



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465  
617-965-0330 | [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org) | [info@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:info@dorsheitzedek.org)

Tammuz/Av/Elul 5781

July/August 2021



CDT Retreat 5781

## 25 Months

Melissa Colten



In late May 2019, at the members meeting in fellowship hall, I met Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for the first time. The community had grown so much since its founding in 1991 that I had been brought on as CDT's executive director to take on the administrative, operational, and financial management of the congregation. Much has happened in the 25 months since that

members meeting: ShulCloud integration, Rabbi Toba's sabbatical, COVID-19, Zoom everything, good-byes to Rabbi Shahar and administrative associate Lidia Prunte, online searches and a virtual hiring process for our Director of Congregational Learning, Earnest Vener, and administrative assistant, Erin Dimson-Doyle (both amazing).

Life changed and we all adapted. We've become accustomed to making countless technical adjustments, learning in virtual classrooms, looking at our own faces on screen in a small box, sitting in pods, coping with new A/V equipment in the sanctuary, viewing and/or attending outdoor services at Gann Academy, swallowing the awkwardness of stepping into a room with a masked person or 2, and later into a room full of masked people, and finally unmasking. We have made new connections in isolation, we have read and memorized each other's names, and we are now—maybe—taking a break and letting our eyes adjust to broader unplugged landscapes as we head into summer's wider horizons.

I was in Indiana last weekend. Plane having just landed, and pleading polite ignorance, I asked the Budget rent-a-car clerk what the state's mask mandate was, how Indiana was faring, if she had been vaccinated, etc. Just some exhausted late night post-flight bantering small talk. She apologetically replied that she had been vaccinated. Although her son had warned her against it, she had gone ahead and done it. "There are a lot of people coming through this airport from all over," she said. As for the mask rules, it just depended on the store.

Later, at camp pre-registration, families lined up to have their kid's vaccination card copied or, if their child hadn't been vaccinated, have them covid tested before entering the main registration building. After waiting outside for a good 20 minutes, the breeze coming off the lake, my son and I finally made it through the first set of double glass doors of the temporarily repurposed facilities building. We saw row after row of kids and teens sitting in chairs waiting for their test results behind the intake line of computers. We were there for about 2 minutes. A camp employee gleefully photocopied our vaccination card, handed it back to us, and firmly attached a band around Theo's wrist.

Did my little trip make me feel happy and relieved that we live where we do? Not really, no. Quite the opposite. What it did was pop my Massachusetts bubble, and now it feels like I'm coated with a mix of over-chewed bubblegum and Palmolive - stale stretching and slimy, but hopeful that I'll get clean after applying some serious elbow grease.

There are so many things I appreciate from the comfort and safety of the Dorshei Tzedek community. Oddly, after  
 10 in-person months,  
 15 covid months,  
 19 additional households,  
 3 new staff members with altered positions,  
 2 board presidents,  
 1 short-term personnel committee,  
 2 medium-term re-entry protocol committees,  
 1000+ hours of Zoom meetings and funerals and shiva minyanim and b'nei mitzvah and Shabbat services, and  
 1 trip to Indiana,  
 it is just now that I feel that I am beginning to fully grasp who and what Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is, after that members' meeting 25 months ago.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, first and foremost, is a group of people: 249 households from the states of New York, Maryland, New Hampshire, Virginia, Louisiana, and Massachusetts. Within Massachusetts, about 47% of our households reside in Newton, but we are truly spread all over Massachusetts in a total of 27 towns.

We have quite an age spread - from 1 year old to 93: 6 of us are under age 4; 80 are children aged 4-13; 101 are aged 14-22; 148 are aged 23-35; 114 are aged 36-50; 175 are aged 51-65; and 101 of us are over age 66. Our interests are as different as our ages, spanning from immigration to singing to Talmud, from spirituality to politics to the arts, all with our own opinions and stories, and ways of holding and communicating them. How are we such a remarkably cohesive congregation?

This group of people doesn't just rise to challenge, it fiercely embraces it. Pinpointing the most controversial issues, deconstructing them in discussion, examining their parts on personal and societal levels as individuals, intellectuals, and members of ever-expanding

and shifting communities, CDT is constantly growing its "we." Note what work has been initiated and/or accomplished in just the past 2 years: Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative's (of which CDT is a founding member) sanctuary project; the Voter Mobilization Project's 80,000+ postcards; the Mental Health initiative's informational and self-care workshops and support groups for parents and larger community, commitment to ongoing anti-racism work, Keshet Yisraeli/Israel Connections discussions and presentations- just to name a few. While others ignore or castigate, CDT welcomes and listens. There is an extraordinary commitment here to identify and define the stickiest and thinnest lines that both separate and connect us. CDT is accustomed to deep thought, which is rare in the 21st century, and yet still fills the brain and heart like fresh air fills the lungs.

CDT is in its 30th year - no longer a child, more like an adult entering their prime. Excitingly, we don't have to usher in the next stage, we can design it. We can mold our new world, bravely and proactively build it to include all, to be accessible to all, to be flexible yet strong enough to withstand constant reconstruction so as to match our evolving needs as we grow up, out and in. What is our history and how can we learn from it? How do we want to define our community, design our community, so that we live our values? What does participation mean and look like at CDT? [See page 7 for a full list of our committees and groups] How do we measure it - hours volunteered, wideness of smile, pages written, classes and/or meetings attended, dollars donated, bagels sliced at kiddush, meals delivered, marches joined?

With so much that has happened in my first 25 months with CDT, I can only wonder what the next 25 months will bring, which themes will be chosen and questions explored, and I can't wait.

## 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, [e.dimson-doyle@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.dimson-doyle@dorsheitzedek.org)

Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green, [inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org)

Technical Support Person: Dennis Maler

### Executive Committee:

President: Bob Warren

1st VP: Stacey Chacker

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

Secretary: Dan Rome

### Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

VP Education: David Rhodes

VP Tikkun Olam: Tony Broh

### Board Members-at-Large:

Sheree Galpert, Melody Komyerov, Linda Kramer, Ayelet Lipton, Carla Naumburg, Jenny Sartori, Ro Weichman

### Off-Board Chairs:

Children's Education: Sarah Birkeland

Chesed: Gail Pressberg

Nediv Lev: Janice Cole & it could be you!

Newsletter: Vacant - could be you!

Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling

DCL Liaison: Lissy Medvedow

Space: Steve Siegel

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

## 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](mailto:cbsrome@comcast.net).



## From the Board

### CDT BOARD 5782

The Board has helped to guide CDT through this challenging year, meeting by Zoom throughout the pandemic. As we begin 5782, the Board will be saying goodbye to Lissy Medvedow, our amazing past-President, Diana Fisher Gomberg (VP of Education), as well as members-at-large Ellie Axe, Lisa Samelson, and Jonathan Rosenthal.

Joining the Board or changing roles will be: Stacey Chacker (President Elect), Dan Rome (Secretary), David Rhodes (VP of Education), Tony Broh (VP of Tikkun Olam), and members-at-large Melody Komyerov, Ayelet Lipton, Jenny Sartori, Sheree Galpert and Ro Weichman.

Remaining on the Board in their current roles are Bob Warren (President), Ezra (Treasurer), Debby Saltzman (VP of Membership) and members-at-large Linda Kramer and Carla Naumburg.

We are deeply thankful to everyone who served on the Board in 5781, and look forward to the leadership of our new board in 5782.



Kayaking on the Charles River VIM

## From the Office

### STAFF VACATION SCHEDULE FOR THE SUMMER

Rabbi Toba will be on vacation for the month of July. Please see page 9 for information about whom to contact in Rabbi Toba's absence.

Executive Director Melissa Colten will be on vacation July 10-18, and July 29-August 2. For administrative assistance, please contact Erin Dimson-Doyle

Director of Congregational Learning Earnest Vener will be on vacation June 25-July 5.

Administrative Assistant Erin Dimson-Doyle will be on vacation July 1-6.

### LISTSERV GROUPS.IO

Let the office know if you'd like to be a part of them! cdt-climate, cdt-criminal-justice-reform, cdt-east, cdt-immigration, cdt-inclusion, cdt-ippeace, cdt-leyning, cdt-men's group, cdt-mindful-mornings, cdt-share, cdt-sings, cdt-southeast, cdt-tikkun-olam, cdt-understanding-racism.



Please join us in welcoming **Jess Green** (she/her/hers) as the new **CDT Religious School Inclusion Coordinator!** She will also be teaching first graders in her eighth year at Temple Beth Shalom and leading the Family Learning Circle at Nehar Shalom for the second year. Jess earned her Master's degree in Jewish education with a focus on special education from Hebrew College. She has a strong focus on Jewish spaces that are inclusive and believes that everyone can and should learn and live Jewishly and in community. Jess loves to teach about social justice, Jewish food, holidays, and ways to make ritual our own. Originally from New Jersey, Jess has lived in Boston for 16 years and is a member of several different local Jewish communities. She loves to cook for her chosen families, hang out with the kiddos in her life, and be at the beach.

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org). Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. **Volunteer Staff:** Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

# Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice

## A NOTE FROM RABBI TOBA ON OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

As Covid-19 levels in Massachusetts remain low, and as more and more of our members are vaccinated and it becomes possible to gather again in person, we are moving away from our "Zoom only" format into a new, experimental phase. We are now set up to livestream many of our services and programs, using a Youtube format that will provide much better audio and visual quality than Zoom. This also allows for those beaming in to use the "comments" section for communal chat. Going forward, we will offer a smorgasbord of formats, including some in-person summer services in members' backyards (no livestream), an outdoor all-ages service that will also be livestreamed, and a return to our sanctuary at the end of August (with livestream available for all of our sanctuary services). The Ritual Committee is also discussing using Zoom for some services in the coming year, with everyone (including the service leaders) beaming in from their homes, enabling us to avoid winter storms, to host guest speakers from across the country and the globe, and have an experience where everyone is "together" in the same virtual space. Over the High Holydays, we will also be experimenting with a combination of in-person services with livestream, outdoor gatherings without a virtual component, and Zoom programs.

We appreciate everyone's understanding, patience and flexibility as we figure out how to incorporate the best of our pandemic adaptations from the past year, while also returning to the communal experiences that so many missed. The truth is that no one format works optimally for everyone, but we hope to continue learning and exploring this new world of multiple access options together.

## SHABBAT MORNING SUMMER SERVICES

July 10 & 24, August 14 & 28, September 4

During the summer, we have two Shabbat services each in July and August, and we resume weekly Shabbat morning services livestreamed from the sanctuary in September. Please go to the Spiritual Life tab on the CDT website for livestream links and registration.

### Shabbat mornings, July 10 & 24, 10am-Noon

- These in-person services, led by Dorshei Tzedek members, will be held in the backyard of CDT members in Newton and Waltham. These services will NOT be livestreamed or accessible on Zoom. For more information and to register, please go to Spiritual Life tab of CDT website. We ask that everyone bring a mask to the service.

### Shabbat morning, August 14, 10am-Noon, Bat Mitzvah of Ila Karp Albenberg (livestream available)

- Please join us online as our daughter, Ila Karp Albenberg is called to the Torah for her B'nei Mitzvah on August 14th. Ila has been participating in services at Dorshei Tzedek since before she was born. Ila is a Seeker of Justice in all things related to gender and queer rights, and combating religious, racial and ethnic bias. Her passions include dancing, music making, Purim-spiel participation, puppy training, waffle making, and reading. She is a team player known for speaking her mind, trampoline flips, and year-round ocean swimming. Ila is a student at Boston Latin Academy and lives with her parents Deb and Audra, her younger sister Evelyn, and her even younger canine sister Cleo. For her Tikkum Olam project, Ila is working to bring puppy love to daycares and senior living centers. We look forward to celebrating with you! - **Audra Karp & Deb Albenberg**

### Shabbat morning, August 28, 9:45am-Noon

- In the CDT Sanctuary and livestreamed! This will be our first non-b-mitzvah Shabbat morning service in the CDT sanctuary since the pandemic began, and all are welcome. We are asking people to register on the CDT website, and everyone attending will be required to wear a mask throughout the ceremony. Rabbi Toba will lead the service, which will feature morning songs and blessings, the Shaharit service, Torah reading and discussion. There will not be a kiddush lunch following services.

### Labor Day Shabbat, September 4, 9:45am-Noon

- In-person and livestreamed. Rabbi Toba will be joined by special guests from the Jewish Labor Committee of New England on this special Shabbat. This Labor Day we have an opportunity to reflect and specifically focus on labor - the work we do, the way we work and how work has come to be an experience of both pain and promise. Join us at this Labor Day Shabbat to learn more from those

working on the front lines of labor activism about current campaigns (fair wages, wage theft) that directly influence how we all can make a difference in our own work lives, and in the lives of those struggling to work with the dignity we all deserve.

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT OUTDOORS!

Friday, August 6,

Gann Academy and livestreamed

Weather permitting, all are welcome to join Rabbi Toba either outdoors at Gann Academy or via livestream for a musical, all-ages erev Shabbat service! For those coming in person, you are welcome to bring a picnic dinner at 5:30pm and eat first, or have a picnic Shabbat dinner after the service! We ask that those coming in person register so we have a sense of numbers; please go to the Spiritual Life tab on the CDT website for livestream links and registration.

5:30pm Early picnic dinner

6:00-6:45pm All-ages musical Shabbat service

6:45pm Picnic dinner

## TISHA B'AV PROGRAM: "FORTY DAYS OF TESHUVAH"- A STORY OF BRINGING JEWISH SPIRITUAL PRACTICE INTO THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Sunday, July 18, 4-5pm

Co-sponsored with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah

120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

On Tisha B'Av we commemorate the darkest moments in our Jewish history and move from brokenness towards redemption. This brokenness is present today as we mourn the destruction of Black and brown folks at the hands of racist systems in the United States and beyond. This year for Tisha B'Av, we are joining with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for a viewing and discussion of the short film "40 Days of Teshuvah," from the Inside Out Wisdom & Action Project. The film documents an action undertaken by Jews of color last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, including an exploration of the ancestral tools and wisdom that sustained organizers throughout the 40



## Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice

days. The film is “a powerful example of what organizing for racial justice can look like when deeply rooted in spirituality.” Vaccinated adults and teens are welcome to join HBT members in West Roxbury in person, and the film and discussion will also be accessible via Zoom. To register either to attend in person or to receive a Zoom link, please go to the CDT calendar page. Please note that our Selichot program on the evening of August 28 will also feature a viewing and discussion of this film.

### MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

During the summer, Mindful Mornings will continue to meet virtually on Tuesdays and

Thursdays from 8:30–9:15 am. Thursday sessions will continue to take the form of a structured meditation with a leader. In July and August, Tuesday sessions will be time for silent meditation with a host, but without any formal teaching or instructions.

The opportunity to recite kaddish after the meditation has finished will continue to be offered on summer Thursdays, but not on Tuesdays.

As always, the Mindful Mornings link is on the CDT website. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not!



*Rock Climbing at the CDT Retreat*

## Yamim Nora'im/The Days of Awe

### ELUL PROGRAMS

In the month of Elul, the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah, we begin the process of teshuvah - turning and returning. Join us for a month of learning, reflection, and preparation for the High Holidays and beyond as we explore important topics in our lives, our community, and in the world (and learn how to make your own shofar)!

### TEXT STUDY AND ACTION: ADDRESSING ABLEISM AND DISABILITY IN JEWISH TEXTS AND OUR COMMUNITY

*Sunday August 8th, 3pm on Zoom*

Join Earnest and CDT accessibility advocate, Lisa Keshet, for a text study and discussion about ableism and disability. We need your input about accessibility at this critical moment of reentry! Together we will read and discuss Jewish texts and writings from Jewish and non-Jewish disability justice thinkers and activists. We will end our time by discussing our evolving “Guiding Principles for More Accessibility and Disability Justice at CDT.” All CDT members are welcome, we want your input as we develop our guiding principles. Congregants who identify within the disability umbrella, as well as congregants who love someone with a disability, are encouraged to come. Whether you are intimately familiar

with the language of ableism, disability justice, and accessibility, or if it is your first time learning about these concepts, you are welcome to join! See page 8 for more information.

### RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM DAY OF LEARNING ON REPARATIONS

*Sunday August 8th*

Save the date to join Reconstructionists from around the world on Sunday, August 8, 2021, for our movement-wide day of learning. We will start at 11 a.m. EDT with a special Hallel service and opening remarks, followed by multiple sessions of learning. Be sure to check your email and watch social media for more information on this programming. Registration to open in July and fees will be on a sliding scale from \$0 to \$54.

### SELICHOT

*Saturday evening, August 28, 8:30pm-10:00pm  
Zoom*

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba, Ora Grodsky, and other CDT members for a viewing and discussion of the short film “40 Days of Teshuvah,” from the Inside Out Wisdom & Action Project. The film documents an action undertaken by Jews of color last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, including an exploration of the ancestral tools and wis-

dom that sustained organizers throughout the 40 days. The film is “a powerful example of what organizing for racial justice can look like when deeply rooted in spirituality.” We will frame our discussion with songs and prayers from Selichot, the special penitential prayers leading up to the Days of Awe.

### SHOFAR MAKING WORKSHOP

*August 29th at 3-4 and 4:30-5:30pm  
Linda Kramer and Steve Zisk's Backyard*

At this workshop you will learn how to transform a raw ram's horn into a beautiful shofar! This workshop is for children aged 9+ and adults. Creating the shofar requires persistence and some physical exertion, including sawing, drilling and sanding. Working with raw materials is unpredictable, after an hour your shofar might be done, but you may want to continue sanding at home. Please assess if this is something you are comfortable doing. At the end of the workshop you will have a hand made shofar in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Shofars and materials cost \$18-\$36, sliding scale. Please pay what you are able. You do not need to explain or request assistance. If you are able to pay a bit more, that will help cover the costs for those who need to pay less. Registration is required! Sign up on the Dorshei Tzedek website by August 22nd!

# Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Monday, September 6. We look forward to being together again at Gann Academy (assuming Covid conditions continue in a positive direction). The space is large enough to allow for some amount of social distancing, and children's programs will take place outdoors in tents. We are planning a mix of in-person services (livestreamed and live captioned), Zoom programs, and outdoor activities on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**As we all know, COVID changed our world, so it is of the utmost importance that you register in advance.**

The full schedule and registration will be available on the CDT website on August 1st. Guests are welcome!

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

*Monday, September 6*

### Evening Service

8-9:15pm

Gann Academy

## ROSH HASHANAH

*Tuesday, September 7*

### Morning Service

9:30am-1pm

Gann Academy

### Tashlikh

4:30pm

Multiple Locations

## ROSH HASHANAH SECOND DAY

*Wednesday, September 8*

### Second Day Service

10-11:30am

Zoom

## EREV YOM KIPPUR

*Wednesday, September 15*

6:45pm-8:30pm

Gann Academy

## YOM KIPPUR

*Thursday, September 16*

9:30am-7:30pm

Gann Academy

## Community

### MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Eleanor Kaplan, Havi Rosi-Kessel**, and their families on becoming B'nei Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Dalia Paris-Saper**, daughter of **Ruth Paris** and **Rob Saper**, on her graduation from Pitzer College with Honors in American Studies. She is heading to Washington DC in September to work with Avodah, the Jewish Service Corps.

Mazel tov to **Earnest** and **Emma** on your civil marriage! Chuppah to follow!

### Yahrzeit

This summer we remember **Susan Moser**, whose first yahrzeit falls on July 25. We will be marking Susan's yahrzeit at Shabbat morning services on August 14. We also remember **Debbie Sher**, whose tenth yahrzeit falls this year on August 22. We will mark Debbie's yahrzeit at Shabbat morning services on August 28. May each of their memories be for a blessing.

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Miranda Patton** on the death of her father, Mark Patton, to

**Josh Lieberman** on the death of his mother Annette Lieberman, and to **Nessa Spitzer and Rabbi Toba**, on the death of Nessa's sister Marilyn Wisoff. May their memories be for a blessing.

### MOURNING AT CDT

There are a number of opportunities each week to say kaddish in a (virtual) minyan at CDT, including: Tuesday & Thursday Mindful Mornings, Mincha Moments, and Shabbat morning services.

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at

## Community (cont.)

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

*Tuesdays, July 13, August 10, 7:30-9:15*

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* or other occasion, and to remember the legacies of the loved ones we carry with us. Any CDT member is welcome to drop in anytime. For more information,

please contact Nancy Gertz, [Nancy.gertz@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.gertz@gmail.com) or Dianne Lior, [Dianne.lior@gmail.com](mailto:Dianne.lior@gmail.com). The Avelut friends appreciate the help of Stacey Chacker who organized us over the past year as she mourned the loss of her beloved mother.

### REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

### TODAH RABAH

Thank you to our June service leaders **Elaine Pollack** and **Scott Tepper**!

Thank you to everyone who led a wonderful, community-building VIM: **Jamie Tessler, Elaine Pollack, Emily Sper, Evi Beck, and Diana Fisher-Gomberg**. And an extra special thank you to **Debby Saltzman** for putting it all together!

A huge, huge thank you to our Retreat Coordinators, **Rachel Pytel, Chad Pytel, and Margo Michaels!** And thank you to everyone who attended for volunteering and helping create a fabulous retreat.

### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members **Carol and Bob Hausman!**

## CDT Committees and Groups

*The following groups and committees are looking for coordinators and volunteers. Please reach out to the contact people below to participate. All contact information can be found in the membership directory in the members section of the CDT website.*

**Film Club** Vacant, contact the office

**Finance committee** currently led by Treasurer Ezra Hausman, Jen Levine-Fried, Melissa Colten. Investment Advisory group: Jonathan Rosenthal, Peter Katz.

**CDT Arts / Gallery Space** Lynda Goldberg and Ro Weichman coordinate, virtual; Sharon Gorberg for kids

**Membership** Debby Saltzman

**Welcoming** Vacant, contact Debby Saltzman

**Men's Group** Dan Rome

**Nediv Lev campaign** Janice Cole

**Newsletter** Seeking more volunteer editors, designers, journalists, artists. Please contact the office.

**Tikkun Olam** Tony Broh

**GBIO** (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization). Louise Enoch

**Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action** Vacant, contact the office

**Development/In-reach** Sheree Galpert

**30th Anniversary Team** Jen Kaplan, Linette Liebling

**Gala** Jen Kaplan and Annette Jacobs

**History Project** Chayim Herzig-Marx

## CDT MISSION STATEMENT

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. "Dorshei Tzedek" means "seekers of justice," and as our name implies, we are seekers of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition where need be, and building on it in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children's—to our heritage. We view ongoing education for adults and children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and she is both a teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of *mitzvah* as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.

## TEXT STUDY AND ACTION: ADDRESSING ABLEISM AND DISABILITY IN JEWISH TEXTS AND OUR COMMUNITY - EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Earnest Vener

When discussing disability many think of physical disabilities, but most disabilities are not apparent at first. As a result, a lot of people feel like they are the only disabled person in their community; however, we are all connected to disability, either in our own daily experience or a time of temporary disability, through friends and family, and certainly in our CDT community. When we recognize that we are all impacted by disability we see the diversity among us and take responsibility for accessibility as a community.

I want to share some working definitions of disability, ableism, disability justice, and accessibility. These definitions are drawn from a variety of sources, including a workshop I attended with longtime disability advocate and thinker Rabbi Julia Watts Belser.

**Accessibility:** Accessibility is the concept of ensuring that places and services are fully open to and usable by people with all types of disabilities. "When access is a practice of love it is no longer simply about logistics and

something you have to do, but something you want to do" Mia Mingus.

**Disability:** Disability is an extraordinarily diverse category. It is an umbrella category that encompasses a huge range of experiences including physical and sensory disabilities, cognitive and intellectual disabilities, mental health disabilities, and chronic health conditions like chronic pain and chronic fatigue.

**Social Model of Disability:** "The social model of disability is a way of viewing the world, developed by disabled people. The model says that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Barriers can be physical, like buildings not having accessible toilets. Or they can be caused by people's attitudes to difference, like assuming disabled people can't do certain things. The social model helps us recognise barriers that make life harder for disabled people. Removing these barriers creates equality and offers disabled people more independence, choice and control" ([scope.org.uk](http://scope.org.uk)).

**Ableism:** Discrimination and oppression of disabled people. A societal belief that being abled is "normal" and is preferred.

"A system that places value on people's bodies and minds based on societally con-

structed ideas of normalcy, intelligence and excellence. These constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence and excellence are deeply rooted in anti-Blackness, eugenics and capitalism. This form of systemic oppression leads to people and society determining who is valuable or worthy based on people's appearance and/or their ability to satisfactorily produce, excel & "behave." Importantly, you do not have to be disabled to experience ableism." -a working definition by Talila "TL" Lewis

**Disability Justice:** Disability justice is a framework that examines disability and ableism as it relates to other forms of oppression and identity (race, class, gender, sexuality, citizenship, incarceration, size, etc.).

"This is Disability Justice, an honoring of the longstanding legacies of resilience and resistance which are the inheritance of all of us whose bodies or minds will not conform. Disability Justice is a vision and practice of a yet-to-be, a map that we create with our ancestors and our great grandchildren onward, in the width and depth of our multiplicities and histories, a movement towards a world in which every body and mind is known as beautiful" Patty Berne, Disability Justice Working Draft.

## 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 DONATIONS

Richard Kaplan — *in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Kaplan*

Amy Mazur & Michael Feldstein — *in honor of the engagement of Zach Demuth, son of Linette Liebling, and Peter Demuth, and the birth of Cameron, grandchild to Mark Farber and Sherry Katz. Mazel Tov!*

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan — *in honor of Linda Kramer and Steve Zisk, for their generosity in sharing their home/yard with us for Eleanor's Bat Mitzvah!*

### NEDIV LEV

Lynne Brandon & Jyl Lynn Felman — *in honor of peace for Palestinians*

Tony Broh — *wishing Stacey Chacker's brother Refuah Shlemah*

The Karp Family

Marla Lichtman & Laurence Johnston — *in memory of Marla's parents, Roslyn & Fred Lichtman, and her grandparents, Benjamin Rothberg, Phillip & Lena Lichtman, and Sadie Rothberg*  
Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx  
Marjorie Salvodon & Mark Schafer  
Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp — *in memory of Rabbi Toba's aunt Marilyn*  
Tony Broh — *in memory of Rabbi Toba's aunt*  
The Susman Family — *in thanks to Rabbi Toba for everything!*



# Chesed

Rabbi Toba is on vacation during the month of July. For pastoral and/or communal support for a death, illness, or other crisis, please contact Melissa Colten ([m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org)) and the Chesed coordinators ([chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org)). While Melissa is on vacation, please contact Earnest Vener, 619-733-9140, or Bob Warren, 617-407-1914. Rabbi Toba will be available again beginning August 2.

## CHESED: INSPIRED BY KINDNESS

Ellie Goldberg, July/August 2021

Our congregation values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. Our 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.

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And third is to be kind." -- Henry James

"Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are." -- Harold S. Kushner

"A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference." —Eeyore, Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. Please contact the Chesed Coordinators if you have questions or a request for Chesed at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

**COVID UPDATE:** As Covid continues to limit some of our options, we order Chesed meals from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, thanks to Rabbi Toba's Discretionary Fund. When a need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about food preferences, order the meal, and send out a request from LotsaHelpingHands for a volunteer to pick up and deliver the meal.

When a member needs a ride, the Coordinator will discuss Covid precautions (masks, open windows, sitting in the back seat). And, for everyone's safety, the volunteer driver and recipient need to discuss their vaccination status and the status of people in their household when they confirm arrangements for the ride.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This year we started welcoming members from outside the local area and now have 6 member households from outside Massachusetts, hailing from Louisiana, Virginia, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Washington DC. Twelve new member households have joined since August 2020: **Matthew Valleau, Rachel Guberman, Alissa and Dan Ovadia, Muriel Heiberger, Pauline**

**Coderre, Nessa Spitzer, Ilene Lerner, Janet Rickles, Marianka May, Josh and Becca Matloff, Emily Cowan, Evi Beck.**

*The Welcoming committee is anticipating an influx of new members with the diminishment of the Pandemic and we are looking for some friendly people to help greet, welcome and orient new members! If you're interested, please reach out to Debby Saltzman.*



**Chesed: Acts of Kindness and Healing Connections**

## Tikkun Olam

### GBIO DELEGATES' ASSEMBLY

August 12, 7-8:15pm

Join members from across the Greater Boston area to hear details of the Listening Campaign Final Report, the recommendations for action, stories on the 3-4 issues, and what the local Boston team will be asking of Boston mayoral candidates. Decide collectively and sign up to be part of the Issue Action Teams, to get to work on the issues you feel passionate about.

### PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

The Prison Book Program in Quincy has resumed regular volunteer hours, but only advance sign-up for a very limited number of volunteers is permitted. Consistent with our previous schedule of volunteering on the first Tuesday of even numbered months, I hope to arrange for a group of CDT members to volunteer the evening of Tuesday, October 5. Please save the date if you are interested. If you have a large number of books you would like to donate to the PBP (go to <https://prisonbookprogram.org> for guidelines on acceptable books), we now have a contact with whom books can be dropped locally, so please email Barbara Shatkin at [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com) for this info.

*Text Study with Rabbi Toba at the Retreat*



## CDT Artist Spotlight - Andrew Sofer

### RIDDLE

by Andrew Sofer

Show me your face before you were born.  
What left its trace? Before you were born  
singularity blossomed. Its needle's point  
wove time into space before you were born.  
A mirror hung in the balance and shattered.  
We threw salt just in case, before you were born.  
You lodged in the reeds. Pharaoh's daughter  
knelt in embrace before you, weir-borne.  
Heartbeat's saccade, hoof's capriole  
galloped apace before you were born.

Sometimes there's God—so quickly, said Blanche.  
Ineffable grace: before you, we're born.  
Child, in sleep you climb ladders of air  
dreams held in place before you were born.  
I, a scribe, write in my father's Cyrillic.  
His was my face before you were born.

*From Wave (Main Street Rag Publishing Company, 2010).*



A sometime actor and director, Andrew has written the poetry collection *Wave* (Main Street Rag 2010) and two books about theatre. His poems have appeared in *Southwest Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *North American Review*, and many other journals. His poem "Wandlebury Ring," set to music by Kevin Beavers, premiered at the Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music and has been heard at the Washington Square Music Festival in NYC and elsewhere. Andrew also enjoys songwriting and playing with the new men's guitar circle he founded, CDT Strums.

#### Artistic Statement:

My pocket definition of poetry is musical thought. I like it when my poems surprise me--and, hopefully, the reader--by veering off in some unexpected direction. Often this happens by way of my fiddling with rhyme or working within a formal structure like a sonnet. That's what happened in "Riddle," a poem that started off with a famous Zen ko'an ("Show me your face before you were born") and ended up being about the joy of new fatherhood. Somehow Blanche DuBois from *A Streetcar Named Desire* parachutes in, courtesy of the ghazal form, which invites a fresh start in each verse even as the couplets end with a rhyme word and refrain. My hope is that readers will find my poems accessible on first reading and then perhaps discover new layers if they return. My book *Wave* is out of print, so let me know if you'd like a copy! (Proceeds to CDT.)

## Youth and Family Programs

### CDT AT THE COVE - GAMES AND PICNIC

August 21st, 11am-1pm

Celebrate the end of summer with CDT at Auburndale Cove. We will have games and activity stations for kids aged 4-13 from 11-12pm. During this time adults are welcome to hang out and prospective parents will have a chance to learn about our Religious School. All are welcome to stay for a picnic lunch (bring your own picnic). Spread the word and invite your friends! We are especially looking for families to join with children in third grade and younger.

Rain plan: Tuesday August 31st, 4:30-6:30pm

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE - HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Earnest Vener

I am happy to share that we will be back at JCDS on Sundays for the 5782 school year. Our

school team can't wait to be exploring Jewish tradition and building community together at Religious School. Please register for the 5782 ('21-'22) Religious School year! You can find registration on the homepage and the Religious School page of the CDT website.

We want to grow our wonderful school and we need your help! Please tell any families with children in third grade and younger about the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School. You can share our school registration facebook post on the Dorshei Tzedek page to neighborhood groups or any other relevant facebook group. We especially want to grow our Nitzanim/Gan class for 3-5 year olds. Word of mouth is the best way to help grow our school.

We have some upcoming events that would be perfect for prospective families to come and get a sense of our community: 8/6 All Ages Erev Shabbat at Gann Academy and 8/29 CDT at The Cove event with your friends!

## Learning

### TORAH STUDY WITH EARNEST VENER

Wednesday mornings, 8-8:45am - except for June 30 and July 7

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.



*Learning Archery at the Retreat*

# JULY/AUGUST 2021 • TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July</b>				1 Tammuz 21 8:30am Mindful Mornings	2 Tammuz 22	3 Tammuz 23 No Shabbat morning service
4 Tammuz 24 Admin: Independence Day	5 Tammuz 25 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	6 Tammuz 26 8:30am Mindful Mornings	7 Tammuz 27 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	8 Tammuz 28 8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:00pm Text Study and Action: Addressing Ableism and Disability in Jewish Texts and our Community	9 Tammuz 29	10 Av 1 Rosh Chodesh Av Matot-Masei 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
11 Av 2	12 Av 3	13 Av 4 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:30pm Avelut: Support for Those in Mourning	14 Av 5 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	15 Av 6 8:30am Mindful Mornings	16 Av 7	17 Av 8 No Shabbat morning service
18 Av 9 10:15am 8th/9th Grade Outing: TreeTop Adventures 4:00pm Tisha B'Av "Forty Days of Teshuvah"	19 Av 10 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	20 Av 11 8:30am Mindful Mornings	21 Av 12 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	22 Av 13 8:30am Mindful Mornings	23 Av 14	24 Av 15 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
25 Av 16	26 Av 17	27 Av 18 8:30am Mindful Mornings	28 Av 19 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	29 Av 20 8:30am Mindful Mornings	30 Av 21	31 Av 22 No Shabbat morning service
<b>August</b>	2 Av 24 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	3 Av 25 8:30am Mindful Mornings	4 Av 26 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	5 Av 27 8:30am Mindful Mornings	6 Av 28 5:30pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat - Outdoors!	7 Av 29 No Shabbat Morning Service
1 Av 23	8 Av 30 11:00am Day of Learning on Reparations - Reconstructing Judaism	9 Elul 1 Rosh Chodesh Elul	10 Elul 2 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:30pm Avelut: Support for Those in Mourning	11 Elul 3 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	12 Elul 4 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm GBIO Regional Caucuses	13 Elul 5
15 Elul 7	16 Elul 8 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	17 Elul 9 8:30am Mindful Mornings	18 Elul 10 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	19 Elul 11 8:30am Mindful Mornings	20 Elul 12	21 Elul 13 No Shabbat Morning Service 11:00am CDT at The Cove and Religious School Open House:
22 Elul 14	23 Elul 15	24 Elul 16 8:30am Mindful Mornings	25 Elul 17 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Member-Led Mincha Moment	26 Elul 18 8:30am Mindful Mornings	27 Elul 19	28 Elul 20 9:45am Shabbat Morning Service 8:30pm Selichot
29 Elul 21 3:00pm Shofar Making Workshops with Earnest	30 Elul 22 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	31 Elul 23 8:30am Mindful Mornings	1 Elul 24 8:00am Torah Study	2 Elul 25	3 Elul 26	4 Elul 27 9:45am Shabbat Morning Services - Labor Day Shabbat





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



Address correction requested



## CDT Musicians at the Retreat

