



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Shevat/Adar 5781

February 2021



Photo: Painting by Trish Nuzzola. For more info about the CDT gallery opening, see page 6.

## INCLUSION, DIGNITY, AND CORE VALUES

By Bob Warren, President



As we enter February, 2021 the world feels like a giant, ongoing set of cataclysms. We have spent the past year adjusting to and enduring the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. Huge nationwide and worldwide protests against the evils of racism and white supremacy occurred during this same period. Our country's normal and usual manner of conducting elections and

the subsequent peaceful transition to our newly elected government and its leaders has been uprooted and virtually torn asunder. It would be hard to find anyone who can claim they were not impacted emotionally and/or physically by any or all of these events.

In this context Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is embarking on an ongoing effort to support and promote our community's mental health and well-being. Building on the work done by **Susan Nitkin** and the

Inclusion Committee in past years, in recent months our leadership has begun discussing how we can address mental health for our members. In the midst of this discussion, the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project awarded CDT a grant of \$1,800 to further deepen our work around mental health, to be used in any way we would like.

I recently met with **Rabbi Toba, Melissa, and Earnest**, along with CDT members who have professional and personal connections, to discuss issues of mental health, including: programming for parents with kids at home, a community-wide workshop at our March Members meeting, and hopefully a workshop series on stress reduction that will be open to all.

In addition, we discussed organizing the next set of VIMs (Virtual Interest Meetups) to include some socially-distanced outdoor walks/hikes which will be great for the mental well-being of our community. Also,

be on the lookout for mailers to be sent to all CDT households regarding mental health resources, and a new weekly opportunity with Rabbi Toba to ground ourselves, “Mincha Moments” on Wednesdays in the early evening.

February is also Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), a unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide to raise awareness and foster acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities and mental health conditions and those who love them. JDAIM is a call to action for all of us to act in accordance with our Jewish values, honoring the gifts and strengths that we each possess.

All of our programmatic plans are consistent with our Congregation’s Core Values and in particular:

• **Kehillah** (Commitment to Community)  
— Members sharing a commitment to the

well-being of the community and its values, and to one another.

• **Chesed** (Loving-kindness) — Extending loving-kindness, sharing joyful times and difficult times, providing comfort and support to one another through life’s transitions.

• **Inclusion and Human Dignity** — Every human being is created “*b’tzelem Elohim*” (in God’s image) and is thus deserving of care and respect.

We welcome all those who share our values: people of all ages, races and ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities both visible and invisible, gender identities and sexual orientations.

This month as we continue to read from the Book of Exodus about the liberation of the Jewish people let us remind ourselves that while liberation is not easy, a community can support itself and its members on our journey.

## Newsletter News

It is with sadness that I announce my retirement from the CDT Newsletter team. It was an honor and a pleasure to work on the CDT newsletter these umpteen years. I have enjoyed working with people to get their news out to the congregation. And I’ve been continuously impressed, every month, with the dedication and professionalism of my colleagues on the newsletter team, **Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Amy Westebbe, and Vivienne Shein**, and the many others who served stints on the team throughout the years. And, of course, none of this would be possible without the ongoing support and leadership of **Rabbi Toba**.

**If you’ve ever thought about joining the Newsletter team, now’s the time to step up!** It’s a great way to contribute to Dorshei Tzedek. Your commitment can be as small as fits into your busy life (once every three months) or as large as you wish. For more information about opportunities, contact **Melissa Colten**.

— **John Holohan**

## 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**.

## 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.

## 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,

[m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org)

Director of Congregational Learning: Earnest Vener,

[e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org)

Administrative Assistant: Erin Dimson-Doyle,

[adminassistant@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:adminassistant@dorsheitzedek.org)

Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin,

[inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org)

Interim Zoom Coordinator: Jordan Leonard,

[zoom@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:zoom@dorsheitzedek.org)

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

### 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, Janice Cole

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)

## From the Office

### STAFFING UPDATE

It is with great pleasure that I ask you to join me in extending a warm welcome to CDT's new full-time administrative assistant, **Erin Dimson-Doyle**, who comes to us with extensive administrative expertise and artistic skill. Her hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm, email [adminassistant@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:adminassistant@dorsheitzedek.org), phone **617.465.0330**. Our office phone is now being forwarded during business hours, so please feel free to call and say hello!



**Liz Krushnic**, to whom we all give heart-felt thanks for stepping in as interim administra-

tive assistant mid-August upon Lidia Pruenete's departure, will be leaving the office, but remaining in the CDT classroom as Kitah Hay's co-teacher.

**Jordan Leonard**, our interim Zoom coordinator, [zoom@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:zoom@dorsheitzedek.org) will continue providing Zoom support on Sundays and Tuesdays, in addition to assisting with website design and updates for a total of 10 hours a week through mid-April 2021.

**Roksi Freeman**, our in-house sound engineer, will remain with CDT, continuing to be there in the sanctuary with Rabbi Toba, for as long as we are Zooming services. She works about 3-4 hours per week.

For more information about our staff, please visit the [Meet our Rabbi and Staff webpage](#).

Thanks to all of you for your patience, flexibility, and help as the office adjusts to the constant back-end technical and administrative requirements that our new covid-world demands. Your support and suggestions are most appreciated, and the virtual office door is always open!

### OFFICE NEWS

2020 tax letters have all been mailed out by post.

Please let Melissa know if you did not receive yours, and she can email it to you.

### LIVE CAPTIONING ON ZOOM!

CDT's Zoom accounts now have free automatic live captioning available. All hosts will now enable this service by pressing the "Live Transcript" button and then the "Enable Auto-Transcription" button in their Zoom control bars.

All attendees can use or hide the closed captions according to their preference by looking for the same in their Zoom control bars next to the mute and video icons.

Please take advantage of this great service!

## CDT Events

### VIM ROUND 2: MARCH VIRTUAL INTEREST MEET-UPS

*Wednesday March 3 through Tuesday March 9*  
*Debbie Saltzman*

Following the successful VIM meetings in early December, the Welcoming Committee is planning a second round for Wednesday March 3 through Tuesday March 9. This time, in addition to the virtual zoom gatherings, we hope to organize some outdoor in-person gatherings as well.

We are looking for volunteers to lead VIMs — a one-time informal 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, discuss ideas for a Passover seder, or share favorite poems or funny stories? Or lead a family hike or bird watching expedition? These are just a few of many possible ideas for VIMs. What interest would you like to share?

We encourage you to sign up to lead or co-lead a VIM! We welcome both family-friendly and adult topics. Please use this [link](#) to submit your topic and preferred date/time. Questions? Contact **Debbie Saltzman** ([debbysaltzman@gmail.com](mailto:debbysaltzman@gmail.com)) or **Amy Brodesky** ([abrodesky@gmail.com](mailto:abrodesky@gmail.com)).

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# 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, February 5, March 5,  
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.

## 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, Yitro, February 6:** Join Rabbi Toba for the morning service beginning at 10am, followed by Torah reading and study beginning at 11am, as we join the Israelites at Mount Sinai for the chanting of the 10 commandments. We will close the service with blessings for healing and Mourners Kaddish, at approximately 11:45am.

**Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, Mishpatim, February 13:** Join Rabbi Toba for the morning service beginning at 10am, when we celebrate Rosh Chodesh Adar with the songs of Hallel! Our Torah study, beginning at 11am, will be dedicated to the memories of CDT members Marion Weinberg and Frances Greenberg, on the occasion of their yahrzeits

**SPECIAL GUEST! Shabbat morning, Terumah, Shabbat Zachor, February 20:** February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, and we are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Lauren Tuchman as our guest teacher this morning. After the morning service led by CDT members, Rabbi Tuchman will share insights on the transformative power of inclusive Torah, and lead us in a discussion about

the importance of disability inclusion in Jewish community.

*Rabbi Lauren Tuchman is a sought after speaker, spiritual leader and educator. Ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary in 2018, she has taught at numerous synagogues and other Jewish venues throughout North America and was named to the Jewish Week’s 36 under 36 for her innovative leadership concerning inclusion of Jews with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life. In 2017, she delivered an ELI Talk entitled We All Were At Sinai: The Transformative Power of Inclusive Torah. She has trained and continues to teach with Rabbi David Jaffe and the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project, which provides a space for Jewish spiritual and contemplative practice for social justice activists.*



**Contemplative Shabbat service, Tetzaveh, February 27:** Rabbi Toba will lead a contemplative service featuring song and chant, silent and guided meditation, beginning at 10am. Torah study begins at 11am, as we explore the Torah’s instructions for creating the Mishkan, the portable sanctuary in the wilderness, as guidance for creating Godly spaces on both the personal and societal level. We will close the service with blessings for healing and Mourners Kaddish, at approximately 11:45am.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Tuesday 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 Morn-

ings is an opportunity to cultivate qualities of patience, equanimity, compassion, and resilience. Drop in is welcome! For those in mourning or observing a Yahrzeit, Kaddish is recited at the end of the sit. Zoom info is available on the CDT website (for non-members, please email [office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org) for the Zoom info).

## NEW! MINCHA MOMENTS

with Rabbi Toba

Wednesday evenings, 5:30pm-5:45pm

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for a moment of calm each week. The content will vary — a brief teaching, a meditative moment, some music, or another contemplative practice. We will start promptly at 5:30pm each Wednesday, but feel free to drop in at any time. Each session will end with an opportunity for those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit to recite Mourners Kaddish. And all are welcome to stay and shmooze for a few minutes afterwards!

## MINDFULNESS AND SELF-COMPASSION: A CONVERSATION ABOUT PARENTING IN THE AGE OF COVID

Sunday, February 7th, 11:20am-12pm

CDT member **Carla Naumburg** will lead a conversation about how to integrate mindfulness and self-compassion into our daily lives as parents and people. Carla is the author of multiple books on parenting and mindfulness. All those caring for kids are welcome!



## Purim 5781

The rabbis say that after the Messiah comes, the only holiday left to celebrate will be Purim! On Purim we celebrate Esther and Mordechai's victory over the evil Haman with costumes and megillah reading, good food and drink, sending food to one another and caring for the poor. Plus a little dancing! While we will miss our fabulous CDT Purim in-person bash this year, Rav Tiffany is inviting everyone to join her for what promises to be a singular Purim experience, both in the Zoomiverse and beyond! Links for all programs and events can be found on the Purim page on the CDT website.

### Mishloach Manot for All

*We need bakers and delivery people!*

An important Purim mitzvah is mishloach manot — sending plates of goodies to one another in the community. This year, CDT is collecting hamantaschen for mishloach manot goodie bags to distribute to all of our members. We need volunteers to help make hamantaschen and to help with delivery of the bags. So bakers, get out your sheet pans and fire up your ovens. It's time to make those tasty triangles that we all know, love, and share! Please go to the Purim page on the website to sign up to let us know how many hamantaschen you can make, and/or if you can help with delivery

## PURIM ACTIVITIES

### Hamantaschen-making Workshops

*Tuesday, February 16, 5pm*

Adults and older kids are invited to join veteran hamantaschen-maker Marcia Okun for an introductory lesson to get you started. Together we will make hamantaschen and 2 fillings. Guaranteed to be a fun time for all, feel free to bring a child, parent, or friend! Zoom link and ingredient list can be found on the Purim web page.

### Purim Text Study with Earnest

*Wednesday morning, February 24, 8:00-9:00am*

In this study session we will explore Talmudic tales about Purim. Zoom link can be found on the Purim web page.

### CDT Kids Purim Shpiel Players

*Three Sunday rehearsals: Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21*

Attention CDT kids grade 3 and up! We need your help for the CDT Purim Shpiel! Sign up to work with CDT Purim Shpiel creator Sheree Galpert to create scenes for our first (and hopefully last) Zoom Purim Shpiel. Sign up on the CDT Purim page.

## CDT PURIM CELEBRATION!

*Thursday evening, February 25, 7:00-9:00pm*

Rav Tiffany says, "Neither pandemic nor a bad hair day will keep me from the CDT Purim celebration this year!" Join Rav Tiffany, the Zoom Megillah readers, and the first (and hopefully last) ZoomSpiel for a fabulous evening of much-needed laughter – plus Purim dance party! Wear a costume in your Zoom room, have your noisemaker ready, bring your own preferred beverage, and let the kids stay up late!!

### Tot Purim with Earnest and Adam Blotner

*Saturday afternoon, February 27, 4:00-4:30pm*

Families and children aged 2-5 are invited to come in costume with groggers in hand and sing Purim songs with Earnest and Nitzanim/Gan songleader Adam Blotner! We will explore the Purim story and celebrate together. Zoom link can be found in the [CDT calendar](#).

## Community

### MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Jenna Schwartz** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah! Mazel tov to **Stacey Chacker**, on her marriage to **David Schatz**!

### Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT member **Frances Greenberg**, whose 16th yahrzeit falls on February 13, may his memory be for a blessing. We also remember CDT member **Marion Weinberg**, whose 24th yahrzeit falls on February 16, may her memory be for a blessing. We will be remembering both Frances and Marion at Shabbat morning services on February 13.

### 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, February 9, 7:30pm*

A group of CDT members in various stages of the journey of mourning meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of 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 **Eric Karp**, **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Al Glazerman**, and **Alan Epstein**.

### TODAH RABAH

While he still has another issue to go, we want to say a HUGE "Todah Rabah" to **John Holohan** for his many years of service as chair of the Newsletter Committee, making sure our beautiful newsletter appears each month.

### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members **Josh and Becca Matloff** and their baby **Ari**. A warm welcome to new member **Ilene Lerner**. A warm welcome to new member **Janet Rickles and Arthur Young**. A warm welcome back to **Emily Sper**.

# CDT Artist Spotlight: A Group Show!

## ART BRIGHTENS THE WINTER LIGHT

*Zoom Gallery Opening*

*Tuesday, February 9, 5pm*

Please join CDT when it lights up the winter with a gallery exhibit from four CDT artists. While their works hang in the Dorshei Tzedek sanctuary, they are available to view both online and safely in person at pre-arranged times. To schedule your pod's viewing slot, please sign up via the link on the calendar event listing page.

Registration and Zoom information is on the calendar event listing.

- **Trish Nuzzola** is showing a series of abstract paintings, primarily explorations in encaustic (pigmented wax) on wood;
- **Mark Farber** is exhibiting 4 photographs of a larger series of water-sky horizons from Cape Cod taken at varied times of day, light, weather, and mood;
- **Lisa Hirsh** is a watercolor artist who works with watercolors, pastels and other media;
- **Steffi Aronson Karp** is displaying colorful quilts, including one made completely from mask scraps.

At the February 9 opening, artist commentary will be interspersed with jazz music from Joe Bayes on keyboard, and Dan Karp on bass.

Thanks to Lynda Goldberg, CDT art gallery curator, for her work organizing this exhibit.



Mark Farber



Mark Farber



Steffi Aronson Karp



Lisa Hirsh

## GBIO ENDS YEAR WITH MULTIPLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Louise Enoch and Tony Broh

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) displayed an impressive ability to focus on issues of social justice and an ability to pivot with the changing demands of those with the greatest needs throughout 2020. The year began with a healthcare campaign to reign in out-of-pocket expenses, reduce the price of prescription drugs, and provide affordable mental health and drug counseling.

During the pandemic, GBIO focused on tenant evictions and bank foreclosures so Massachusetts residents who lost employment could remain sheltered. The increased vulnerability of the prison population caused GBIO also to address multiple issues related to overcrowded prisons.

Following the horrific murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, GBIO added Police Reform to its priority issues. Working with the Latino and Black Legislative Caucus's "Ten Point Plan," GBIO focused on Civil Service Exams, limits of police use of force, Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), and multiple underlying issues of racism. Members of CDT followed and distributed news accounts on each of these issues, read updates and requests for action from GBIO leaders and liaisons, and – when called upon – flexed their telephoning, email, and Twitter muscles with pointed messages to the Governor, House and Senate Leadership, and other legislative leaders. In all, more than 75 members of CDT had an estimated 250 contacts during planning meetings, zoom sessions or requested communications. That's an impressive 30 percent of congregation households!

Some of GBIO's efforts produced results; some did not. On the positive side of the ledger, healthcare insurance now must cover telehealth visits on par with in-person visits, provide notification about out-of-network providers before non-emergency procedures, and provide coverage for COVID-19 treatment and testing. Very late in the legislative process, dental care was added to medical coverage almost entirely due to GBIO advocacy. These are big wins that can reduce the expenses

and fears for those that might otherwise avoid life-saving treatments.

GBIO's Criminal Justice Reform campaign helped to create the first-of-its-kind independent, community-inclusive Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) commission with investigatory, subpoena and decertification power. GBIO Strategy Team member Alan Epstein explained: "When the POST commission is empowered to its fullest, residents of the Commonwealth will no longer be subjected to unregulated racial profiling, excessive force, and limitless no-knock warrants, all of which disproportionately target our communities of color."

Since April 2019, GBIO has engaged in a "Re-founding" effort to examine its mission and membership. The effort took place concurrently with the aforementioned, ever-expanding policy objectives. To date, eight new institutions, including Boston congregations, a Buddhist Temple, labor union, and other advocacy organizations have joined GBIO since the campaign began.

No report on GBIO'S year would be complete without the mention of Fran Early's sudden death. Known to many throughout the Boston area as a GBIO founder and organizer, Fran's untimely death is a huge loss to the organization leadership, not to mention the emotional void for those who worked so closely with her on multiple projects. Trinity Church conducted a broadly attended "Celebration of Life" remembering her on December 17, 2020.

Over the next few months, Dorshei Tzedek plans to expand participation in GBIO and establish a "core team" of people who routinely participate and regularly share organizational responsibilities. Watch for notices from Liaisons Louise Enoch and Tony Broh.

## IP/PEACE WINTER STUDY GROUP: "BEYOND TWO STATES? NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE"

Wednesdays, February 10 and February 24, 7:30 to 9:00pm

The publication in July 2020 of Peter Beinart's essay "Yavne: A Jewish Case for Equality in

Israel-Palestine" spurred a new conversation within the Jewish community about possible alternatives to the traditional Two-State Solution for ending the occupation and the attendant conflict. CDT's Israel-Palestine Peace group is planning a two-session study group that will address some of these alternative ideas. Our first session will focus on "Zionism and Bi-Nationalism," with suggested readings by Liora Halperin, Gil Troy, and Peter Beinart. The second session will ask the question, "Is Confederation Possible?" and address the ideas of Lev Grinberg, Rav Hanan Schlesinger, and the movement "A Land for All."

The study sessions will take place via Zoom. Please join us, even if you have not done the readings. All members of CDT are welcome and encouraged to come and learn and explore, listen and reflect. For further information, please contact Elaine Landes, Sue Lanser, or Jonathan Rosenthal.

## 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 seven 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 [signup.com/go/ZeaXPfL](http://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/iY7TkV>.

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.

## 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.

## CHESED: OUR CARING COMMUNITY

By Ellie Goldberg

Our congregation values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. These gestures of practical comfort and caring are a way that we acknowledge each other's hardships, life transitions or stressful times to build the type of caring community we want to live in.

We see Chesed in action on LotsaHelping-Hands as well as in the CDT-Shares emails when we seek or give advice and referrals. Such acts of Chesed can engender a sense of abundance, especially at a time of loss or fear when kindness and generosity feel regenerative for both the givers and the receivers as well as facilitators and witnesses of caring acts.

## THE JFCS CARING COMMUNITIES RESOURCE NETWORK

As part of our Chesed activity, the CDT Chesed Coordinators often attend programs sponsored by the JFCS CCR Network. A recent program featured CDT member Karen Wasserman speaking about "The Impact of Covid On Families and Elders." As many CDT members know, Karen has been a resource for many of us who have needed support and guidance when confronted with an elder care crisis, planning for our own future needs or for relatives dealing with family decisions and planning.

During Covid-19 elders and their families have struggled with a variety of new and ongoing challenges such as limited or no contact with those living in nursing homes, assisted living and retirement communities, adult day health programs closing, complicated and stressful home care issues, lack of respite for caregivers, isolation and fear, lack of the usual social programming, and difficulting using technology, especially for those with vision or hearing impairments.

JFCS has adapted many of their services and resources for older adults to meet the challenges of Covid-19. See links below.

## JFCS RESOURCES

Your Elder Experts. A Care Management program provides short term consultation and ongoing planning. [yeeinfo@jfcsboston.org](mailto:yeeinfo@jfcsboston.org), 781-693-5052

CJP SeniorDirect is a free information and referral service staffed by eldercare professionals from JF&CS, who will take the time to understand your questions and connect you and your family with the resources and expert advice you need. [info@cjpseniordirect.org](mailto:info@cjpseniordirect.org), 800-980-1982

"Mental Health Support at JF&CS"

"Services for Older Adults: Tips During Crisis – Tips to Maintain Your Physical and Mental Health"

The Chesed Coordinators for February are Abby Cohen, Judy Hersh, and Chad Pytel. Please contact them if you have questions or a request for Chesed at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

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 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.

## CHESED Q&A

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

## 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

Christopher Combest — *In thanks for making him a part of our warm and welcoming community*

Andrei Israel — *In honor of Ziv Dudnik*

Judy Kogan and Hugh Wolff

Ora Gladstone — *Toda Rabah to Abby and Stuart, for generously doling out "extra" booze stash*

Carol Lynn Graf — *In honor of Evan Micah Gan*  
The Patriot Foundation — *On behalf of Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts*

Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer — *In memory of Elaine Graham Sofer*

Jenny, Elizabeth and Batya Ferrenz-Siegel — *In memory of Dr. Mark B. Siegel*

Kim Wallach — *For a Zoom Shiva in memory of Doris F. Wallach*

## YAHREZEIT DONATIONS

Lynda Goldbereg and Joseph Bayes — *In memory of Arthur Bayes*

Ami and Jonathan Gordon — *In memory of Robert Leon Stern, father of Ami Gordon, father-in-law of Jon Gordon, grandfather of Max and Zachary Gordon*

Rob Greenly — *In memory of Lewis Greenly, Lucille Greenly, and Melvin Schoenberg*

Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller — *In memory of Laya's father, Victor Steinberg*

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## Nediv Lev (continued)

### DISCRETIONARY FUND

Stacey Chacker and David Shatz — *In appreciation of Rabbi Toba for doing our "COVID wedding". We appreciated her flexibility, warmth and blessings!*

Annette Jacobs — *In memory of her dear friend Trudee Parenteau and loving father, Marcus Jacobs*

Loretta Lipka

Laura Schulz and Sue Kaufman — *In honor of Adele's Bat Mitzvah with thanks to Rabbi Toba*

### SCHOOL FUND

Amy Brodesky and Rex Flynn

### VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT

Jamie Tessler — *In honor of Stacey Chacker and David Schatz, in celebration of their nuptials!*

Ruth Paris and Rob Saper — *In memory of her father, Isaac, mother, Dorothy, and brother, Steven Paris*

David Reider — *In memory of his father, Raphael B. Reider*

### 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.

## Learning

### ROOTING IN HEBREW

with Rabbinical Student and CDT Teacher Micah Friedman; Sundays, January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 1:30-3pm

A five session Hebrew class for anyone who has learned the letters of the Alef Bet, recently or years ago. We will focus on becoming more proficient at reading and pronouncing Hebrew while simultaneously growing our skills at making meaning of Hebrew words and relating personally to the language of the siddur (prayer book). Payment for this course will be on a sliding scale and participants will need to purchase a book. Registration is required and can be found on the Adult Education page of the website.

### SAVE THE DATES!

### ISRAEL'S MANY CULTURES: TOGETHER OR APART?

ריבוי תרבויות בישראל: ביחד או לחוד?

Wednesday evenings, March 10, 17, 24, 7:30 to 9:00pm

We are excited to welcome back **Dr. Irit Aharony**, who will offer to members of CDT a three-session course on "Israel's Many Cul-

tures: Together or Apart?" The course will explore the diversity of Israeli cultures, highlighting both commonalities and tensions among its diverse communities. Each session will emphasize a different art form and explore a particular formation of Israeli voices. The classes will be conducted in English, and readings will be available in Hebrew and English. Advance reading will be necessary only for the final session.



**March 10:** "In many small windows, through side entrances" (Yehuda Amichai): Questions of immigration, otherness and belonging, "here" versus "there" in Israeli art, with an emphasis on Russian and Ethiopian new Israelis.

**March 17:** "In Ashkenaz State" (Roy Hasan): Israeli spoken word poetry, the Ars poetica movement, and the Mizrahi voice.

**March 24:** Israelis Here and There: Identities, differences, and relationships between Israelis at home and abroad—in Haaretz and in the Diaspora, explored through Maya Arad's widely acclaimed 2018 novella *The Hebrew Teacher*.

Irit Aharony is Senior Preceptor in Hebrew at Harvard University, where she teaches courses in Hebrew language, culture, and literature. She holds a PhD in Hebrew literature from Bar-Ilan University. She has taught classes at CDT in the past, to great acclaim.

### TORAH STUDY WITH EARNEST VENER

Wednesday mornings, 8am-8:45am

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.

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31 Shevat 18</b>  10:00a RS: Kitah Zayin Family Ed with Rabbi Toba  10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 12:00p CDT Kids Purim Shpiel!  1:30p Adult Hebrew Part 2: Rooting In Hebrew	<b>1 Shevat 19</b>	<b>2 Shevat 20</b>  3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	<b>3 Shevat 21</b>  8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment	<b>4 Shevat 22</b>  1:30p Zahor: Alex Haley's Roots, Scriptures, and the Race for America	<b>5 Shevat 23</b>  6:00p All Ages Erev Shabbat Service	<b>6 Shevat 24</b>  10:00a Shabbat Morning Services, Yitro
<b>7 Shevat 25</b>  10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:00a Kitah Vav Family Ed With Rabbi Toba 11:15a Mindfulness and Self-compassion: A Conversation about Parenting in the Age of Covid 12:15p CDT Kids Purim Shpiel!  1:30p Adult Hebrew Part 2: Rooting In Hebrew	<b>8 Shevat 26</b>	<b>9 Shevat 27</b>  3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6 5:00p CDT Art Gallery Opening	<b>10 Shevat 28</b>  8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment 6:30p Teen Programming Brainstorming and Info Session 7:30p Beyond Two States? Perspectives on Prospects for Peace	<b>11 Shevat 29</b>  1:30p Jews and the Religion of Whiteness	<b>12 Shevat 30</b> Rosh Chodesh Adar  2:00p VIM: What's for Dinner?	<b>13 Adar 1</b> Rosh Chodesh Adar  10:00a Shabbat Morning Services, Rosh Chodesh, Mishpatim
<b>14 Adar 2</b>  12:15p CDT Kids Purim Shpiel!  1:30p Adult Hebrew Part 2: Rooting In Hebrew	<b>15 Adar 3</b>	<b>16 Adar 4</b>  5:00p Hamantaschen-making workshop with Marcia Okun	<b>17 Adar 5</b>  8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment	<b>18 Adar 6</b>  1:30p Religion and White Supremacy in the United States 7:00p GBIO Meeting	<b>19 Adar 7</b>  5:30p Tot Shabbat	<b>20 Adar 8</b>  10:00a Shabbat Morning Services, Terumah, Shabbat Zachor
<b>21 Adar 9</b>  12:15p CDT Kids Purim Shpiel!  1:30p Adult Hebrew Part 2: Rooting In Hebrew	<b>22 Adar 10</b>	<b>23 Adar 11</b>  4:00p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6: Rosh Chodesh Adar & Ma'ariv Program	<b>24 Adar 12</b>  8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment 7:30p Beyond Two States? Perspectives on Prospects for Peace	<b>25 Adar 13</b>  1:30p Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing The Alliance in the 1960s 7:00p CDT Purim Celebration!	<b>26 Adar 14</b> Purim	<b>27 Adar 15</b>  10:00a Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service, Tetzaveh  4:00p Tot Shabbat Purim Gathering
<b>28 Adar 16</b>  9:00a Nitzanim/Gan  10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:35a Kitah Dalet Family Ed with Rabbi Toba  1:30p Adult Hebrew Part 2: Rooting In Hebrew	<b>MAR 1 Adar 17</b>	<b>2 Adar 18</b>  3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	<b>3 Adar 19</b>  8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment	<b>4 Adar 20</b>  1:30p Limpieza de Sangre and the "Clash of Civilizations"; Or, What Hath the Soul to Do with Racialized Bodies?	<b>5 Adar 21</b>  6:00p All Ages Erev Shabbat Service	<b>6 Adar 22</b>

## Children's and Family Programs

### TEEN PROGRAMMING

*Upcoming Opportunities for Connection, Fun, Learning, and Support*  
Earnest Vener, Director of Congregational Learning

This month I want to highlight CDT teens. I am excited to share that we are working in partnership with Hebrew College and Prozdor to create a CDT Spring Teen Learning series. The kick off event will be a brainstorming and in-



formation session on February 10th. CDT teens are invited to meet with former CDT teacher and Prozdor rabbinic intern, Frankie Sandmel, to brainstorm and plan the learning series. Teens will give input into how many sessions they want to have and the topics they would like to learn about.

Our facilitator, **Frankie Sandmel**, is a fourth-year rabbinical student at Hebrew College in Boston, an educator and a community organizer. Frankie spent last spring interning with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and is currently a SVARA teaching fellow, where they are learning about curating radically accessible, authentic Jewish text study. Before starting rabbinical school, Frankie was program director at SVARA, and taught at innovative Jewish after-school programs across Chicago. These days, Frankie is a teacher at Prozdor and a fellow at the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, where they work with a congregation in Augusta, Maine. When not teach-

Are you interested in designing your own CDT Teen Programming?

ing or exploring ancient texts, they love to bake and build community in their home in JP.

### BRAINSTORMING AND INFO SESSION

*Wednesday, February 10, 6:30-7:15pm*

Are you interested in designing your own CDT Teen Programming? Come meet with former CDT teacher and Prozdor Rabbinic Intern Frankie Sandmel to brainstorm ideas and plan a CDT Spring Teen Learning Series. We will discuss different formats where you can reconnect with fellow CDT teens and explore Jewish topics that are relevant and exciting to you. Teens will help design the Spring Teen Learning Series, a multi session program for Dorshei teens. They will give input on how often they meet and for how many sessions (with a minimum of three sessions). This first event is free. The Spring Teen Learning series will be \$10/session with a sliding scale option.

### TEEN WILDERNESS SCHOOL

*in Partnership with the Tent*

Join Jewish teens in the greater Boston area for once a month outdoor programming. This is a great opportunity for teens to be together outdoors and learn in a way they may not have before. We hope this opportunity to be in nature gives students space to engage their sense of self, explore their personal values, and develop confidence in their identity. The sessions will be led by Emily Heeren, Director of Admissions at BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy, who is an expert at you and teen outdoor education. For more information, visit: <https://www.tisrael.org/wilderness-teen/>

### TZELEM AT THE TENT

*Group for Transgender/Gender-non-conforming/Nonbinary Jewish Youth*  
*Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 11, May 2, and June 6 from 5-6:30pm*

Each month the Tzelem groups focus on topics such as healthy relationships, stress, belonging and identity. This is a great opportunity to meet and connect with other teens and Jewish trans adult mentors. There will be games, art, discussion, and exploration of Jewish teachings. For more information visit: <https://www.tisrael.org/tzelem/>

## Reconstructionist News

### JEWS, RACE, AND RELIGION: RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM LECTURE SERIES ON RACISM

*February 4, 11, 18, 25*

We warmly invite you to attend a free online lecture series presented jointly by the University of Pennsylvania's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's Center for Jewish Ethics.

Leading scholars in Jewish studies, critical race studies and religious studies will use the prism of Jewish experience to examine intersections of race and religion, drawing lessons from the history of antisemitism, examining the role of Jews in the racialized culture of the United States and exploring the impact of race on Jewish identity.

We hope that you can attend. All lectures will be recorded for viewing on demand. To register, visit <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/center-jewish-ethics/jews-race-and-religion>

### 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, DC, 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](https://Reconvention2022.org), which will be updated regularly. Schedule and program details coming soon!



## Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

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Address correction requested



## Purims Past...

