa Colten for supporting us after the death of my sister, Betsy. Losing someone we love during the pandemic makes things much harder, and you both helped by bringing us the blessings of ease and connection.*

Sheree Galpert—*In memory of Nancy Gertz's beloved and inspiring sister Betsy*

Annette Jacobs—*With much gratitude to Rabbi Toba, Melissa Colten, Wendy Buglio, CDT Sings, and everyone else who gave the High Holydays services such a sense of community, meaning, and joy*

### YAHREZIT DONATIONS

Annette Jacobs—*In memory of my mother, Ada Loewenherz Jacobs, my grandfather, Benny Jacobs, and my grandfather, Joseph Loewenherz*

### SUPPORT CDT THROUGH AMAZON.COM

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! Got 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.



## 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 [t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto: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.

### SIMPLY CHESSED

By Ellie Goldberg



Winnie the Pooh and Friends, Newton Free Library. Photo by Lorianne DiSabato via Flickr

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now?"

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends

don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There. No more; no less.

(A.A. Milne)

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. Chesed is an ongoing effort to build connections especially during the Covid pandemic.

The Chesed Committee is currently managing Chesed meals by ordering from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen. When a Chesed need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about allergies and food preferences, order the meal, and send 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 November are Meryl Epstein, Melanie Adler, and Gail Pressberg. If you have questions about Chesed, please contact them at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

### CHESED Q&A: WHAT DO THE SHIVA AND CHESED COMMITTEES DO?

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

## Community (cont.)

To **Tal Shalom-Kobi** for creating a special video for Simchat Torah dancing, and musicians **Shalev Moser, Ayla Kobi, Malka Pomerantz,** and **Terry Traub.**

### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members **Alissa and Dan Ovadia** and their children **Emmy** (6) and **Cooper** (4).

A warm welcome to new member **Rachel Guberman** and her children **Nathan** (5) and **Gabriel** (2).

A warm welcome back to returning member **Muriel Heiberger!**

A warm welcome to new member **Nessa Spitzer**, mother of **Rabbi Toba!** All the way from Maryland!

### INTRODUCING VIM: VIRTUAL INTEREST MEET-UPS

As the days get more wintry, the Welcoming Committee is hoping to create opportunities for building community and vim (vim=lively energy, vitality) with our new Virtual Interest Meet-ups. Get together virtually with other CDT members to talk, laugh, and share interests. To kick off the VIMs, we will have a variety of informal Zoom gatherings from Thursday, Dec. 3 to Tuesday, Dec. 8th. Each VIM will be about 1-1.5 hours long, will meet one time in the evening or afternoon, and will be hosted on a CDT Zoom account.

We are looking for volunteers to lead VIMs — a one-time Zoom gathering on any topic of interest, at a day/time of their choice. Do you have a passion or expertise you would like to share with like-minded congregants? Would you like to host an online Shabbat dinner, Netflix party, craft session, virtual cooking lesson or game-night? Share favorite poems, winter stories, music, recipes, or your latest knitting project? These are a few of many possible ideas. What interest would you like to share?

We encourage you to sign up to lead or co-lead a VIM! Please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/VIMsignup> by Friday Nov. 6 to submit your topic and preferred date/time. Questions? Contact **Debby Saltzman** ([debbysaltzman@gmail.com](mailto:debbysaltzman@gmail.com)) or **Amy Brodesky** ([abrodesky@gmail.com](mailto:abrodesky@gmail.com)).

# November 2020

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 (14 Cheshvan)<br>Nitzanim/Gan<br>9:00a<br>Religious School<br>10:00a     | 2 (15 Cheshvan)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a  | 3 (16 Cheshvan)<br>Religious School<br>3:30p                      | 4 (17 Cheshvan)<br>Jewishness, White-<br>ness, and Race in<br>America 7:30p                       | 5 (18 Cheshvan)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a<br>Environmental Voter<br>Project: Voter Texting<br>Action 5:00p | 6 (19 Cheshvan)<br>All Ages Erev Shabbat<br>6:00p | 7 (20 Cheshvan) Vayera<br>Shabbat Morning Ser-<br>vice & Bat Mitzvah of<br>Tali Edelstein 10:00a  |
| 8 (21 Cheshvan)<br>Religious School<br>10:00a                              | 9 (22 Cheshvan)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a  | 10 (23 Cheshvan)<br>Religious School<br>3:30p<br>Avelut 7:30p     | 11 (24 Cheshvan)<br>Torah Study 8:00a<br>Jewishness, White-<br>ness, and Race in<br>America 7:30p | 12 (25 Cheshvan)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a   | 13 (26 Cheshvan)<br>Tot Shabbat 5:30p             | 14 (27 Cheshvan) Chayei<br>Sara<br>10:00a Shabbat<br>Morning Service & Bar<br>Mitzvah of Ziv Dudnik<br>4:30p CDT Outdoor<br>Shabbat Afternoon<br>Family Program:<br>Havdalah Outside! |
| 15 (28 Cheshvan)<br>Religious School<br>10:00a<br>Members Meeting<br>4:00p | 16 (29 Cheshvan)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a | 17 (1 Kislev)<br>Rosh Chodesh Kislev<br>Religious School<br>4:00p | 18 (2 Kislev)<br>Torah Study 8:00a<br>Jewishness, White-<br>ness, and Race in<br>America 7:30p    | 19 (3 Kislev)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a  | 20 (4 Kislev)                                     | 21 (5 Kislev) Toldot<br>Shabbat Service and<br>Bat Mitzvah of Adele<br>Kaufman-Schulz<br>12:00a   |
| 22 (6 Kislev)<br>Nitzanim/Gan<br>9:00a<br>Religious School<br>10:00a       | 23 (7 Kislev)<br>Mindful Mornings<br>8:30a    | 24 (8 Kislev)<br>Religious School<br>3:30p                        | 25 (9 Kislev)   | 26 (10 Kislev)  | 27 (11 Kislev)                                    | 28 (12 Kislev) Vayetztei<br>Shabbat Morning<br>Service 10:00a   |
| 29 (13 Kislev)   | 30 (14 Kislev)                                |   |   |   |   |   |

## Learning

### 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 per-

sonal 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 (a recording of the first class will be available there).

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.

### TORAH STUDY WITH EARNEST VENER

Wednesday mornings, 8am-8:45am, weekly beginning November 11

Start your Wednesday mornings with Torah Study! Join Earnest for a weekly 45 minute

study session, focusing on the weekly Torah portion. You are welcome to drop-in or come every week. All are welcome and no prior knowledge is required. See the CDT website for Zoom information, and email Earnest at [e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org) with any questions.

### ALEPH-BET: LEARN TO READ HEBREW FOR ADULTS

Do you want to learn the Alef-Bet? Do you want to work on your Hebrew reading skills? CDT teacher and rabbinical student Micah Friedman is offering a six-session Hebrew alphabet and decoding class for adults in December and January. Along the way, Micah will incorporate spiritual approaches to learning the Hebrew letters. Payment for this course will be on a sliding scale and participants will need to purchase a book. We will determine the time and day of the class based on participant interest and teacher availability.

## Children's and Family Programs

### SHABBAT AFTERNOON FAMILY PROGRAM: HAVDALLAH OUTSIDE!

Sat. 11/14, 4:30-5:30pm

We are excited to invite our CDT families with kids in preschool through 7th grade to join us for an outdoor gathering at Auburndale Cove. Masks and social distancing required. Register for the Havdallah Outdoor Program on the CDT website.

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

5:15-5:30pm: Everyone comes back together for havdalah.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

The CDT Religious School is trying to get outside as much as we can before it is too cold. We are hosting two outdoor community building days this semester, creating an opportunity for each Religious School class to get to meet and share an in-person experience.

Nitzanim/Gan had its first program on October 18th! We explored the story of creation with a nature walk at Auburndale Cove. It was wonderful to connect our Torah story to the natural world around us. As we practiced walking silently in the woods, to see how many parts of the creation story we could see around us, we came upon a large peregrine falcon at the end of the trail. It was a fantastic way to embody the awe that the creation story evokes. Taking the opportunity to bring our Religious School curriculum to the outdoors deepens our connection between Torah and the value of Shomeret Adamah, guardianship of the earth. As we connect with the world around us the kids deepen their relationship to our stories and the environment.

### UPCOMING RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Sunday Religious School: November 1st, 8th\*, 15th, 22nd

\*November 8th will be an outdoor Religious School date for Kitot Gimel, Dalet, Hey, Vav, and Zayin! Location TBD.

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



Evie and Jason. Photo by Earnest Vener

### Tuesday Tutoring and Gimel Hebrew Class Dates: 3rd, 10th, 17th\*, 24th

\*Tuesday Rosh Hodesh: 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.





**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**  
60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## Challahctopus!

I've been baking way too much during the Pandemic. I thought folks would enjoy my latest creation, Challahctopus.

But is it kosher?

— Alex Sugerman-Brozan

