



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Nisan/Iyar 5781

April 2021



Photo: Religious school at the Cove, March 2021. Photo by Earnest Vener

COMING OUT OF THE DARK

By Bob Warren, President



A little over one year ago, our congregation gathered together in person at our March Members meeting featuring the President of Reconstructing Judaism, Dr. Deborah Waxman, and we celebrated Purim together at FUSN the next day. We have not met as a whole community since that week. Now, as we celebrate Pesach, a festival of coming forth and emerging, there is much to celebrate and much to reflect upon as we begin to emerge from this abnormal pandemic year.

As our ancestors went out from Egypt they did not know what was before them. Similarly, we do not know exactly what our future will look like. We see the beginnings of the possibilities of gathering safely together - as science permits. We hope that by May we will be able to have some small in-person gatherings for some Shabbat morning services, while the rest of our congregation continues to participate

remotely. Outdoor activities as we experienced on the 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah will begin to become more frequent. Our bi-annual retreat will be conducted as a series of small, outdoor 25-person events in the greater Boston area in mid-June. Our religious school students have begun having in-person outdoor sessions on Sunday mornings.

Recently, I joined with other singers in the Mystic Gospel chorus and we remotely recorded Gloria Esteban's "Coming Out of the Dark." Gloria's words resonate greatly with what we are all experiencing:

*Coming out of the dark, I finally see the light now.
It's shining on me
Coming out of the dark I know the love that saved me
You're sharing with me.*

While we spent the past year in remote community, we have experienced powerful Shabbat services, B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, fu-

nerals, shiva services and High Holidays. Our Religious School transformed itself to ensure a meaningful learning experience for the children of CDT, first under the leadership of Rabbi Shahr, and continuing with Earnest Vener. Our widely successful Virtual Interest Meetups (VIMS) have been a godsend for our community. The CDT virtual Art Gallery is the nucleus for an emerging broader CDT Arts program that hopefully will grow both virtually and in person (Zoom into CDT Arts' first meeting on April 7 at 5pm! See page 6 for details).

Other aspects of our community will continue remotely such as GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) listening sessions. We are one of 59 member institutions of the "Re-founded GBIO" to commit to these listening sessions, which are opportunities for mem-

bers of GBIO affiliates to share their concerns on all of the societal issues that affect, and in so doing, to help GBIO as an organization discern next steps for action. During the month of April, the Tikkun Olam Committee will sponsor several "listening sessions" with the dual purpose of providing input to GBIO for setting its agenda as well as for input on growing or creating CDT social justice initiatives.

Our COVID Protocol task force continues to meet and provide guidance to the congregation over safety concerns and under what conditions we can come out of the pandemic and begin to be more of an in-person community once again. As long as we work together with loving kindness and care we will come out of the darkness into our new normal together.

From the Board

BOARD NOMINATIONS

CDT needs you! The nomination process for the CDT Board of Directors is now open. You can find the Board Nomination Form at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/form/board-nomination-form.html>

The nominations will be open until May 19, 2022. You can also use that form to indicate your interest in becoming involved on a committee or other leadership positions.

Please contact CDT President **Bob Warren** (rmwarren53@gmail.com) for more information.

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:** Josette Akresh-Gonzales, 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

Executive Director: Melissa Colten,

m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org

Director of Congregational Learning: Earnest Vener,

e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org

Administrative Assistant: Erin Dimson-Doyle,

adminassistant@dorsheitzedek.org

Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin,

inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org

Interim Zoom Coordinator: Jordan Leonard,

zoom@dorsheitzedek.org

Technical Support Person: Dennis Maler

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: YOU?

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)

Members Meeting Notes

The semi-annual CDT Members Meeting was held on March 21 from 10:30am – noon via zoom. Highlights are included below, with full meeting notes available in the Members Section of our website.

The meeting began with important updates and announcements. CDT President **Bob Warren** reminded us that last March's members meeting was the last time we gathered in person. Bob also described the \$1800 grant CDT received from the Ruderman Foundation in support of mental health. Some sessions focused on mental health have already taken place, with several more planned.

VP of Membership **Debby Saltzman** welcome our new members, and thanked all those who hosted Virtual Interest Meet-ups in recent months. It was noted that there now is a group of 30-40 member households called CDT Southeast, representing all those living in the city of Boston, which has begun planning local activities.

Executive Director **Melissa Colten** introduced Erin Dimson-Doyle, who started in January as the CDT administrative assistant, and announced that Jordan Leonard, who has been the interim Zoom coordinator, is leaving mid-

April. **Dennis Maler** will be taking on the tech support of Rabbi Toba in the Sanctuary.

VP of Finance **Ezra Hausman** gave a financial update: CDT received a federal PPP loan which was forgiven, giving us a surplus and the ability to spend for covid-related needs, especially technology. Nediv Lev contributions so far total almost \$57K of our \$100K goal. If we meet our Nediv Lev goal, we look to be in good shape this year. VP of Tikkun Olam, **Stacey Chacker** referred everyone to the CDT website to see all the Tikkun Olam activities going on, including an upcoming GBIO listening sessions. Director of Congregational Learning **Earnest Vener** described the multitude of learning opportunities — for kids and adults.

The second half of the meeting was a workshop with Hadassah Margolis, who shared how mental health awareness is crucial for our Jewish spaces. We're often not used to taking space and/or talking about what we need. Nor is it common to allow space for people to tell the truth about how they are. Covid has had a huge impact in communication and community. It has exacerbated social and economic differences and separations. Now many more of us know what it is like to be 'not ok' and to talk about it, which opens space for others.

Members participated in small break-out groups, sharing their own experiences and offering recommendations for what CDT can do to be more helpful as it relates to mental health and inclusion. After the session with Hadassah, CDT member **Susan Nitkin**, who has led much of our inclusion work, shared with us some of the story of her son Noah and what she has learned from him about communication and appreciating everyone's gifts. Susan asked that all those who have suggestions around mental health inclusion or who are interested in these issues please email **access@dorsheitzedek.org**.

The meeting closed with an announcement that nominations for Board role and other leadership positions are now open, and VP of Leadership **Sheree Galpert** described the upcoming three-session workshop she will be offering about leadership for anyone interested in leadership at CDT at any level, in any way, at any time. And last but far from least, **Debbie Waber** and **Janice Cole**, our Nediv Lev co-chairs reminded everyone about the current Nediv Lev campaign and how we need everyone's help to reach the finish line! The last members meeting of 5781 will be on June 6th.

CDT YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH PROGRAM: DEFIANT REQUIEM

Wednesday, April 7, 7:30–9:00pm

We will mark Holocaust Remembrance Day with a screening of the 45-minutes version of the award-winning documentary film, *Defiant Requiem*, which features CDT member **Marianka Zadikow May** as well as **Edgar and Hana Krasa**, parents of CDT member **Dani Krasa**.

The evening will begin with a brief ceremony honoring the memory of the 6 million, and after the film showing there will be a discussion with Maestro Murry Sidlin, President and Artistic Director of The Defiant Requiem Foundation (<https://www.defiantrequiem.org/>). *Defiant Requiem* highlights the most dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in the Theresienstadt (Terezín) concentration camp during World War II. Led by imprisoned conductor Rafael Schächter, the inmates of Terezín fought back with the only weapons available — art and music. This creative rebellion reached its peak when Schächter challenged a choir of 150 inmates to learn Verdi's Requiem, reimagined as a condemnation of the Nazis. The film documents both this history and a reunion performance of the Requiem at Terezín in 2006, and features survivors and their families.

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, April 2, May 7 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. At the April service, we will celebrate the end of the Passover week, and in May, the service will be led by our Kitah Dalet students! 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.

7th Day of Passover Shabbat Morning Service, April 3: Tradition has it that on the 7th day after leaving Egypt, the Israelites crossed through the Reed Sea to freedom. In Reconstructionist practice, following the Israeli calendar, the seventh day is also the final day of the Passover week. We will celebrate this day with the singing of Hallel, and an opportunity to remember loved ones during the Yizkor service.

April 10, parshat Shemini: All are invited to join CDT members **Elaine Pollack** and **Rachel and Steve Adler-Golden** for the Shabbat morning service beginning at 10am, followed by a Torah reading and d’var Torah from CDT member **Esther Kohn** beginning at 11am. Come learn about the mystery surrounding Nadav and Avihu, sons of Aaron, in this week’s Torah portion!

April 17, parshat Tazria-Metzora: Rabbi Toba will lead the Shabbat morning service beginning at 10am, and a special Torah study

beginning at 11am dedicated to Earth Day and the spiritual challenges of confronting climate change.

Shabbat Morning Service and B’nei Mitzvah of Nuriel Gutman, April 24: We invite you to join us for the (mostly virtual) B’nei Mitzvah of **Nuriel Gutman**, as Nuri is called to the Torah on April 24. Nuri is a seventh grader at Boston Latin Academy, a public school in Dorchester. Nuri is a baseball player (lefty pitcher) on 2 baseball teams, an avid reader of sci-fi and fantasy, and a baker of ridiculously complicated and delicious cakes. Nuri also plays guitar, likes hanging out with close friends, and sparring with brother, Heschel. For Nuri’s tikkun olam project, Nuri raised funds and collected baseball equipment for kids who would not otherwise be able to play. We can’t wait for Nuri to be called to the Torah and we hope you’ll join us! — **Becca Gutman and Liz Steinhauer**

Shabbat Morning, May 1 — Kitah Vav Siyyum! All are welcome to join Kitah Vav, our 6th grade class, as they co-lead the morning service with **Rabbi Toba**. Services begin at 10am.

THE 16TH ANNUAL JOINT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Tuesday, April 13, 1:30pm ET

CDT is once again co-sponsoring this ceremony, hosted by Combatants for Peace and The Parents Circle–Families Forum, which will be live-streamed on the eve of Israeli Yom HaZikaron/Memorial Day. On this difficult day, Palestinians and Israelis come together to remember, mourn, and share the pain that all experience as a result of ongoing conflict. By acknowledging the pain of those living on the other side, the Ceremony offers us all the choice to walk a new path: the path of respect, equality, freedom — and ultimately peace. Featuring presentations by Israeli and Palestinian artists and speakers, this year’s

event is sure to inspire. Please register at <http://www.afcfp.org/memorial>.

YOM HA’ATZAMA’UT/ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thursday, April 15, 7:30pm-8:30pm

All are welcome to join members of CDT’s Israel Connection/Kesher Yisraeli group as they share personal and family stories about experiences in Israel, as well as Israeli music and more. To learn more about Israel Connection, please see **Ayelet Lipton’s** article on page 10.

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 Mornings 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 for the Zoom info).

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!

Community

Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT founder Jill Volk, whose 14th yahrzeit falls on April 23. We will remember Jill at Shabbat morning services on April 17; may her memory be for a blessing.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Fran Malino on the death of her daughter-in-law Kim Hoffman, the spouse of Fran's son Daniel, and mother of her grandchildren, Nathan and Jeron. May her memory be for a blessing.

CDT mourns the passing of Bill Gamson, and extends our condolences to Zee Gamson. Bill and Zee joined CDT a few years ago, and we are sad to lose Bill so soon. 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, April 13, 7:30-9:15pm

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.

Refuah Shleymah

We send blessings of healing to Al Glazerman and Alan Epstein.

TODAH RABAH

A huge thank you to all who made **Purim 5781** so special — including:

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Purim *mishloach manot* delivery possible, including bakers: **Hali Diecidue, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Helaine Carroll, Debby Saltzman, Allison Andrews, Melanie Adler, Herzig-Marxes, Darya Mattes, Valerie Graf, Steffi Aronson**



Karp, Marjorie Salvodon, Elaine Pollack, Liz Carver, Ruth Paris, Marni Caputo, Laya Steinberg, Cindy Rivka Marshall, Kathy Pillsbury, Scott Gordon, Becky Cohen, Allison Peiser, Marcia Okun, Nina Dudnik, Amy Pollack-Howard, and Rachel Pytel. And our drivers: **Rebecca Pomerantz, Janet Rickles, Bill Shorr, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Beth Green, Corinne Lofchie, Helaine Carroll, Sharon Gorberg, John Holohan, Jen Kaplan, Cindy Rikva Marshall, Emily Mathis, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Scott Tepper, Ami Gordon, Allison Hausman, Lisa Keshet, Pamela Rosenstein, Andy Stefano, Jennifer Sartori, Liz Reisberg, Jessica Keimowitz, Judy Hersh, Pam Katz, and Rachel Davenport.** And the kids and parents who assembled the *mishloach manot*: **Nate Feinfeld, Clara Engles, Isadora Greenberg, Hannah Crozier, Tali Edelstein, and Jenna Schwartz,** with help from **Emily Mathis and Marjorie Feld.**

Thank you to **Marcia Okun** for a wonderful hamantaschen-baking Zoom workshop.

Todah Rabah to the fabulous Megillah Leyners: **Miriam Bronstein, Nina Dudnik, Laurie Goldman and Reva Kasman!**

And last but FAR from least: a TODAH RABAH to Spielmeister **Sheree Galpert**, whose creativity knows no bounds, for orchestrating this year's Purim Spiel, along with the fabulous cast and co-creators: **Doug Hersh, Marcia Okun, Rachel Pytel, Andrew Sofer, Audra Karp, Judy Hersh, Thea Breite, Earnest "Earnie Bernie" Vener, Ila & Evelyn Albenberg, Ruby Gan, Lia Kobi, Almog Keshet, Shirel Moser, and Eva & Noah Pytel.** Special thanks to **Sarah Little** for music video production!

A big thank you to everyone who led a VIM this March: **Steffi Aronson Karp, Rachele Rossi-Kessel, Trish Nuzzola, Sarah Birkeland, Ruby Gan, Evan Gan, Elliot Shumsky, Anna Kaplan, Eleanor Kaplan, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Josh Lieberman and Marcia Okun, Scott Tepper, Cindy Rivka Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Ezra Hausman, Sheree Galpert, Thea Breite, Amy Dain, Samantha Lent, Emily Sper.** And a special thank you to **Debby Saltzman** for making it all happen!

Thank you to **Corinne Lofchie** and **Abby Cohen** for serving on CDT's Tikkun Olam Steering Committee, and their contributions and leadership to our Tikkun Olam work.

Member-led services present an opportunity for us to appreciate the skill and devotion of many people in our community. The Ritual Committee wants to thank all those who led and participated in Shabbat morning service in recent months:

In March, **Sue Lanser** and **Jo Radner** led Morning Blessings and Songs of Praise. **Dan Rome** led the Morning Service. **Jonathan Rosenthal** offered thoughts on the week's Torah portion. And a big Todah Rabah to our Torah leyners: **Scott Tepper, Melanie Adler, and Cindy Shulak-Rome.** And thank you **Jordan Leonard** and **Melissa Colten** for supporting service leaders and for holding us all securely in our virtual tent.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Emily Cowan!

CDT Events

CDT WALKING BUDDIES

Sign up for a walking buddy! As the weather warms up, now is the perfect time to go for a walk with another CDT Member. Go to dorsheitzedek.org/members to sign up!

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Thursday, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 7:00pm

Thinking about getting more involved in how CDT runs? Curious about what it takes to be on the Board, or what leadership is like at CDT? It's not a cabal - it's not even a clubhouse with a secret handshake and password (though that would be fun...) CDT will be hosting an online series of 3 one-hour sessions on leadership on 3 consecutive Thursdays: 3/31, 4/7, and 4/14. Yes, the kick-off is during Pesach - what better

time to step into leadership than when you're on your way out of Mitzrayim? Open to all CDT adults, at home or away.

CDT MINI RETREAT 2021- SAVE THE DATE

June 12, 2021

Although we are not having our retreat this year, we are planning a special day-long mini-retreat the weekend of June 12-13. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more info! If you would like to join the planning committee of Rachel and Chad Pytel and Margo Michaels, please email Margo at margomichaels@gmail.com.

CDT Arts

CDT ARTS MEETING

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Calling all artists: CDT Arts wants to know about you! We're putting together a group for all CDT performing, literary, culinary, visual, and other artists, be they professional, amateur, budding, or just ready to explore. Please join us at this very first meeting to envision what the group will be and how it can enrich and connect the greater CDT community. Registration requested, but not required. Please contact **Melissa Colten** (m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org) with questions and ideas. Registration requested, but not required, on the event listing on the CDT calendar.

Looking for Musicians, Amateurs and Professionals, All Instruments, Soloists and Groups!

The CDT Virtual Art Shows have been a terrific success and brought great joy, particularly in this time of Coronavirus lock-down. At the last visual art show, Joe Bayes was kind enough to serenade us on the piano, which expanded our auditory pleasure and created the idea of having a CDT zoom musical event. This is your opportunity to perform for a loving, supportive, appreciative community in the comfort of your home or studio and have some fun. Please be in touch with **Melissa Colten, executive director** at execdirector@dorsheitzedek.org, if interested in helping design the evening and/or being a guest musician!



Reconstructionist News

JEWS, RACE, AND RELIGION

April 8, 15, 22

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. To register, visit <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/center-jewish-ethics/jews-race-and-religion>

Lectures in April:

April 8: "Funny - You Don't Look Jewish!"

April 15: From Minneapolis, Minnesota to the Streets of Jerusalem: The Diaspora Within. Mizrahi Jews, Race, Belonging, Dislocation and Identity

April 22: Purity Politics and the Problem of Jewish Solidarity

SAVE THE DATE! RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM CONVENTION

March 23-27, 2022

Proposals for Convention Workshops Due By April 15th!

The Convention Steering and Program Committees are accepting proposals for creative and interactive session ideas that include a diversity of voices, help participants build and practice skills, and provide clear learnings and takeaways. Proposals should relate to the primary topics of the conference, including Tikkun Olam, congregational life, Education, Israel, Jewish values, theology, and more. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis but should be submitted by April 15th. If your proposal is accepted, the Convention Program Committee will work with you to build out the workshop or panel. Details and application can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFPCConvention2022>.

GBIO WELCOMES NEW CONGREGATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

By Louise Enoch and Tony Broh

A Zoom meeting in March celebrated the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)'s two-year "re-founding" effort, to engage more congregations and organizations in its activities. Thirty-seven members of Dorshei Tzedek helped welcome the 19 new member congregations that will increase the racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood diversity of GBIO. To begin the meeting, each congregation showed a short "roll call" video with Rabbi Toba answering for CDT. The meeting also introduced the next stage in GBIO's organizing this year — "listening sessions" happening at its member organizations, where participants can share their personal concerns and issue preferences for the GBIO agenda. Members of the Tikkun Olam Committee and others in CDT are receiving training in facilitating the "listening sessions." Beginning in May, GBIO staff and volunteers will prioritize and research the "winnable" activities for action in the coming year. If you have questions about GBIO or would like to get involved in the CDT GBIO team, please contact **Tony Broh** (tonybroh@gmail.com) or **Louise Enoch** (lpenoch@gmail.com).

TIKKUN OLAM MEETING & LISTENING SESSION

Wednesday, April 28, 7-8:30pm

"The Earth has Music for those who Listen — William Shakespeare. The Bard reminds us that "repairing the world" requires someone to listen. So that is exactly what the Dorshei Tzedek Tikkun Olam Steering Committee plans to do, as well as to share information about our congregational Tikkun Olam efforts.

On April 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, all CDT members are invited to a Tikkun Olam meeting that will combine updates on congregational Tikkun Olam efforts with a GBIO-sponsored "listening session." CDT members will have the opportunity to share our concerns about what in our communities and state need "repair," with the dual purpose of providing input to the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) for setting its agenda and for helping to shape future CDT social justice activities.



In addition, there is an opportunity for parents of school-aged children to attend a listening session on **April 17, 3:30 pm.** Mark your calendar for these dates and watch for more information on the website and weekly announcements about additional listening sessions.

UNDOING RACISM AT CDT

Following up to the community meeting about undoing racism this past June, the CDT Board this past fall called for the creation of a working group of White CDT members to begin to explore what it will mean for our congregation to become an actively anti-racist community. In February, the working group and members of CDT's BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community met with consultant Imani Chapman to center voices of our members of color, and to begin to vision together. Conversations continue, and we hope to have concrete plans and learning to share with the community at the June Members Meeting.

MOTHERS DAY WALK FOR PEACE

May 9, 2021, 9:00am

Save the Date and Register to Celebrate 25 Years of Walking for Peace

The Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace is taking place with an online broadcast on May 9, 2021 at 9:00 am. You can go to www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. And this year, in honor of the 25th anniversary of this walk there is an additional program starting in April: 25 Days of Walking.

Upon registration, you will receive a calendar of weekly activities, starting Monday, April 4, that we can do together as a team. From mindfulness activities, physical activities, fundraising tips to pre-walk events, together we'll get our minds and bodies moving and honor lives impacted by homicide. Stay tuned for information about the Dorshei Tzedek Team page! Any questions, please reach out to **Abby Cohen** at abby.cohen@verizon.net or call **617-216-3540**.

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: <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.

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.

A CULTURE OF CHESED APRIL 2021

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. Chesed takes many forms.

While several volunteers provided traditional Chesed meals, CDT's Purim spirit was also a testament to CDT's Chesed generosity. The volunteers who baked hamantaschen and delivered mishloach manot bags demonstrated our capacity for comfort and connection even during the stress and hardship of the pandemic. Chesed was also evident as members shared information on navigating the frustrating logistics of finding a vaccine appointment.

When a typical Chesed need arises such as a meal, we are currently ordering from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, thanks to Rabbi Toba's Discretionary Fund. One of the Chesed Coordinators will contact the member to inquire about food preferences, order the meal, and send out a request from Lotsa-HelpingHands for a volunteer to pick up and deliver the meal.

The Chesed Coordinators for April/May are **Lisa Hirsh**, **Dianne Lior**, and **Fran Malino**. Please contact them if you have questions or a request for Chesed at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.



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:

ADULT EDUCATION

Phyllis Kirschner — *in thanks for welcoming her to Mindful Mornings*

GENERAL FUND

Elaine Bresnick — *in memory of Doris Penn*
Cindy Shulack-Rome and Dan Rome — *in memory of Doris Penn, mother of Janet Penn*
Steffi Aronson Karp and Eric Karp
Barbara Beck — *in memory of My sister Louise Beck, my brother Stephen Beck, my father and mother, Irving and Edith Beck*
Diane Becker
Robin Bernstein
Susan Bernstein
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Joann G Breuer — *in memory of Miklos Breuer*
Tony Broh and Jennifer Hochschild
Miriam Bronstein — *with deep gratitude to all CDT leaders who have created a warm and vibrant congregational experience during the COVID-19 pandemic*
Harriet Budd — *in memory of Muriel Budd on the anniversary of her 10th yahrzeit, Lou Budd, and Sylvia and Murray Traister; In honor of Alice Markowitz who performed a tremendous mitzvah by taking me home from MGH!! Can't thank her enough for her kindness!!*
Melissa Colten and Georgi Tsekov
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Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb

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Elaine Pollack — *in honor of Melissa Colten*
Lidia Puente
Rachel & Chad Pytel
Sheryl & Jeff Sacks
Diane Shufro & Matthew Shuster
Carole Slipowitz and Dan Halbert
Theresa St John-Siegel and Steven Siegel
Sue Weil and Sandy Goodman
Jonathan Weisberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Annette Jacobs — *in honor of and with much gratitude to John Holohan for his many years of admirable, calm, unflappable stewardship of the CDT newsletter, a truly remarkable professional "volunteer" publication*
Annette Jacobs — *with deepest appreciation to Rav Tiffany, Earnest and his troubadours, all the CDT players, all the CDT bakers, Purim bag assemblers and deliverers, and all the "behind the scenes" people, who made Purim such a successful community event, particularly in these times of COVID isolation. None of us felt alone. What an amazing community to be a part of.*
Annette Jacobs — *in memory of her sweet, kind, Siegmund Lavarie. His memory is a blessing for me and all who knew and loved him*

YAHREIT DONATIONS

Jacqueline Fleischman — *in memory of Stan Fleischman, with thanks to Rabbi Toba and the congregation*
Sharon Gorberg — *in memory of her beloved father, George Gorberg*
Rabbi Barbara Penzner and Brian Rosman — *in loving memory of Gina Fried*

Learning

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 with any questions.

THE DISORDERED COSMOS: BOOK TALK WITH DR. CHANDA PRESCOD-WEINSTEIN

Thursday evening, April 22, 7:30pm-9:00pm



We are thrilled to be hosting CDT member **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein** as she reads from and shares about her new book, *The Disordered Cosmos: Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred*. One of the leading physicists of her generation,

Chanda is also one of fewer than one hundred Black American women to earn a PhD from a department of physics. In the book, she shares her love for physics, from the Standard Model of Particle Physics and what lies beyond it, to the physics of melanin in skin, to the latest theories of dark matter — all with a new spin informed by history, politics, and the wisdom of Star Trek. She urges us to recognize how science, like most fields, is rife with racism, sexism, and other dehumanizing systems. The book lays out a bold new approach to science and society that begins with the belief that we all have a fundamental right to know and love the night sky. To order *The Disordered Cosmos* and read it before the talk, go www.boldtypebooks.com.

TALMUD FOR THE 99%

Sundays 4:30-6:30pm - April 11, April 18, April 25, May 2

Join Earnest for a four session Talmud class between Passover and Shavuot. In this class we will prepare for Shavuot, which commemorates the Jewish people entering into a covenantal relationship with God, by decoding a

wild Talmudic story that completely reimagines the covenantal moment. We will explore the rabbis' motivation for their subversive reimagining, and their vision for a more liberatory relationship with the Divine.

This is a SVARA-Method class, each session will begin with chevruta (study partner) learning. You and your chevruta will work with the text in the original Hebrew and Aramaic, using dictionaries to decipher each word. All you need to begin learning is your alef-bet (the ability to sound out the Hebrew alphabet) and you're ready to go! Still working on your alef-bet? Check out these resources and contact Earnest, e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org, for support.

For complete information about the SVARA-Method, go to Talmud for the 99% webpage at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/talmud-for-the-99.html>

Children's and Family Programs

CDT SHABBAT AFTERNOON OUTDOORS

Saturdays, April 3, 17, and May 8, 29, 3:30-4:30pm

Dorshei kids, grades PreK-7/Zayin, spend Shabbat afternoon with Dorshei Tzedek at Auburndale Cove.

Our Outdoor Coordinator, **Allie Comet**, is bringing nature connection to Dorshei Tzedek. Nature connection is a pedagogy of slowing down, getting curious, and sensory awareness. Allie is working with our CDT educators to bring Jewish practice to life in nature. Sessions begin with a hod'ah, gratitude, circle and end with a Shabbat spot. A Shabbat spot (a spot by themselves) is a place to sit and practice quieting down and observing the world around them. Then the kids come back together to share what they noticed. During the sessions the kids explore the woods at the cove and play games connected to Jewish themes and/or the environment.

The goal of these programs is to create opportunities for community building, nature connection, and socializing. The program will be framed with Jewish content, but is not a supplement for Religious School. Masks and social distancing are required and will be maintained for the duration of the program. Space is limited to a maximum of 10 children per group to maintain Covid safety. Sign up on the CDT website to save your spot! This program is open to the public, spread the word and invite friends to register!

SAVE THE DATES:

Apr. 3rd, 3:30-4:30 PM
Apr. 17th, 3:30-4:30 PM
May 8th, 3:30-4:30 PM
May 29th, 3:30-4:30 PM

PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN DURING COVID

Sunday, April 4, 2021 10:30am - 11:30am

With Jennifer R. Meyerhardt, sponsored by JF&CS

This workshop is an opportunity for parents of elementary school aged children and younger to come together and share challenges and insights about the many layered challenges of parenting during the pandemic, including balancing work and parenting, addressing concerns and fears of children regarding the pandemic, understanding, managing challenging behaviors of children that have arisen during the pandemic and preparing for the future of post-vaccinated daily life.

Jennifer R. Meyerhardt, LCSW, M.Ed., J.D. is a clinician for Project NESST (Newborns Exposed to Substances: Support and Therapy) and supports new parents who are in recovery at the Center for Early Relationship Support (CERS) at Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Boston.

ISRAEL & US

One of the most challenging topics for many American Jewish communities is Israel and our relationship to it. At CDT, our members encompass a broad range of experiences with, connections to, and opinions about the state of Israel. This past year, some remarkable conversations have been happening between leaders of our Israeli-Palestinian Peace working group and Israeli and Israel-identified members of CDT. I wanted to personally thank this group for their brave conversations, and re-state my own commitment to figuring out how we can become a community that can embrace all of the diversity of experience and opinion, and foster safe and brave spaces for conversation. With gratitude to CDT member Ayelet Lipton for sharing her thoughts and experiences with us here. — Rabbi Toba

FORGING AN ISRAEL CONNECTION AT CDT

by Ayelet Lipton

Early in the covid lockdown, while still figuring out how to teach remotely, how to support my twelve-year-old, and whether I could safely visit my parents, I received an email from a CDT congregant whom I had not previously met. She asked if I'd be interested in joining a group of Israeli, Israel-identified, and Israel-connected CDT members in exploring how we experience that identity within the CDT community and how we might build bridges across different views of Israel. I immediately jumped on the opportunity, for this was the one part of CDT with which I had a hard time.

I grew up on a secular kibbutz. My mother was born during the war of Independence in 1948 while her father was serving as a soldier. My maternal grandparents were Holocaust survivors whose lives were saved by being able to flee to Eretz Yisrael in the late 1930s. A vast majority of their family members were not so lucky. My grandparents helped found the kibbutz where my mother was raised, where she met my father when he arrived as a mitnaveh (volunteer), and where I spent my formative years. It is where my son and I visit at least once a year, and where I feel most at home. Israel is a core part of who I am. Having been raised by a family who deeply believes in the kibbutz ideology, I was also raised to help those in need, to recognize that one person does not deserve to have more than another, and always to give from what I have to others who may need it.

As a secular Israeli, I truly never thought I'd ever find myself joining a synagogue. But as I raised my son in the Boston area, my ties to Judaism got stronger, and I eventually found myself teaching at CDT. When I decided to move on professionally, my son had already made close friends through the religious school, and I had developed some great friendships as well. We were also both moved by the deep commitment to social justice at CDT. Even though I was uncomfortable with the Israel

views that were publicly held by many in the CDT community, we decided to become synagogue members.

Starting this past May, eight Dorshei members with strong and varied feelings about Israel began to meet regularly. We shared our stories. We talked about our feelings, connections, and experiences with respect to Israel. It wasn't always easy. Our group ranges from people born and raised in Israel who served in the military to people who have never been to Israel and do not support how the Jewish state was created. Our goal was never to change one another's opinions, but to unite around the need to be able to celebrate, critique, learn, and question Israel, a complexity that was either lost or never established at CDT. As we opened our hearts and created this brave space we were able to engage in deep and powerful conversations aimed at understanding our various perspectives and, most importantly, ensuring we all were seen and heard.

As our conversations evolved, we became even braver, and decided to form a mission and vision statement to share with the CDT community. Over several months we debated every word of that statement. We worked hard to listen to what each individual was feeling and to reach compromises. Our final draft is as follows:

ORIGINS OF THIS GROUP/WHO WE ARE

We are a group of Dorshei members who have come together to explore our deep feelings about and connections to Israel. Some of us are Israeli, some are Israeli identified, and some are folks who are committed to a fuller exploration of their own relationship with Israel.

Our Vision:

1. Create a safe and brave space in which Dorshei members with strong ties to Israel can express the fullness of their relationship, identification, and/or connection to Israel.

2. Help the Dorshei community as a whole become more inclusive and welcoming to current and prospective Israeli and Israeli-identified members.

3. Create a broader connection to Israel among the Dorshei adult and youth communities by exploring Israel's histories and diverse cultures, languages, accomplishments, and challenges.

Our Goals:

1. Given that Israel is an integral part of Jewish history, we hope to create opportunities for members to learn about Israel's spiritual richness, diverse cultures, languages, music, histories, peoples, and personal stories of Israeli life.

2. Work with the Director of Congregational Learning and the Religious School Committee to expand the religious school curriculum to include multiple and diverse narratives and images of Israel, its languages, cultures, achievements, challenges, etc.

3. Support the creation of affinity groups based on members' desires for connections to Israel.

After meeting with Rabbi Toba, Earnest Vener, and Melissa Colten to share what we had been feeling, we were invited to meet with the CDT Board. We spent hours planning how to have the most impact, and we agreed that sharing our personal stories would be the most important first step.

Listening to my—now—friends speak to the Board about feeling othered at CDT, about not being seen, brought me to tears. It is painful to feel the need to hide the Israeli part of our identities in a Jewish community. When my turn came, I shared how important Israel is to who I am and yet I felt I couldn't bring that part of me to CDT. I explained that I knew it was never anybody's intention to "other" us, but we were nonetheless othered. I shared my confidence in CDT's ability to right this wrong and our hope that the board would take on this challenge.

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The Board's response was so powerful; each person who spoke shared their pain in realizing that we had been feeling othered. We were thanked for bravely sharing our truths, and assured that the Board was committed to steps toward ensuring that Israeli and Israel-identified members no longer experience CDT in this way.

As a first step, we invite others who would like to deepen their understanding and connection to Israel to join us in forming a CDT group that we are calling Israel Connection/Kesher Yisraeli. We welcome all congregants invested in seeing Israel, with all of its complexity, become a three-dimensional experience in our congregational life.

If you are interested in joining in this effort, want to be involved in next steps, or would like to share your ideas, please be in touch with me (ayeletlipton@gmail.com). You are also welcome to speak with any member of our group: **Lisa Keshet, Elaine Landes, Sue Lanser, Dianne Lior, Ayelet Lipton, Jonathan Rosenthal, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Viv Shein.**

APRIL 2021 • NISAN/IYYAR 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Nisan 15 10:00a Afikomen Scavenger Hunt 4:30p Family Passover Adventure: K'ilu Kits with Adam Blotner 5:30p Passover - Second Night Community Seder	29 Nisan 16 1st Day Omer	30 Nisan 17 8:30a Mindful Mornings 3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6 7:30p Telling Our Stories Part II	31 Nisan 18 5:30p Mincha Moment 7:00p Leadership Workshop	1 Nisan 19	2 Nisan 20 6:00p All Ages Erev Shabbat Service	3 Nisan 21 10:00a 7th Day of Passover Shabbat Morning Service 3:30p Shabbat Afternoon Outdoors
4 Nisan 22 10:00a Kitot Dalet, Hey & Zayin: Religious School Outdoors 10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:30a JF&CS Parenting Young Children During Covid 10:35a Kitah Vav Family Ed With Rabbi Toba	5 Nisan 23	6 Nisan 24 3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	7 Nisan 25 8:00a Torah Study 5:00p CDT Arts Meeting 5:30p Mincha Moment 7:00p Leadership Workshop 7:30p CDT Yom Hashoah v'HaGevurah Program: Defiant Requiem	8 Nisan 26 Yom HaShoah 1:30p "Funny - You Don't Look Jewish!"	9 Nisan 27 12th Day Omer	10 Nisan 28 Shmini 10:00a Shabbat Services
11 Nisan 29 9:00a Nitzanim/Gan 10:00a Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:00a Kitot Alef-Gimel: Religious School Outdoors 4:30p Talmud for the 99%	12 Nisan 30 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	13 Iyyar 1 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 4:00p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6; Rosh Chodesh Iyyar & Ma'ariv Program	14 Iyyar 2 8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment 7:00p Leadership Workshop	15 Iyyar 3 1:30p From Minneapolis, Minnesota to the Streets of Jerusalem: The Diaspora Within. Mizrahi Jews, Race, Belonging, Dislocation and Identity	16 Iyyar 4 5:30p Tot Shabbat	17 Iyyar 5 Tazria-Metzora 10:00a Shabbat Services 3:30p Shabbat Afternoon Outdoors
18 Iyyar 6 4:30p Talmud for the 99%	19 Iyyar 7	20 Iyyar 8	21 Iyyar 9 8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment	22 Iyyar 10 1:30p Purity Politics and the Problem of Jewish Solidarity 7:30p The Disordered Cosmos	23 Iyyar 11	24 Iyyar 12 Achrei Mot-Kedoshim 10:00a Shabbat Morning Service & B'nai Mitzvah of Nuriel Gutman
25 Iyyar 13 4:30p Talmud for the 99%	26 Iyyar 14 Pesach Sheni	27 Iyyar 15 3:30p Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	28 Iyyar 16 8:00a Torah Study 5:30p Mincha Moment 7:00p Tikkun Olam Listening Sessions	29 Iyyar 17	30 Iyyar 18 Lag B'Omer (33rd Day Omer)	1 Iyyar 19 Emor 10:00a Kitah Vav Siyyum



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West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Purim Spiel 2021



Day 63 of Vroom Esther