



Where Do We Go From Here? by Bob Warren



As we take stock of where we have come from over the past tumultuous 8 months of the pandemic and election campaign, over 90 CDT households came together at our November Members Meeting to begin a conversation about our journey together in the coming months. We reflected on congregational activities that have been meaningful to us over the past 8 months, and shared ideas for the coming months.

In her d'var Torah during the meeting, Rabbi Toba reflected on the story in the book of Genesis, where Isaac re-digs the old wells of his father Abraham, to make use of the old ways of his father. Isaac then dug new wells, creating new sources of sustenance. We too can use our existing ways to conduct our Congregation's programs while also digging new wells to give us new sustenance in the upcoming period.

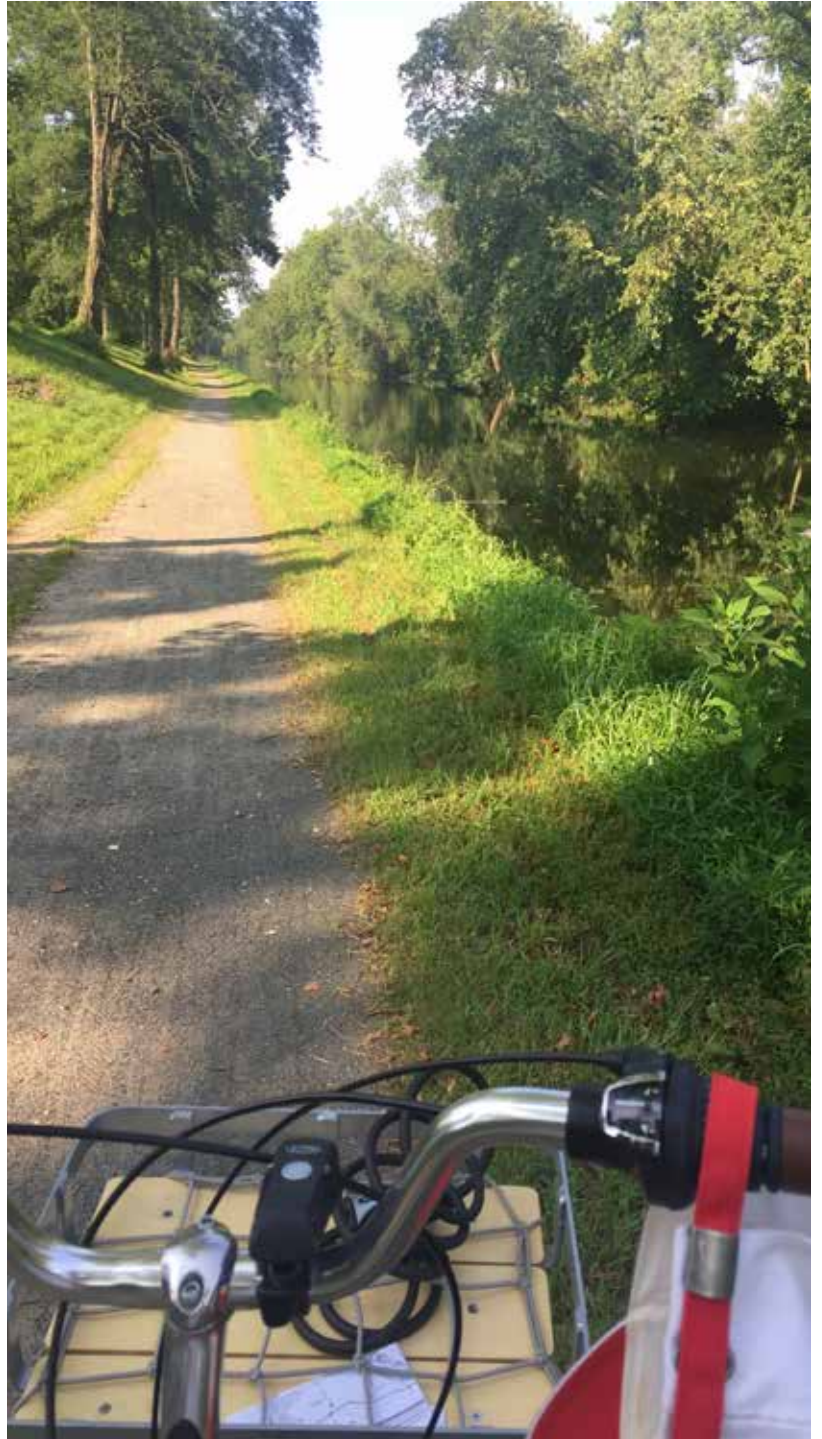
What we learned in our 15 breakout groups include the following highlights:

1. **Spiritual/ritual:** Members appreciate the Zoom services. There is a desire to have smaller in-person outdoor activities as we did with Tashlich during Rosh Hashana including small Havdalah events pairing two families. Friday night candle lighting is highly appreciated.

2. **Tikkun Olam:** There is widespread excitement about our Voter Mobilization Project and a desire to continue actions along those lines with specific campaigns with a time-limited outcome.

Congregants want CDT to do more around climate change both internally at our institution and in broader advocacy work. We are also committed to deepening our work around racism. Many people expressed interest in conducting our Tikkun Olam work in an inter-generational way.

3. **Member-led activities:** There is great anticipation about our upcoming VIMs (Virtual Interest Meetups--see page 5 for details). Many participants viewed these member-led activities as an excellent vehicle for members to meet and engage with one another and for potential on-going connections. It was



also suggested that we find ways to identify congregants who are more isolated and connect them with other members for support.

4. Adult Education: People like the idea of having educational offerings from outside speakers including from around the world, a benefit of the Zoom era. Suggestions included having adult participation in kids programs, Jewish music and other artistic efforts including integrating Tikkun Olam and education with the artistic contribution. Book groups, courses on aging and end-of-life issues as well as coping through the winter during the pandemic were mentioned. There were many other suggestions that give our program leaders much to consider over the next few weeks. We hope to have additional

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avenues for members who could not participate in the November Members meeting to give their input into congregational planning

over the next few weeks. The Congregation will use our members' input to assist our planning for the rest of the program year including incorporating some of these new ideas. As we said at the Members Meeting, we will continue to deliver excellent and enriching programs while recognizing that our staff and volunteer leaders cannot do everything. However, we can set our priorities and continue to be a vibrant home for all Congregants.

From the old wells that we have re-dug, we have found new ideas to make Congregation Dorshei Tzedek a fulfilling home for our members.

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:

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Technical Support Person: Roksi Freeman

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

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Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling
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Space: Steve Siegel
Website: Dan Halbert
Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

Staff News



Please welcome the newest member of the CDT staff, our Tech Support Person **Roksi Freeman**. Roksi is a sound engineer in the Boston area focusing on live sound and broadcast. She's a host of WMBR's Breakfast of Champions and her own show The Broken Leg Cafe. At other times, she can be found running in the woods—despite her crushing fear of bears.

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 cbssrome@comcast.net.

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

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.



ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evenings, December 11, January 8, 6:00pm-6:45pm

PLEASE NOTE NEW DECEMBER DATE!!

During our December all-ages Erev Shabbat service, we are celebrating Chanukah as we welcome Shabbat! Have your chanukiah (menorah) ready to light (it's the 2nd night!) plus your Shabbat candles and a Kiddush cup filled with your favorite grape beverage. Zoom info is available on the CDT website.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah, beginning at 10:00am (and ending between 11:45am-noon). 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, December 5

Join Rabbi Toba for a morning of song and prayer beginning at 10am and Torah study

beginning at 11am. We close the service with blessings for healing and the Mourners Kaddish. This Shabbat, we are remembering Susannah Zisk, as we mark her 9th yahrzeit.

Shabbat Morning, December 12

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for contemplative Shabbat of Chanukah service, beginning with song and meditation at 10am, and then Torah study at 11:00am; we close the service with blessings for healing and Mourners Kaddish. We will lift up themes of bringing light into the lengthening nights, and explore themes of re-dedicating the “temple” of our own bodies, souls, and society. We will also be remembering Alex Fried, as we mark his 13th yahrzeit.

Shabbat Morning, December 19

Bat Mitzvah of Carolyn Gelfand

Please join our family as we celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, **Carolyn Sylvia Gelfand**. Carolyn is a 7th grader at Diamond Middle School in Lexington. She enjoys dancing, swimming, singing, reading, playing fiddle, and hanging out with her friends. Carolyn dedicated her Tikkun Olam project to help people in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. She delivered food to people in Lexington, Bedford and Burlington, and also helped organize a food drive where

she collected over 40 bags of groceries and raised over \$300. We are thrilled to see Carolyn as she is called to the Torah and look forward to celebrating this important and joyous milestone with you all. — **Jennifer Nichols and Jerold Gelfand**

Shabbat Morning, December 26

Celebrate Shabbat with CDT members at our monthly member-led service!

MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

Please note new day beginning December 8 - Tuesday instead of Monday mornings

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 for the Zoom info). The sessions on December 24 and 31 will be unguided - meaning all are welcome to just show up and share the silence.



Chanukah 5781
see page 4

continued on page 4

Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice (continued)



GROWING THE LIGHT: CHANUKAH 5781 AT CDT!

As the moon wanes and the days grow shorter, Chanukah is a celebration of the miracle of light. By celebrating the Maccabees' re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem ("Chanukah" means "dedication"), we are invited to re-dedicate ourselves to the holy sanctuary of community, a sanctuary built of our shared commitments and values (and love of singing and eating!). This year, in lieu of one big Chanukah party, we have a whole week of CDT Chanukah activities. A link to Zoom info and registration, as well as text and audio of the Chanukah blessings, is available on the CDT website <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/chanukah-5781.html>.

And as we celebrate the miracle of the Chanukah oil, this is a great chance to purchase Sindyanna olive oil for yourself or a Chanukah gift! See page 11 for more information.

First Night Candlelighting **Thursday, December 10, 5:30-6pm**

Adults and kids of all ages are invited to join Rabbi Toba and Earnest as we light the first candle of Chanukah with songs and a story! Have your chanukiah (menorah) ready!

Erev Shabbat/2nd night of Chanukah **all-ages service** **Friday, December 11, 6-6:45pm**

As we celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah, join Rabbi Toba for a special Kabbalat Shabbat service. Have your chanukiah (plus three candles), Shabbat candles and wine/grape juice handy!

Shabbat Morning Contemplative Service **Saturday, December 12, 10am-11:45am**

This Shabbat Chanukah service will feature song, silent and guided meditation, and Torah study focusing on Chanukah themes. See page 3 for details.

Bring in the Light: Teen Fire-Building & Bonfire **Saturday afternoon, December 12,** **3:30-4:30 pm**

Teens grades 8 and up are invited to join Earnest for an outdoor Chanukah program featuring fire-building, chanukiah lighting, and Chanukah s'mores! Registration required; see the CDT website for details.

Adult Cocktail Party & Game Night **Saturday evening, December 12, 8-9pm**

CDT adults are invited to join party-masters Judy Hersh and Amy Brodesky for an evening of shmoozing and Zoom-friendly games! Bring your own favorite beverage, and please register on the CDT website, so we know how many folks will be attending.



Tot Chanukah with Earnest and Adam Blotner **Sunday afternoon, December 13, 4:30-5:00 PM**

Families with children aged 2-5 are invited to come light your chanukiah and sing Chanukah songs with Nitzanim/Gan songleader Adam Blotner! We will explore the Chanukah story and celebrate together.

Latke Making Workshop with Earnest's Mom! **Sunday, December 13, 5:00pm-6:00 PM**

Adults and older kids are invited to join



Tammy Vener, Earnest's mom, for a fun Latke cooking experience. Together we will make latkes and two toppings. Guaranteed to be a fun time for all! Invite your own mom! Information about ingredients will be available on the CDT website.

Chanukah Stories with Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb: **The Maccabees versus** **The Torah of Nonviolence** **Monday evening,** **December 14, 6:00-7:15PM**



Come and learn with Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb! Reclaim Chanukah narratives of

nonviolent resistance as a force more powerful than military might. We will explore (adult) Chanukah stories involving Alexander the Great and tales of female resistance. Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb was one of the first ordained female rabbis, and is a nonviolence activist and beloved teacher and artist.

Chanukah Text Study with Earnest **Wednesday morning, December 16th** **8-9am**

The Talmud asks, Mai Chanukah ("What is Chanukah")? In this study session we will explore this question and the evolution of the Chanukah tale from the book of Maccabees to the story we tell today.

8th Night Candle Lighting **Thursday evening, December 17,** **5:30-6:00pm**

Adults and kids of all ages are invited to join Rabbi Toba as we fill our chanukiah with candles for the final night of Chanukah.

Community

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Tali Edelstein** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Ziv Dudnik** and his family, on becoming bar mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Adele Kaufman-Schulz** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT member **Susannah Zisk**, whose yahrzeit falls on December 1; we will be remembering Susannah at Shabbat morning services on December 5. May Susannah's memory be for a blessing. We also remember CDT member **Alex Fried**, whose yahrzeit falls on December 8; we will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on December 12. May Alex's memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Becky Cohen**, on the death of her grandmother, Rose Levine. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Dianne Lior** on the death of her father, Eli Botkin. May his memory be for a blessing

We extend our condolences to **Matilda Bruckner** on the death of her sister, Merle Madeoy. May her memory be for a blessing. We extend our condolences to **Lou Hartman** on the death of their father, Neil Hartman. 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

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 **Vivienne Shein** and **Alvin Glazerman**.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member **Pauline Coderre**, mother of CDT member Pamela Rosenstein. Pauline joins us from Springfield, VA!

A warm welcome to new member **Ilene Lerner**, friend of **Barry Ingber**!

VIRTUAL INTEREST MEET-UPS (VIMS) – SIGN-UPS ARE OPEN!

Sign-ups are open for CDT's first ever **Virtual Interest Meet-ups (VIMS)**! Zoom sessions are scheduled from Thursday December 3 through Tuesday December 8. See the CDT website to sign-up and for date, time, and details on each offering. Some sessions have caps on size, so sign-up now!

- **Learning to See: Photography** with *Thea Breite*
- **Celebrating Your Innate Creativity** with *Tal Shalom Kobi*
- **What's for Dinner?** with *Melissa Colten*
- **Yiddish language, culture and song** with *Rebecca Pomerantz*
- **Live Play Reading** with *Sheree Galpert*
- **Niggun Swap** with *Miriam Bronstein*
- **Documentary Filmmaking** with *Jen Kaplan*
- **Trans/GNC/Nonbinary affinity group** with *Earnest Vener*
- **The Torah of WALL-E** with *Ben Newman*
- **Online Scattergories game night** with *Mel Adler and Andy Cohen*
- **Backyard Birding** with *Sharon Gorberg*
- **New Member Schmooze** with *Deb Saltzman*
- **Jewish Genealogy** with *Rebecca Pomerantz*
- **How to Play Mah Jongg during a Pandemic!** with *Suzi Dargon-Hart*
- **Grateful Jews** with *Scott Tepper*
- **Parent Lounge** with *Margo Michaels, Rebecca Cohen, Sara Coen Dash*

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

Nancy Gertz — *In memory of Efrem Goldberg, Cindy Shulak-Rome's father Ken Shulak, and Dianne Lior's beloved father*

Jackie Fleishman — *In memory of Stan Fleischman*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome — *With appreciation for the warmth and support ex-*

tended by so many in the Dorshei Tzedek community as we marked the loss of Cindy's father, Ken Shulak

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Tony Broh — *In memory of Ken Shulak, father of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

Sheree Galpert — *In memory of Eli Botkin, father of Dianne Lior; In memory of Ken Shulak, father of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome — *With gratitude to Rabbi Toba for her guidance and support to the entire family surrounding the loss of her father, Ken Shulak*

Learning

TORAH STUDY WITH EARNEST VENER

Wednesday mornings, 8am-9am

Start your Wednesday mornings with Torah Study! Join Earnest for an hour long 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 with any questions.

NEW CLASS!

ALEF-BET: LEARN TO READ HEBREW FOR ADULTS:

Six Sundays from December 6th-January 10th, 1:30-3:00 PM

Do you want to learn the Alef-Bet? 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. The full course is \$60.00 (\$10/session). Additionally, participants will need to purchase the book *Aleph Isn't Tough*. No one turned away for lack of funds. Register at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/adult-education>

Children's and Family Programs



Kitah Hey students at an in-person CDT Religious School day, showing the woven rafts they built in their exploration of the basket that Moses' mother wove for him.

CDT IS HIRING

CDT is hiring an Administrative Assistant. Please help us get the very best person by forwarding the job posting to all of your networks. It can be found here: <https://jewishjobs.com/jobs/view/57270>

Position Summary: The Administrative Assistant is often the first point of phone contact at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, and plays a critical role in

presenting a friendly and professional face for the organization. Responsible for a range of administrative, communications, and IT back-up tasks, the ideal candidate must possess a keen attention to detail, a customer service approach/strong interpersonal skills, take initiative, and have superb organization, prioritization and time management skills. The Administrative Assistant provides support to our senior staff and congregants, and ensures the efficient and smooth day-to-day operation of our office and Sunday school. This position provides an excel-

lent learning and growth opportunity and visibility into the workings of a small and dynamic religious congregation. This is a year-round, 40 hour/week benefits-eligible position.

We look forward to receiving applications from non-CDT-members with diverse backgrounds – talented, creative people with their own voice, ideas and perspectives. Resume with accompanying cover letter should be sent to execdirector@dorsheitzedek.org.

Children's and Family Programs

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Earnest Vener

The end of the first semester of Religious School is approaching, and we are busy planning for our second semester. We will continue to be primarily virtual for our second semester, with two in-person days for each grade. As we wrap up our first semester I am taking the opportunity to pause and reflect on the first few months of Religious School. In spite of all the challenges of this time, our school community has accomplished something amazing. Our youngest grades are growing in numbers, we have had nearly 100% reenrollment from last year and each week we have almost 100% attendance. Our families have pivoted quickly to show up for in-person opportunities, to pick up supplies for their students' learning, and have adapted to a new virtual schedule. Our teachers have been flexible, creative, and responsive to the needs of their students. As we wrap up our first semester of Religious School, I am filled with gratitude for CDT's strong commitment to education and community. I am looking forward to building on what we have learned to create an even more dynamic and engaging second semester.

MAZEL TOV! LETTER TO JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS

The Kitah Dalet class wrote letters to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris

about things we think need to change in the world. The students wrote about racial violence/inequality, climate change, trans rights, and COVID. This is one example of their letters.

Shalom Joe and Kamala,

Congratulations! We are SUPER glad that you won! Our names are Neo Goldberg and Emmy Rumpf. We are from Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Religious School in Newton, Massachusetts. In Hebrew, Dorshei Tzedek means to seek justice, we believe you will help us find justice in this country and unite our country. It is named the UNITED States, after all.

We want you to help slow down the spread of COVID 19. When we get a vaccine we want it to be free. It needs to be free because homeless, poor, or working class people may not be able to afford the vaccine. The vaccine needs to first go to the homeless and people who are sick. You need to tell people to put masks on to decrease their chances of COVID. Make a law to help people wear masks. Make sure doctors and essential workers have the PPE that they need. Make sure everyone can get a free and speedy COVID test.

If these things don't happen more people will lose their lives in this country. We will keep writing and making our voices heard.

Congratulations! We are so happy you are our new leaders.

*Thank you,
Neo Goldberg, 4th Grade Student
Emmy Rumpf, 4th Grade Student*



Kitah Bet meeting in person for the first time this year, safely in the woods at Auburndale Cove. Each second grader sat within a hula hoop to be sure everyone was socially distant!

Chesed

SONGS IN THE KEY OF CHESED: TELL US YOUR FAVORITE TUNES

DB Reiff

The Chesed Committee offers comfort in times of need to members of the Dorshei Tzedek community. The need can range from a death or birth in the family, from a broken foot to cataract surgery. And the gesture of loving-kindness (translation of chesed) can take the form of delivering a meal or picking up a prescription.

Now, in the midst of COVID 19 and political and economic uncertainty, we need all the comfort we can get. Since, as the poet wrote, *Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak,* (The Mourning Bride: A Tragedy, William Congreve 1697) we thought we'd share some songs that exemplify aspects of chesed and are fun to hear and watch on YouTube.

- *Willow* — Joan Armatrading
- *That's What Friends Are For* — Dionne Warwick music video with Elton John, Gladys Knight & Stevie Wonder.
- *I Get By with a Little Help from My Friends* — The Beatles
- *Count on Me* — Bruno Mars
- *I Won't Let Go* — Rascal Flatts
- *Lean on Me* — Bill Withers
- *You've got a Friend* — Carole King (also James Taylor)
- *Bridge Over Troubled Waters* — Simon & Garfunkel (also Aretha Franklin at ACL Moody Theater November 15, 2011)
- *Everybody Hurts* — R. E. M.
- *You'll Never Walk Alone* — from Carousel 1945, also Gerry & The Pacemakers 1963
- *People* — Barbara Streisand
- *You Needed Me* — Anne Murray
- *Ain't No Mountain High Enough* — Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell
- *Reach Out (I'll Be There)* — Four Tops
- *Hold On I'm Comin'* — Tina Turner

If you like, email your favorite to **dbreiff27@gmail.com** and we'll report on the top three Congregational picks in the next issue of the newsletter.

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 December/ January are **Lisa Keshet** and **Ellie Goldberg**. If you have questions about Chesed, please contact them 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 **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.

CDT Artist Spotlight: Potter Laya Steinberg

This month we put the CDT artist spotlight on potter, **Laya Steinberg**. Here's a description of her journey and her work.

Laya has been a potter for over 27 years. What started as a hobby quickly became a passion and led to an additional career teaching kids and adults ceramics at camps and Newton Community Education and eventually became a full-time gig as a high school visual arts teacher. Now Laya teaches private lessons in her home studio and sells her wares at galleries and craft fairs, (pre-pandemic), and now, just from home.

For more information and to view samples of her work, visit her Website: www.steinbergmillerdesign.com/pottery, or email **lasword@rcn.com**



Tikkun Olam

JEWS AGAINST FASCISM PROTEST

By Maya and LilyFish Gomberg

On the morning of November 5, 2020, we joined Jews Against Fascism (a collaboration between several Jewish justice groups) at Governor Baker's house to demand that he support Licenses For All and the Safe Communities Act. The number one way that immigrants in Massachusetts are detained by ICE is through traffic violations, because currently one must be a citizen of the United States to have a MA driver's license. These bills would stymie the deportation machine and keep the residents of our state safe.

At the 2 protests the week before, Governor Baker had not spoken with any of the protesters; he hadn't even come outside his house. At the November 5th protests, participants on the orange team (which both of us were on) escalated our call for response by standing at the very edge of his property and blocking his driveway while chanting, sharing stories, and singing peacefully. Protesters spoke about how their Jewishness instilled them with a strong sense of solidarity with immigrants, undocumented folks, and marginalized communities. I (Maya) talked about how Dorshei was a root of my and LilyFish's activism. Their first marches and activism were with our congregation, and it instilled in her the Jewish duty toward tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedek (justice). We as Jews know that our rights can easily be taken away. Compliance with the government abusing anyone in our society is a direct threat to all of our freedoms: it means we are accepting non-freedom. I was joined by another protester, now a good friend, who talked about how her grandfather, a holocaust survivor, hadn't had the same privilege that white Jews have today, and when asked what he did when MLK was shot, he said "I ran." If the police and the white supremacists were coming for marginalized leaders, they could be coming for him just as easily. We remember this and we know how important it is for us to fight.

While Maya and others were speaking, I (LilyFish) remember seeing several police officers approach and talk to the police liaison, and a woman (who we later found out was a plainclothes police officer) asking us to



move in an authoritative tone. A police officer stepped up to the protester holding the other side of my sign and asking him in a low voice to move, then threatened arrest, trying to intimidate him. When that didn't work, the officer moved on to me, telling me to move and then asking me if I wanted to ruin my life, presumptively by being arrested. A minute or two went by, and the other protester was put in handcuffs. I grabbed the rest of the sign and the orange team lead said to move out of the driveway, so I did. As I was walking away, a policeman grabbed me by my jacket, said "she's made her choice" (presumptively referring to when the officer threatened me earlier) and arrested me, despite the fact that I was already actively following the directions given. The orange team lead tried to de-arrest me to no avail. As Maya said to a reporter right after my arrest, "The fact that my sister, who was standing right next to me, was arrested and I was not, is as arbitrary as the deportation and detention experienced by undocumented people in (Massachusetts) and across the country." Maya did jail support with others from Never Again Action, and then picked me up when I was released 10 hours later. My court date for Disturbing the Peace and Trespassing is in January.

This fight is ongoing. Our immigrant siblings need our help. This fight is rooted in the activism of groups of undocumented activists including Cosecha and Driving Families Forward. If you are interested in getting involved with their organizing, or the organizing of Jewish allies, please join their facebook page or reach out to **Maya (mgomberg@wesleyan.edu)** or **LilyFish (lfgomberg@gmail.com)**.

10 YEARS OF PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH OLIVE OIL



Sindyanna of Galilee is a unique non-profit organization led by a team of Arab and Jewish women working to create social change from the ground up. They work together to produce outstanding olive oil and other premium food products, while enhancing Arab-Jewish cooperation, promoting Fair Trade, creating economic opportunities for Arab women, and assisting local growers and producers.

I met one of the founders and long-time general manager, Hadas Lahav, ten years ago, weeks before a fair trade conference in Boston. The hotel attached to the conference was sold out and Hadas stayed with my family for the 3-day event. She quickly became part of our family as her warmth, determination and vision fit easily in our household. During the conference, we created a plan for me to import their olive oil and the CDT olive oil program was born. After one air shipment of oil, we were able to get SERRV, a fair trade organization to carry the oil.

We sell Sindyanina's award winning fair trade
continued on page 11

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6 3:30p	2 8:00a Torah Study 7:30p Jewishness, White- ness, and Race in America	3 8:30a Mindful Mornings 10:00a VIM: Learning to See 2:00p VIM: How do you utilize your innate creativity in unusual circumstances?	4 2:00p VIM: What's for Dinner? 7:30p VIM: One-Hour Yiddish Immersion	5 Vayishlach 10:00a Shabbat Morning Service 1:00p VIM: Play Reading 4:30p VIM: Niggun Swap 7:30p VIM: Documentary Filmmaking 7:30p VIM: Share Favorite TV Show and Books
6 10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7: Kitah Gimel Parent Ed with Rabbi Toba 1:00p VIM for Trans/GNC/ Nonbinary CDT Youth and Members 1:30p Adult Hebrew Class 4:30p VIM: Torah of Wall-E 7:30p VIM: Online Scat- tergories	7 2:00p VIM: Backyard Birding 7:30p VIM: New Member Schmooze 7:30p VIM: Jewish Genealogy	8 8:30a Mindful Mornings 3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6 7:30p VIM: How to Play Man Jongg During a Pandemic 7:30p VIM: Grateful Jews	9 8:00a Torah Study	10 8:30a Mindful Mornings 5:30p First Night Candle Lighting	11 Chanukah 6:00p Erev Shabbat / 2nd Night of Chanukah All-Ages Service	12 Chanukah Vayeshev 10:00a Shabbat Morning Contemplative Service 4:30p Bring in the Light: Teen Fire-Building & Bonfire 8:00p Chanukah Cocktail Party
13 Chanukah 10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7: Adult Ed for RS Grownups with Rabbi Toba 1:30p Adult Hebrew Class 4:30p Tot Chanukah! 5:00p Latke Making 7:00p Parent Lounge (for parents of school-aged children)	14 Chanukah 6:00p Chanukah Stories with Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb: The Maccabees versus the Torah of Nonviolence	15 Chanukah 8:30a Mindful Mornings 4:00p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6: Rosh Chodesh Tevet & Ma'ariv Program	16 Chanukah Rosh Chodesh Tevet 8:00a Torah Study	17 Chanukah 8:30a Mindful Mornings 5:30p 8th Night Candle Lighting	18 Chanukah	19 10:00a Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Carolyn Gelfand
20 9:00a Nitzanim/Gan 10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 1:30p Adult Hebrew Class	21	22 8:30a Mindful Mornings	23 8:00a Torah Study	24 8:30a Mindful Mornings	25	26 10:00a Shabbat Morning service
27 1:30p Adult Hebrew Class	28	29 8:30a Mindful Mornings	30	31 8:30a Mindful Mornings	January 1	2

Tikkun Olam (continued)

organic kosher (and delicious) olive oil to CDT members to support Sindyanna's work to promote the use of business to create peace, harmony, women's empowerment and hope.

To learn more about the amazing and uplifting work of Sindyanna, please visit their website video page at sindyanna.com.

To purchase the oil, please contact me (**Jonathan Rosenthal**): jonathan@just-works.com or **617.744.9026**. Oil can be picked up at my house in Watertown (near Newton Corner) and post-pandemic, at in-person events. \$20/each for 750 ml bottle or \$108/case of six. Payment via VENMO, cash, or check.

Pickup also at Melissa's office at the Second Church on Thursdays 9-5 PM.

Enjoy the taste of cooperation!

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.

Reconstructionist News

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM DAY OF LEARNING

Sunday, January 24, 2021 | Online

Join Reconstructionists from around the world for a movement-wide virtual day of learning. Watch your e-mail and our social media for more information!

SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Reconstructing Judaism has embarked on a strategic planning process to envision the near-term future of the organization. To inform that process, we want to understand our constituents' needs in these tu-

multuous times, so we're reaching out to our community. We're also asking leaders to share their perspectives on the services we provide and their anticipated needs.

We hope you will share your perspective through this survey. It should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete and will help support Reconstructing Judaism in our work building spiritual communities. To take the survey, visit the Reconstructing Judaism website (<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/>).

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, reconstruction2022.org, which will be updated regularly. Schedule and program details coming soon!

Jewish Community Events

SOULCATION: A GLOBAL JEWISH TOUR FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

December 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17

Join six rabbis across the globe as they guide you in exploring local Jewish geography, uncovering fascinating hidden gems of history and sharing teaching that inspire. Tour Jewish communities in Israel, the Nether-

lands, Germany, Majorca. Join one workshop or more. Each workshop is \$36 or \$180 for all 6. Offered by Reconstructing Judaism.

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Story of the Hidden Jews or Southern Italy

December 8, 12:00-1:15pm ET

Shining Our Inner Light on Chanukah

December 10, 1:00-2:15pm ET

Reading a Winter Psalm in Jerusalem

December 14, 1:00-2:15pm ET

The Secret Jews of Majorca Island

December 15, 1:00-2:15pm ET

Light Out of Darkness: A Journey of Transformation and Hope for the Close of Chanukah

December 17, 1:00-2:15pm ET



Address correction requested



GROWING THE LIGHT: CHANUKAH 5781

Chanukah is a celebration of the miracle of light. This year, join us for a whole week of CDT Chanukah activities. See page 4 for details!

