



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Elul/Tishrei 5781/5782

September 2021



## This Time *Rabbi Toba Spitzer*



As the Covid-19 pandemic has taught me, time is a funny thing. When people ask me about something that feels like it happened a few months ago, I will suddenly realize it's been more than two years. It's as if the 18 months since the beginning of the shutdown has become a gray smudge on the calendar of my mind. Yet the pandemic has also been a time of counting the days – until we can return to work; see family and friends and students again; get kids out of the house and back to school. The days and months are somehow both unending and not there at all, a time conundrum.

And then there is Jewish time, the long view, the cycles of the calendar. This month of September coincides with the Hebrew month of Tishrei, the kick-off to the Jewish year. While our personal and communal traditions around the High Holydays have been upended both last year and continuing this year, I find comfort in knowing that Jews have been celebrating these days, in all kinds of different ways, for over 2500 years.

Through all the challenging and joyful times in our history, all of the ups and downs, Jews have blown the shofar on Rosh Hashanah and fasted on Yom Kippur; the cycles have continued.

This Jewish year of 5782, we are marking another ancient cycle: the Sabbatical year, described in the book of Leviticus, during which the Israelites were instructed to let the land lie fallow, to eat whatever grew naturally without planting or harvesting, and to release debtors from their debt and servants from their servitude. Religiously observant farmers in Israel continue to observe the agricultural restrictions of the sabbatical year, and here in America there is renewed interest in exploring the deeper meaning of the year of shmittah, of renewal and release (see page 8).

On a less ancient timeline, we are also marking a big year here at CDT: the 30th anniversary of the congregation. The official kick-off of Dorshei Tzedek was High Holydays 1991, when a handful of households put on some services and hoped others would join them. And they did!

The congregation was largely lay-led for the next six years, with support from rabbinical student (and now Rabbi) Linda Potemken. I arrived in 1997, and this High Holydays begins my 25th year with the congregation. While I am sad that we cannot all be together to kick off our celebration of this anniversary year, I am remaining hopeful that we will be able to gather at a special gala planned for May 2022 (stay tuned for details). In the meantime, we will hear a few memories and reflections from our founders over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and will have opportunities in the coming months to celebrate both the founding of the congregation and the amazing distance we've traveled since then.

Whether in person at Gann or via Livestream or outdoors at Tashlikh or in a Zoom program, we will gather over these High Holydays to mark another cycle of the year, to begin a process of renewal, to mark a new year which is

as uncertain as the beginning of every year (we're just a bit more aware of that uncertainty now). Rosh Hashanah is also called Yom HaZikaron, the Day of Remembrance, and we will also gather to remember. This past year has been one of loss for many of us, including those in the community who had loved ones pass away, often without being able to see them in their final days. We will take some time on Yom Kippur afternoon, during our Mincha service, to reflect on the many kinds of losses we've experienced during the pandemic, and to seek healing together.

As we mark these many cycles, as we move into this next period of time, may it be less of a conundrum than the year just past. May we each be "written" for a year of learning and fulfillment, a year of inspiration and of comfort. L'shanah tovah u'metukah, many wishes for a sweet and good new year!

## 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).



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.

## 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)

Rabbinic Intern: Emmanuel Cantor, [e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.cantor@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)



# From the Office

## FROM OUR NEW RABBINIC INTERN

Emmanuel Cantor



I am thrilled to join Dorshei Tzedek as your rabbinic intern, and thankful for the warm welcomes I've received. By way of introduction, I am a third-year rabbinical student at Hebrew College, and recently served as the Yale Jewish community's rabbinic intern. Originally from New York City, I worked as a community organizer with Jews United for Justice in DC before rabbinical school. I earned my BA at Yale in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and studied at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa in northern Israel. In my free time, you can find me practicing yoga, loving Jewish music and dance, or hiking the Appalachian Trail.

I hope to have the opportunity to connect with each of you. I will be teaching weekly Torah study and in our religious school, organizing holiday celebrations, and working with several of CDT's committees. I will also be assisting in Shabbat services and available for pastoral support when Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical.

I'm writing to you as we prepare for the High Holy Days. The timing reminds me of a teaching by the medieval commentator Maimonides on teshuva—the complex process of repentance, responsiveness, and renewal to which we pay special attention this season. To paraphrase, Maimonides writes that a person may seek teshuva by themselves, admittedly with varying degrees of success. Yet according to Maimonides, people who seek teshuva together will surely succeed (Laws of Teshuva 2:6).

Maimonides' teaching is simple, but powerful. When we embark on the hard work of teshuva—whether it be reconnecting with our innermost selves, repairing strained relationships, or dismantling systemic oppression—community counts. Or, in the words of racial and environmental justice organizer and writer adrienne maree brown, "community feels responsible for each other." We need each other as we shape change within ourselves and our world.

I am honored to be joining Dorshei Tzedek, a community that strives to live these values as it supports its members and their pursuit of spirituality, learning, and justice. As we enter this uncertain year, I'm grateful to be together. Wishing everyone Shana Tova and a sweet, blessed new year.

## Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

As we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be coming together for Shabbat morning services in different formats, including Zoom and in-person in the CDT sanctuary (with livestreaming). **Because of ongoing uncertainty, please be sure to check the CDT website for the latest information about services each week.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For all indoor services until further notice, for the safety of all concerned we are asking that only those aged 12 and older who have been vaccinated attend, and participants must wear masks throughout the service. Registration is required, and we will limit the number of participants in order to be able to socially distance. We will not share Kiddush lunch together until it is safe to gather closely together indoors without masks. Despite these restrictions, we look forward to seeing you back at CDT!

**Labor Day Shabbat, September 4 (on Zoom), 10:00am-11:45am:** Rabbi Toba will lead morning blessings and songs and the Shacharit service beginning at 10am, and then at 11am we will be joined by members of the

**Matahari Women Workers Center**, to learn from those on the frontlines of labor activism about current campaigns (fair wages, wage theft) that influence how we can all make a difference in our own work lives, and in the lives of those who struggle to work with the dignity that all deserve.

**Shabbat Shuvah, September 11 (on Zoom), 10:00am-11:45am:** For this special Shabbat that falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, all are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for a contemplative service featuring song and meditation, and Torah study beginning at 11am. No meditation experience necessary!

**Shabbat Ha'azinu, September 18, in the CDT sanctuary and livestreamed, 10am-noon:** All are welcome to join CDT member-leaders for Shabbat morning services and Torah study. We ask that everyone attending in person please pre-register on the CDT website.

**Shabbat of Sukkot week, September 25, in the CDT sukkah in Newton and livestreamed:** Join Rabbi Toba in the sukkah (weather permitting) for a special Shabbat morning service featuring the songs of Hallel! In case of inclement weather, the service will move to the CDT sanctuary. All ages welcome,

but masks required. We ask that everyone attending in person please pre-register on the CDT website.

### THE DAYS OF AWE

#### Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah begins Monday evening, September 6. For a full schedule of services and children's programming, see pages 4-5. Our High Holydays this year will feature a mixture of in-person services at Gann Academy (most of which will be livestreamed), outdoor and Zoom programming. So that we can plan appropriately, registration is required for both adult and youth/family services; please go to the High Holydays area of the website to let us know how you are planning to participate: in-person indoors, in-person outdoors, live streaming, Zoom, or a combination thereof. We need to know in order to plan accordingly! To gather as safely as possible, we are limiting the number of attendees at each service to one-third the capacity of the Gann gym (325 people), and require that all attendees be vaccinated and wear a mask throughout the service. All children's and family programming will be held outdoors (with Zoom back-up for inclement weather).

# Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice (cont)

## SUKKOT

Sukkot is the “Festival of the Ingathering,” the Biblical harvest holiday where we celebrate the abundance in our lives while remembering the precariousness of our ancestors’ journey through the wilderness. On Sukkot we build and eat our meals in the sukkah, wave the lulav and etrog at services, and are commanded to be joyous! Here are some opportunities to do all three! To order your lulav and etrog set, go to the link on the sidebar of the homepage.

### Sukkot Morning Service

*Tuesday, September 21, 10:00-11:30am*

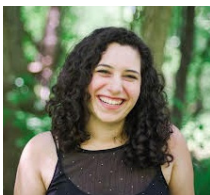
*In the CDT Sukkah, at the home of Linda Kramer & Stephen Zisk*

All are welcome as we shake the lulav, sing Hallel, and celebrate the fall harvest holiday outdoors in the sukkah! Masks required; all ages welcome.

### Mixed Media Midrash: Sukkot with Guest Teacher Abi Oshins

*September 21st, 2021, 7-8:15pm*  
Zoom

Calling all text lovers and art enthusiasts! Mixed Media Midrash will gather to explore sukkot through text study, creative interpretation, and community. Using materials at home we’ll come together to ask how visual creation can help us understand our sacred texts and ourselves. No previous art or text study experience is required—just a pension for curiosity and a heart open to creativity.



Abi Oshins is a second year Rabbinical Student at Hebrew College of Newton. Abi has led midrash through art workshops for adults and teens in the Boston area.

Before attending Hebrew College she spent several years working as a Jewish Educator at both Temple Beth Shalom of Needham and Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley. She is excited to meet the Dorshei Tzedek community.

### Rebuilding the Fallen Sukkah: Environmental and Housing Justice on Sukkot

*Wednesday, September 22, 7-8:30pm*  
*In the CDT Sukkah*

Sukkot is a joyous holiday, full of fall celebration and relaxation after the High Holy Days. Yet the Grace After Meals for Sukkot contains a curious insertion. “Oh Compassionate One,” it pleads, “please raise David’s fallen Sukkah!” While the liturgy alludes to the biblical King David, its broader message is clear: venturing outside to build temporary dwellings calls us to notice all that is fallen and in need of repair.

In that spirit, please join Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor and Tikkun Olam Committee members as we help plan CDT’s upcoming work on two urgent, Sukkot-related issues: housing and climate justice. Together we will explore relevant Jewish sources and learn how to get involved in GBIO’s affordable housing campaign and CDT’s Dayenu Circle, our hub for climate justice action. If you’d like to eat in our Sukkah, please feel free to come early at 6pm and bring your own dinner.

### All Ages Sukkot Gathering

*Sunday, September 26, 2021, 5-7 pm*

*In the CDT Sukkah, at the home of Linda Kramer & Stephen Zisk*

Join us for an evening of Sukkot celebration! There will be lulavs to shake and a sukkah to sit and eat in. Bring your own picnic, blanket, and bugspray, and enjoy Sukkot activities and a story with Rabbi Toba and Earnest.

Families with children 6 and under are welcome to come at 5pm for an early bird picnic and sukkot activities. All are welcome to stay from 5:30-6pm for activities and a Sukkot story. At 6pm adults and families with children 7 and up are invited to stay for a picnic dinner. If your family has children both under 6 and over 7 you can choose whichever time works best for you.

#### Schedule:

*5-5:30pm:* Shorashim Early Bird Sukkot Picnic and Activities for families with children 6 and under

*5:30-6pm:* All Ages Sukkot Activities

*6-7pm:* Picnic Dinner + Activities

#### Safety:

We will wear masks except for eating. When we eat we will sit six feet apart. Attend only if you are symptom free (without elevated temperature, sore throat, nausea, muscle aches,

cough, respiratory symptoms, unexplained rash, and loss of smell or taste) and have not been in contact with anyone with Covid.

## SIMCHAT TORAH

*Tuesday evening September 28, 7:00-8:30pm*

*Location TBD*

We will close the week of Sukkot festivities with this outdoor celebration of the Torah! All ages are welcome as we mark the end of the year cycle of reading Torah and begin anew with Torah Quiz, dancing with the Torah scrolls, and reading the very end and the very beginning! Join Rabbi Toba and musicians for this musical, fun evening.

## 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](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org) for the Zoom info).

## Community

### MAZEL TOV

To **Ila Albenberg Karp** and her family, on becoming Bnei Mitzvah!

To CDT “graduate” **Rachel Sacks**, and to **Cheryl & Jeff Sacks**, on Rachel’s marriage to Will Cohen!

### Yahrzeit

This month, we remember **Zachary Carson**, whose 14th yahrzeit falls on September 12; we will remember Zach at Shabbat Shuvah services on September 11; may his memory be for a blessing. We also remember **Efrem Goldberg**, whose 19th yahrzeit falls on September 20; we will let the community know when we will be marking his yahrzeit. We remember **Shari Zimble**, whose 13th yahrzeit falls

## Community (cont)

on September 30; we will remember Shari at Shabbat morning services on October 2; may her memory 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 and Shabbat morning services.

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.

### AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

*Tuesdays, September 14, 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.

### TODAH RABAH

Thank you to our service leaders **Ben Newman, Laurie Goldman, Benita Danzing, Rachel & Steve Adler-Golden**, and **Laurie Goldman**. And thank you to **Linda Kaplan** and **Gail Pressberg** for hosting services at their homes!

A special thank you to **Dennis Maler** for continuing to provide excellent a/v technical support.

### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members **Nina Cohen, Susan Silberberg, Cynthia Levin, Susan Berger**, and welcome back to **Naomi & Hal Lichtin**!

## Chesed

Rabbi Toba is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an appointment, please contact Rabbi Toba (confidentially) at [t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org). Rabbi Toba does not check email on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off). For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is completely confidential.

### MEET YOUR CHESED COMMITTEE

*Ellie Goldberg, September 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.

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

The Chesed Committee is currently managing Chesed meals by ordering from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen. When

a Chesed need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about food preferences, order the meal, and send out a request for a volunteer to pick up and deliver the meal. Rabbi Toba uses the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to buy the meals.

The Chesed Coordinators for September are Elaine Landes and Valerie Graf. Please contact them if you have questions or a request for Chesed at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).





# High Holydays Schedule

*Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at Gann Academy. Please register on the CDT website*

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

*Monday, September 6, 8-9:15pm, in-person & livestreamed*

Welcome the new year with this musical service!

## ROSH HASHANAH - DAY 1

*Tuesday, September 7*

### Morning Service

*9:45am, in-person & livestreamed*

We begin with morning blessings and songs, followed by a Shohar service that incorporated elements of the traditional Rosh Hashanah Musaf (including shofar!). The Torah service will begin approximately at 11am, followed by Rabbi Toba's talk, and concluding prayers ending at 12:15pm. We'll gather outdoors for Kiddush and schmoozing following the service.

### Tashlikh & Shofar Services

*4:30pm, in-person, no livestream*

We will gather outdoors for the Tashlikh ritual shofar service at 4 locations in Newton, Watertown, Jamaica Plain, and Cambridge/Summerville. All Ages welcome!

## ROSH HASHANAH - DAY 2

*Wednesday, September 8*

### Zoom Service & Study

*10-11:30am, Zoom*

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba and CDT member Matthew Valleau for a service featuring highlights of the Rosh Hashanah liturgy, sounding of the shofar, quiet reflection, and text study.

Zoom registration link to be sent upon completing of the reservation form.

### All-ages Outdoor Rosh Hashanah Program

*Auburndale Cove, 10-11:30am, in-person, no livestream*

Join CDT Director of Congregation Learning, Earnest Vener, for a Rosh Hashanah nature walk service. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the birthday of the world. We will gather at Auburndale Cove and celebrate the earth through prayer, movement, mindfulness, and community building.

## KOL NIDRE

*Wednesday, September 15, 6:45pm-8:30pm, in-person & livestreamed*

We usher in Yom Kippur with the special Kol Nidre service. This is the one time of the year that a tallit is worn for evening services.

## YOM KIPPUR: THE DAY OF REPENTANCE

*Thursday, September 16*

### Morning service

*9:45am-12:30pm, in-person & livestreamed*

The morning service will include Yizkor at approximately 11am.

### Musaf

*12:30-1:30pm, in-person & livestreamed*

The Musaf service includes much of the special High Holydays liturgy.

### Nature Walk

*12:30-1:30pm, in-person, no livestream*

Adults and kids are welcome to join CDT members on this guided walk in the conservation land near Gann Academy.

### Yom Kippur Afternoon Programs

*2-5pm*

We will be offering a variety of programs in person at Gann Academy and via Zoom, including text study, Tai Chi, meditation, and more. Details coming soon!

*2:15-3pm* Contemplative Meditation and/or Poetry Reading, Zoom  
*3-4pm* Text study with Rabbi Toba, Zoom  
*4:15-5pm* Tai Chi, in-person

### Mincha/Eleh Ezkereh

*5:15-6:45pm, in-person & livestreamed*

We gather together again for a Healing and Justice program, and our memorial Eleh Ezkereh service, during which we will mourn our losses experiences during the pandemic as well as remember loved ones whose legacies we carry on.

### Neilah & Break-fast

*6:45-7:30pm, in-person & livestreamed*

We will close the day with the special Neilah service, and will gather outdoors to break the fast!



# High Holydays Family and Teen Programs

## ROSH HASHANAH SHORASHIM (ROOTS) SERVICE - AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

**When:** September 7th, 10:00-10:45am

**Where:** Under a shade structure in the Gann Academy Field (no livestream)

**Who:** Families with children ages 6 and younger

Families with children aged 2-6 are invited to celebrate the birthday of the world with fabulous songleader and experienced Jewish early childhood educator, Abbi Hirschfeld! We will celebrate the creation of the world and this new year with songs, stories, and movement. This service is for our youngest learners and their grownups! Invite your friends and family to join us as well!

## YOM KIPPUR SHORASHIM (ROOTS) SERVICE - AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

**When:** September 16th, 10:00-10:45am

**Where:** Under a shade structure in the Gann Academy Field (no livestream)

**Who:** Families with children ages 6 and younger

Families with children aged 2-6 are invited to join fabulous songleader and experienced Jewish early childhood educator, Abbi Hirschfeld, for an interactive Yom Kippur experience! Families will explore the idea of being our best selves and shining our light in the new year.

## ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY SERVICE

**When:** September 7th, 10:00-11am

**Where:** Under a shade structure in the Gann Academy Garden

**Who:** Children ages 7-12 years old & their grown-ups

Join CDT Director of Congregation Learning, Earnest Vener, and member and educator Esther Kohn and her father Ammi Kohn for an interactive Rosh Hashanah celebration. There will be movement, song, stories, and opportunities to reflect on the new year.

## YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE

**When:** September 16th, 10:00-11am

**Where:** Under a shade structure in the Gann Academy Garden

**Who:** Children ages 7-12 years old & their grown-ups

Join CDT Director of Congregation Learning, Earnest Vener, and member and educator Esther Kohn and her father Ammi Kohn for an interactive Yom Kippur Service. There will be movement, song, stories, and opportunities to reflect on Yom Kippur themes.

## ROSH HASHANAH TEEN PROGRAM FOR 8TH GRADE AND UP

**When:** September 7th, 10:00-11am

**Where:** Gann Academy Black Box (next to gym)

**Who:** Preteens/teens in 8th grade or older

Join CDT member and educator Ayelet Lipton to connect with other teens and explore how High Holyday themes connect to important issues in our society.

## YOM KIPPUR TEEN PROGRAM FOR 8TH GRADE AND UP

**When:** September 16th, 10:00-11am

**Where:** Gann Academy Black Box

**Who:** Preteens/teens in 8th grade or older

Join CDT member and educator Ayelet Lipton to connect with other teens and explore how High Holyday themes connect to important issues in our society.

## Learning

### SHOFAR SOUNDING WORKSHOP WITH EARNEST VENER AND KAREN WASSERMAN

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Gail Pressberg's Backyard - details to come

Come brush up on your shofar sounding skills! For those who have never sounded shofar before to those who need an annual refresher. You will learn the shofar sounds and how to blow the shofar. Stay after for a pizza dinner! Bring your own shofar! Please bring a bandana or cloth to act as a shofar shield,

#### Safety:

We will wear masks except for eating and sounding shofar. When we practice shofar sounding we will be over 6ft. distanced. When we eat we will sit six feet apart. Attend only if you are symptom free (without elevated temperature, sore throat, nausea, muscle aches, cough, respiratory symptoms, unexplained rash, and loss of smell or taste) and have not been in contact with anyone with Covid.

### SHMITTAH: YEAR OF REST & RELEASE

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer  
Sunday, September 26, 10am-11:15am  
JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

All are welcome to join for this exploration of the Sabbatical Year described in the Torah, when the land and those who worked it rested, and when debtors and indentured servants were released from economic and phys-

ical bondage. The Jewish year 5782 is a sabbatical year (also known as the year of shmittah, 'release'), and many in the American Jewish community are asking what the sabbatical year has to say to us today about economic inequality, work and rest, and our relationship with the earth. Come join the conversation!

### TORAH STUDY WITH RABBINIC INTERN EMMANUEL CANTOR

Monday mornings, 8am-8:45am, weekly beginning October 4th

Start your week with Torah Study! Join Emmanuel to explore the weekly Torah portion—its connections to our lives, and the social, emotional, and spiritual questions of our day. Participants are welcome to drop-in or come every week. No prior knowledge is required. See the CDT website for Zoom information, and email Emmanuel at [e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org) with any questions.

### ADULT BNEI MITZVAH CLASS

With CDT Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor  
Dates and time TBD; beginning in October

Are there holes in your Jewish background you can drive a camel through? Wondering what exactly all those 13 year-olds have been learning as they become Jewish adults? Or simply want an opportunity to learn some of the basics with other CDT members? This class is for you! The class will cover the foundations of Jewish living, key concepts in Judaism, and

offer a taste of the wide variety of Jewish texts. Participants will also have the opportunity if desired to learn to leyn from Torah, lead parts of a Shabbat service, and/or give a d'var Torah. **In order to determine the appropriate level of content and find the best time to meet, we need those interested to take a brief survey by September 24;** please go to the Adult Education tab on the CDT website.

### WITH ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS: THE TORAH OF MONEY

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer  
Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm-9:00pm, October 13, 20, 27, November 3 & 10  
Location & format TBD

What does Judaism have to say about money and our economic relations? A lot! As we celebrate CDT's 30th anniversary year, all are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a new rendition of the class that began our communal Torah of Money journey, laying the foundations for our dues system and revisited in recent years by our Economic/Class Difference working group. We will explore Jewish texts and practices related to mindful consumption, tzedakah and economic justice, and the radical implications of Shabbat and the sabbatical year. Members of the CDT Economic/Class Difference working group will also share some of the groundbreaking work they have been doing in exploring personal connections to issues of class and economic inequality, both at CDT, in the Jewish community, and in society at large.

## Tikkun Olam

### TIKKUN OLAM ACTIVITIES ON STEADY COURSE

Tony Broh

Stacey Chacker ended her term as chair of the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee on August 1 to become First Vice-President of the congregation and Tony Broh became the new VP for Tikkun Olam and chair of the Committee.

During the spring and summer, the **Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)** heard from 1500 members who participated in its "listening sessions". On August 12, the

GBIO Strategy Team rolled out its proposed platform that will develop specific campaigns in the areas of Affordable Housing, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice related issues. During the Assembly Meeting, members ratified the proposal, which also calls for a Steering Committee of leaders directly impacted by the problem areas and Action Teams from member institutions.

**IPPeace** Steering Committee met over the summer to discuss its vision for the coming year. Join the IPP listserv to stay informed about details. Members participated in an

August 26 webinar designed to explore different ways of thinking about the path toward a lasting peace.

A simple email to the Tikkun Olam listserv from Dani Krasa renewed the congregation commitment to **mobilize voters and fight voter suppression**. "I just purchased 300 postcards to send to new voters in the 2021 Virginia and New Jersey Gubernatorial race. Is anyone interested in helping?"

**Ujima**, a democratic, member-run financial and investment organization, stepped up its



## Tikkun Olam (cont)

fund-raising with several information sessions over the summer. CDT member Mark Farber joined the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee to provide increased visibility for Ujima.

### CDT FORMS DAYENU CIRCLE

*Tony Broh and Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor*

"Dayenu! Enough! Climate Justice Now!" Dayenu is a Jewish call for climate action among more than 50 congregations throughout the United States and Canada. As a national organization, Dayenu provides training and resources for each local Circle, thereby building a multi-generational movement confronting the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action.

Tony Broh and rabbinic intern Emmanuel Cantor are working to establish CDT's Dayenu Circle, which aims to collaborate with five other Circles in Massachusetts. Undergirding all of our activities is the value of climate justice—a recognition that the current crisis rests disproportionately on historically marginalized people, thereby interconnecting climate activism with struggles for racial and economic justice more broadly. Whether advocating on a statewide or national level, expanding environmental practices within the Dorshei community, or exploring Jewish teachings and spiritual resources, we hope you will join us.

### PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

The Prison Book Program in Quincy has resumed regular volunteer hours, but only advance sign-up for a limited number of volun-

teers is allowed. Consistent with our previous schedule of volunteering on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months, we plan to volunteer the evening of Tuesday, October 5. Please save the date and email Barbara Shatkin at [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com) if you are interested in volunteering October 5 and have not already confirmed your participation.

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 [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com) for this info.

## 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

Karen & Jeffrey Arnold — *in memory of Samuel Levine*

Karen & Jeffrey Arnold — *With thanks to Richard and Diana Gomberg, Susan Nitkin and Jeff Marcus, and Ami and Jonathan Gordon, for their generous assistance during the serious illness of our refrigerator and in honor of Steve Zisk and*

*Linda Kramer, for the loan of coolers during our recent refrigeration misadventure*

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp

Gavriela Bogin-Farber

Pauline Corderre

Sheree Galpert — *in memory of Josh Lieberman's mother*

Lauren Gibbs

Linda & Peter Katz

Fran Malino

Amy Mazur & Michael Feldstein

Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx — *with gratitude to Rabbi Toba, Melissa, and Earnest for their leadership, wisdom, support, and guidance during these challenging times!*

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks — *for the assistance of Rabbi Toba and Melissa Colten on the memorial service for his brother-in-law, Robert O'Brien*

Diana Fisher Gomberg & Richard Gomberg

Marion & Robert Ross

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

Bob Warren and Meg Cox

### NEDIV LEV

Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow — *in memory of Myra and Daniel Danzing and Saul and Alice Aronow*

Betsy Hinden

Denise and Mark Yurkovsky

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Pauline Corderre — *In memory of Marilyn, beloved aunt of Rabbi Toba and beloved sister of Nessa Spitzer*

Michael Luckens & Sharon Schumack — *in memory of Toba's Aunt Marilyn*

Stephanie & Robert Obrien — *with thanks to Rabbi Toba*

Rachele Rosi & Adam Kessel — *In honor of Havi's Bat Mitzvah, including all the support and help from Rabbi Toba and the CDT community*

### HIGH HOLYDAYS DONATIONS

Thea Breite

Joann Breuer

Miriam Bronstein

Valerie Graf & Doron Gan

Rebecca Gutman & Liz Steinhauser

Melody & Josh Komyerov

Sue Lanser & Jo Radner

Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried

Amy Pollack-Howard & George Howard

Liz Reisberg

Pamela Rosenstein & Roy Wilson

Emily & David Shumsky

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan

# Youth and Family Programs

## SHORASHIM SHABBAT: FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 6 AND YOUNGER

*Saturday, October 2nd, 10-10:45am  
Fellowship Hall in 2nd Church*

Shorashim families are welcome to join CDT educators and Shorashim Shabbat leaders Heather Renetzky and Adah Hetko for Shabbat morning songs, celebration, and stories.

### Safety:

Masks are required for the duration of the program. Attend only if you are symptom free (without elevated temperature, sore throat, nausea, muscle aches, cough, respiratory symptoms, unexplained rash, and loss of smell or taste) and have not been in contact with anyone with Covid.

## AN UPDATE ON THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

*Earnest Vener, Director of Congregational Learning*

A new year of Religious School begins on September 19th at JCDS in Watertown! Our youngest learners, 3-5 year olds, will begin their day on the field with their grown ups for mini minyan: a movement and song filled morning service. Kitot Alef, Bet, and Gimel (1st-3rd grade) will be greeted by teachers, madrichimot (teen leaders), and friends on the playground and blacktop for arrival activities and morning meetings. Our oldest students (4th-7th grade) will start the day with community building. New students will be welcomed into the community, old friends will reunite in-person, and our learning will begin. I can not wait to be amidst the buzz of Religious School in-person: overhearing students creating Torah skits, greeting each other with Hebrew phrases, discussing the connections between Judaism and social justice, hearing the laughter between children as they build community, and so much more! There will be a sense of return, as well as newness, as we adapt to meet the safety needs of all of our staff, students, and families.

This summer we have worked with the CDT COVID Protocols Committee on how to return to in-person learning while mitigating risk wherever we can. In-person learning will take place at JCDS from 9:30-12pm each Sunday. We are so fortunate to be housed at a school that remained safely open the entire '20-'21 school year. We will follow JCDS's policies and remain in-person based on their practices (if they pivot to virtual learning, we will as well). Some protocols include staff vaccination requirements, mask requirements for everyone on the premises (both indoor and outdoors), hand washing routines, and social distancing indoors. For more information about our Religious School visit the Religious School homepage: <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/cdt-religious-school#>.

Our Tuesday program, for Kitot Gimel-Vav (3rd-6th grade) is taking a new form. Students have the choice to learn in small groups in-person or in one-on-one tutoring virtually. In-person learning will take place at FUUSN and follow the same COVID safety protocols as our Sunday program. On Tuesdays our Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) students learn to decode Hebrew, while our Kitah Dalet-Vav students study Tefillah (prayer). Our Tefillah students read and recite prayers, explore their meaning, and develop an approach to Jewish prayer as a spiritual practice. More than ever, I feel the importance of providing our students with a space to get in touch with their inner lives, cultivate gratitude and a felt sense of love, and experience Jewish prayer as a tool for resiliency. Once a month, our students will join together in-person for student-led Maariv (evening service): an opportunity for them to share back their weekly learning and gather as a community.

Our educators are working hard to prepare for this school year, learning new systems and protocols, and getting ready to welcome their students. We will spend two full days of staff training together. A central focus of our training is exploring the whole school objective that our children will graduate from CDT Religious School with a foundational under-

standing of the Jewish people as a multiracial, multicultural, and global people. Educators of our youngest students will attend a workshop with PJ Library on how to use diverse Jewish books to provide windows (stories that offer a view into someone else's experience) and mirrors (stories that reflect their own experience) for our students. Different books will be mirrors for some and windows for others, and vice versa. Educators of older students will participate in a Facing History workshop with David Rhodes, CDT's VP of education, parent and Facing History program associate. This workshop will support our educators in connecting the dots between Jewish education and anti-bias work. Teachers will then have an opportunity to meet as teaching teams to incorporate their learning into their curriculum. This professional development will continue throughout the year and extend into parent learning.

As we enter this new school year I am holding the talmudic phrase, kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh - all of Israel are responsible for one another, at the center of my mind as it relates to disability justice. At our school, this means each educator and each student are essential parts of creating a community of belonging for one another. I am so happy that our inclusion coordinator, Jess Green, is on our team to help us enact this value. As we enter into this new year and new phase of learning and gathering during a pandemic, we will work to honor, through our actions and words, all the neurodiversity in our school - the many ways of learning and knowing, all the unique bodies and ways of experiencing the world, and the varied emotional realities of our community members.

We will continue to practice caution, flexibility, patience, and imagination as we navigate these ever changing waters. I am excited for a year of building a learning-community of belonging with CDT educators, youth, and families.

# SEPTEMBER 2021 • ELUL /TISHREI 5781/5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Elul 21	30 Elul 22 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	31 Elul 23 8:30am Mindful Mornings	1 Elul 24 5:30pm Shofar Sound- ing Workshop with Earnest Vener and Karen Wasserman 8:00pm Do We Need to Engage in Collective Teshuvah? Difficult Conversations on Israel With Rabbi Brian Walt and Professor Joel Beinin	2 Elul 25 8:30am Mindful Mornings	3 Elul 26	4 Elul 27 Nitzavim 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services - Labor Day Shabbat
5 Elul 28	6 Elul 29 Erev Rosh Hashana 8:00pm Erev Rosh Hashanah service	7 Tishrei 1 Rosh Hashana 9:45am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service 10:00am Rosh Hasha- nah Shorashim Service 10:00am Rosh Hasha- nah Family Service 10:00am Rosh Hasha- nah Teen Program 4:30pm Tashlikh & Shofar Services	8 Tishrei 2 Rosh Hashana 10:00am Rosh Hasha- nah Second Day Nature Walk 10:00am 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service & Text Study	9 Tishrei 3 8:30am Mindful Mornings	10 Tishrei 4	11 Tishrei 5 Shabbat Shuva Vayeilech 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
12 Tishrei 6 10:00am 8th/9th Grade Kids4Peace	13 Tishrei 7	14 Tishrei 8 8:30am Mindful Mornings	15 Tishrei 9 Erev Yom Kippur 6:45pm Kol Nidre service	16 Tishrei 10 Yom Kippur 9:45am Yom Kippur Morning Service 8:30am Mindful Mornings 10:00am Yom Kippur Shorashim Service 10:00am Yom Kippur Family Service 10:00am Yom Kippur Teen Program 12:30pm Musaf Service (indoors) and Nature Walk (outdoors) 2:00pm Yom Kippur Af- ternoon Programming 5:15pm Mincha/Eleh Ezkereh 6:45pm Neilah & Break-Fast	17 Tishrei 11	18 Tishrei 12 Ha'Azinu 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
19 Tishrei 13 9:30am Nitzanim/Gan 9:30am Sunday Reli- gious School 12:00pm Bandits (Vav-Zayin)	20 Tishrei 14	21 Tishrei 15 Sukkot 8:30am Mindful Mornings 10:00am Sukkot Morn- ing Service 7:00pm Mixed Media Midrash: Sukkot with Guest Teacher Abi Oshins	22 Tishrei 16 Sukkot	23 Tishrei 17 8:30am Mindful Mornings	24 Tishrei 18	25 Tishrei 19 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
26 Tishrei 20 9:30am Sunday Reli- gious School 5:00pm All Ages Sukkot	27 Tishrei 21	28 Tishrei 22 Shmini Atzeret 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Simchat Torah	29 Tishrei 23 Simchat Torah	30 Tishrei 24 8:30am Mindful Mornings	1 Tishrei 25	2 Tishrei 26 Bereshit 10:00am Shorashim Shabbat: For families with children 6 and younger





**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**  
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West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## CDT Members Celebrating Simchat Torah

