



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Tishrei/Cheshvan 5782

October 2021



Setting up the CDT Sukkah

Happy 30th Anniversary CDT *Bob Warren*



As I write this column our community has just come together for this year's High Holydays. CDT provided multiple ways for our members and guests alike to participate: in-person, live stream, and outdoors.

Our in-person services at the spacious Gann gymnasium ranged from 100 people on Erev Rosh Hashana to 200 people on Yom Kippur, while up to 150 people streamed the services at any time. The outdoor family services hosted as many as 120 family members under the Gann canopy. Tashlikh was celebrated at 4 locations: Watertown, Jamaica Plain, Arlington and Newton with a high of 60-70 participants.

All hands were on deck: our Rabbi Toba, Director of Congregational learning Earnest Vener, guest youth service leaders, chazzanim, all those who led the youth services, with the incredible leadership and coordination of Melissa Colten and Wendy Buglio, and our amazing Tech crew (please see page 6 for a full list of thank you's!).

The High Holydays provided a feeling of unity during the pandemic. Some of my personal highlights included: the spontaneous Hora-like breakout during Mi Chamocha on Erev Rosh Hashanah as dozens of our members joyfully danced throughout the Gann gym; Cindy Shulak-Rome's Jewish Journey setting the context of CDT's first High Holyday services at Brandeis University, augmented by Dan Rome's initial CDT Sukkot story inaugurated our 30th anniversary year celebration; having CDT Sings return in person, culminating with its quartet's beautiful and emotional rendition of Bobby McFerrin's Psalm 23 during Yizkor (thank you to Karen Arnold and Sue Lanser for your leadership); the glorious concluding Neilah Shofar blowing followed by Havdalah outside of our Gann worship space as our Rabbi danced with such love and joy as we closed these powerful ten days of reflection and worship together.

As CDT President as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary as a community, I want us to build on the hard work highlighted by Rabbi Toba during the Ten Days of Teshuva. CDT stands committed to understand and work for peace in Israel-Palestine. The efforts of our Israel-Palestine Peace and Israel-identified Keshar Yisraeli members working

groups lead us in these efforts. Our Board of Directors, with direction from our Anti-Racism Working Group, continues to promote CDT's commitment to building a truly anti-racist community and will offer activities and events to raise awareness around building an inclusive, welcoming and beloved CDT.

The climate crisis is an existential issue. As stewards of the earth, we are spiritually and personally obligated to do all we can do to preserve or even save our planet for all of us living here now and for our future generations to come. I want CDT to commit to work for the systemic change needed to stop the seemingly inexorable march to climate destruction. While we ought to make every individual life-style action part of our commitment to moving towards a fossil-free future, those efforts barely make a dent into what is needed to confront the harmful direction our planet is traveling.

CDT will work in collaboration with the Jewish community and the larger climate movement to confront the fossil fuel industry, including its lobbyists, political allies in Congress and in the State government who block the efforts needed to stop this deadly path. For

this reason, CDT is creating a Dayenu Circle as part of our efforts to be in the center of this existential struggle. Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action (www.dayenu.org) is organizing a national Jewish movement for to address the climate crisis. With thanks to Gail Pressberg for stepping into leadership of our efforts along with rabbinic intern Emmanuel Cantor, we are building a Dayenu Circle to collaborate with other Dayenu Circles in Massachusetts. Our activities are based on the value of climate justice - a recognition that the current climate crisis rests disproportionately on historically marginalized people, thereby interconnecting climate activism with struggles for racial and economic justice more broadly. We intend to commit to confront the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action.

I hope that when we approach 5783 we will be able to say we are firmly ensconced in this commitment to preserving our planet in the healthiest way.

L'shanah Tova and Happy 30th Anniversary CDT.

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,
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Executive Director: Melissa Colten,
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Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green,
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Rabbinic Intern: Emmanuel Cantor,
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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: TBA
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)



Tashlikh at Jamaica Pond

Rabbinic Liaison

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 csbrome@comcast.net.

30th Anniversary Reflections

CDT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION

Jen Kaplan

Did you know that CDT is 31 years old in 2021-2022? Many members have been working on different facets of programming to explore where CDT has come from, where we are now and where we are going. We began our new year with CDT founder Cindy Shulak-Rome offering her Jewish journey talk at Rosh Hashanah services.

Over the course of this year, we are planning programming about our history: including a photo gallery show, a Hanukkah rededication ceremony, various additional forms of art (including poetry, writing, music), a service led by CDT members 2nd generation, a scholar in residence shabbat, as well as other activities. The yearlong program will culminate in a Gala Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, May 1, 2022: be sure to mark your calendars now!

Please look for news about upcoming events. We hope you will join us for many of these celebratory activities as they promise to be fun, enlightening, and entertaining.

A FOUNDER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE FOUNDING OF DORSHEI TZEDEK

Elaine Pollack

I have always enjoyed an adventure, the exciting opportunity to explore someplace I've never been before, to learn things I've never known but wondered about, and to take a chance that all will go well if I open my heart to the experience. Starting a journey is exciting, for it is all potential waiting to unfold.

In the early Spring of 1991, eight families, some of us solo participants, began to meet and discuss the possibility of founding a new Reconstructionist shul. We had varying Jewish backgrounds and education. Some of us were comfortable with service leading, planning programs, or leading meetings, and others were open to learning. We all rose to the occasion, volunteering our skills, with

each of us taking ownership and leadership of the myriad and complex tasks ahead. There was so much that we needed to put in place, including: a place to davven, outreach, advertising and communication, prayer books or at least prayer packets, a telephone and an answering machine, a post office box, and, finally, programming and holding services in our homes so that folks could meet us. We were determined, and somewhat anxious, about such an undertaking. I reassured myself and some of my friends with the idealistic determination expressed in the film "Field of Dreams," quoting "If we build it, they will come!" It was a little scary, but as a group we were completely committed! The other phrase I leaned on to keep up my own spirits was "Im Tirtzu, Ayn Zo Aggaddah," quoting Theodore Herzl: "If you will it, it is no dream."

I sang the Debby Friedman tune to myself, thinking, "Such a determined group of people willing to put themselves all out, body and soul, to make this happen, can indeed, make it happen." I am so thankful that our vision and values attracted new members with each year. And as we grew, new members stepped up to share their skills and vision. Here we are 30 years later: a vibrant congregation with a school, a commitment to social justice, and a wise, talented and creative rabbi who partners with us, providing opportunities to sing and study, to learn and grow.

Our idealism was further expressed in what, after some debate, we decided to call ourselves, "Dorshei Tzedek"—Seekers of Justice. The Recon Movement advised us and held our hands as we planned to launch ourselves with services for the High Holy Days that September, 1991, Tishrei 5752. In part, our planning meetings were "tachlis," practical and action oriented, but we also spent time articulating our values around founding a shul. We knew that a mission statement would be a priority. One family, the Herzig-Marx's had already actively participated in two Reconstructionist shuls. That was reassuring in itself. They knew and believed in the Reconstructionist movement's values of inclusion and equality, along with an openness to a lay/rabbinic partnership. That first year Rabbi Mordechai Liebling along with Chayim

Staff News

CDT IS Hiring! Do you know someone who would want to join our team as a full-time Administrative Assistant? If so, please view our listing or go to <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/>. For more information, please contact Executive Director, Melissa Colten.

Erin Dimson-Doyle, our former full-time administrative assistant who started in January 2021, will be working for 5-7 hours a week to aid the transition. We wish her all the best in grad school!

Dennis Maler, our in-house sound and video engineer, will remain with CDT, continuing to be in the sanctuary and at outdoor events, for as long as we are streaming services.

For more information about our staff, please visit the Meet our Rabbi and Staff webpage.

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



Early Days of the CDT Religious School

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org. Usually the deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. **Volunteer Staff:** Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe. **Join our team!**

30th Anniversary Reflections (con't)

Herzig-Marx led High Holy Day services, with many of us participating. Jill Volk, zichrona livracha, took charge of children's programming, which was a mammoth task, and, as with all we did those first years, a labor of love!

For about six years we were mostly lay-led, while for the last three of those years we had a wonderful rabbinic intern, Linda Potemkin who came to us twice a month. Following the advice of the movement, we needed to grow to a size that could support a part time rabbi, and after six years or so we had grown and had finally reached that threshold. We all had a desire to deepen our own learning, and most of us had very young, or else school-aged, children. We knew that, in good time, we wanted to establish a school to educate our own children, and to attract families looking for an intimate and participatory synagogue. A certain Toba Spitzer came our

way for an interview and a visit in late Spring of 1997. She was about to graduate from The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and we would be her first pulpit. We welcomed her with great joy, and not a small amount of relief. We were so ready to share in the responsibility of leading our growing congregation.

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Kaplan, founder, philosopher and social commentator, defined Judaism as "the evolving civilization of the Jewish People." That was an intriguing and original view for me to ponder, educated as I was in a very conservative Conservative shul where, while I loved learning Hebrew and participating in choral singing, Judaism itself felt static and immutable. My own journey into Reconstructionist Judaism has felt liberating. It has encouraged me to grow and deepen my own relationship to Jewish learning, to the Jewish people, and to a sense of the godly that suffuses and enlivens the world.



The women of the first adult Bat Mitzvah class, Spring 1996: Marian Weinberg, Cindy Shulak Rome, Ellen Hemley, Louise Enoch, Ellie Goldberg, and Ellen Pashall

CALLING CDT FOUNDERS AND LONG TIME MEMBERS: In celebrating CDT's 30th anniversary we want to have an exhibit in the Sanctuary highlighting CDT's founding and rich history. To make this happen we need your photos, newsletters, pamphlets, etc. from CDT's early days. (Remember to put your name on your items, so we can return them to you.) Please deliver all items to Melissa's office by Oct 17th with a short note about each item. From the snippets we heard at High Holiday services - we want to learn and see more about CDT's history and share it with the congregation. Thank you in advance for your help in this project.

Lynda (Goldberg), Ro (Weichman), and Melissa (Colten)

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!

Shabbat Bereshit, October 2, 10am-Noon (in CDT Sanctuary & Livestream): Those 12 and older who are vaccinated are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary as we begin at the very beginning of reading the Torah! Laurie Goldman will chant for us the Creation story of parshat Bereshit, and we will explore together themes of creation and renewal.

Outdoor Shorashim Shabbat Bereshit, October 2, 10am-11:30am (on the Playground behind Second Church): Shorashim families are welcome to join CDT

CDT is conducting an oral history project of our founding as part of our community's celebration of our 30th anniversary. Cindy Shulak Rome and Karen Arnold are leading this project, which captures our founders' stories of the birth and early days of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Oral history video interviews and photographs will appear on our website, probably early in 2022.

Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice (con't)

educators and Shorashim Shabbat leaders Heather Renetzky and Adah Hetko for Shabbat morning songs, celebration, and stories. *For families with children ages 6 and younger*

B'nei Mitzvah of Lila Rumpf, October 9, 10am-Noon: Lila will celebrate in the CDT Sanctuary with family and friends, and all others are invited to join us on the Livestream!

Please join us via Livestream as our daughter, Lila Annabelle Rumpf, is called to the Torah for her B'nei Mitzvah on October 9th. Lila is kind, thoughtful, intelligent and intellectually curious. She cares deeply about education, family, friends and making the world a better place in particular with regard to climate change. She loves to read and learn history. On a rainy day you might catch her baking and listening to her favorite podcast on historical presidencies. She also loves spending time with friends and making practical jokes. Lila is a student at Day Middle school in Newton. She is beloved by her parents Karen and Noah, her sisters Emmy and Julia and dog Oscar in addition to her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who all live locally. For her Tikkun Olam project, Lila has been spending time with members of Hebrew Senior Life, discussing Torah and life in general. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Kaplan-Tanchel, October 16, 10am-Noon: Jordana will celebrate at an outdoor Shabbat morning service with family and friends, and all others are invited to join us on the Livestream!

Please join us online via livestream as our daughter Jordana is called to the Torah as a

Bat Mitzvah. Jordana has been a member of Dorshei Tzedek since her birth and joyously attended Tot Shabbat and Gan Nitzan. She is currently a 7th grader at JCDS in Watertown. Jordana is proudly Jewish and loves many aspects of Judaism. Her passions are dance (particularly hip hop), and she has been taking classes at All That Jazz since her first ballet, tap and jazz class at age 4. She loves music and singing and has joined in her school choirs and very much enjoys participating in her school's soccer and basketball teams. Jordana has a keen sense of social justice and civil rights. Jordana lives with her moms, Susie and Jen, and her dog Fletcher. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!

- Jen Kaplan and Susie Tanchel

Shabbat Vayera, October 23, 10am-11:30am (Zoom): All are invited to this member-led Shabbat morning service, in the Zoomiverse! Zoom link available on the CDT website the week before the service.

Bat Mitzvah of Frieda Naumburg, October 30, 10am-Noon: Frieda will celebrate in the CDT Sanctuary with family and friends, and all others are invited to join us on the Livestream!

Please join us online as our daughter, Frieda Lucia Naumburg, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 30. When she's not busy preparing for her bat mitzvah, Frieda enjoys drawing, hanging out with her cats and friends, playing tennis, and of course, sleeping. Frieda is a 7th grader at the Jewish Community Day School, and for her tikkun olam project, she is volunteering at Cradles to Crayons, sorting and packaging books, clothing, and toys for children living in poverty

in the greater Boston area. She lives in Newton with her mother, father, and younger sister, Rose. Frieda is the first grandchild of a CDT founding family (Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx) to become bat mitzvah at Dorshei Tzedek, and we're delighted to celebrate this simcha with you all. *-Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx*

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service, October 8, 5:30pm - 7pm (outdoors at Gann Academy, in-person only): Adults and kids of all ages are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a (weather permitting) outdoor erev Shabbat service. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner beginning at 5:30pm, and we'll come together for the Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:15pm. Please note: the service will not be livestreamed, and we will move to Zoom for a 6:15pm service in the case of inclement weather.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

This twice-weekly session of guided and silent meditation is open to all, regardless of level of meditation experience. Led by experienced CDT members and Rabbi Toba, Mindful Mornings is an opportunity to cultivate qualities of patience, equanimity, compassion, and resilience. Drop in is welcome! For those in mourning or observing a Yahrzeit, Kaddish is recited at the end of the sit. Zoom info is available on the CDT website (for non-members, please email office@dorsheitzedek.org for the Zoom info).

CDT Artist

This month we highlight CDT artist Thea Breite. She writes of her work, "Trees sustain me. Their strength gives me strength, their roots make me feel rooted, their resilience reminds me that I am also capable of being resilient." Her show is currently on display in the CDT gallery.



Community

MAZEL TOV

To CDT “graduate” **Aviva Galpert**, and to kvelling mama **Sheree Galpert**, on her marriage to Yael Kaufman!

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember **Eugene Black**, whose 8th yahrzeit falls on October 20; we will remember Gene at Shabbat morning services on October 23.

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.

TODAH RABAH

Hamon Todot (many, many thanks!) to everyone who helped create our beautiful High Holydays services:

To the CDT Ritual Committee, and all those who helped with planning and logistical support: **Debbie Waber, Matilda Bruckner, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Dan Rome, Laurie Goldman, and Chayim Herzig-Marx.**

To our *chazzanim* (cantors): **Elaine Pollack, Doug Hersh, Karen Arnold, Matthew Valleau, Bill Shorr, Dan Rome and Michael Feldstein.**

To **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Elaine Pollack, and Dan Rome**, for their 30th anniversary reflections.

To all of our Torah readers: **Mark Bronstein, Debbie Waber, Sue Lanser, Izzy Feinfeld, Audra Karp, Shalev Moser, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Tamar Arons-Brann, Clara Engels, Miriam Bronstein, Steffi Karp, and Louise Enoch.**

To **Karen Arnold and Sue Lanser** and all of the members of CDT Sings, for the beautiful music: **Michele Arons, Dave Felson, Doug Hersh, Judy Hersh, Marcia Okun, Ruth**

REFUAH SHLEYMA

We send blessings for complete healing to **Ellie Goldberg, Al Glazerman, and Steve Adler Golden.**

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members **Nancy Kummer, and Judth & Ken Rosenberg!**



Learning

TORAH STUDY WITH RABBINIC INTERN EMMANUEL CANTOR

Monday mornings, 8am-8:45am, 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 with any questions.



Paris, Elaine Pollack, Rebecca Pomerantz, Jo Radner, Cindy Rivka Marshall, Carole Slipowitz, Andrew Sofer, Bob Warren, and Steve Zisk.

To our Shofar Blowers: **Karen Wasserman, Josh Lieberman, Michele Arons, Evan Gan, Amy Westebbe, Ezra Hausman, Elaine Pollack, Alec Stanton, Diana Perretta, Jo Radner, Ayelet Lipton, Earnest Vener, Miriam Bronstein, Liz Carver, Stacey Chacker, and Matthew Valleau.**

To the amazing musicians on erev Rosh Hashanah: **Tal Shalom-Kobi, Terry Traub, Malka Pomerantz, Lia Kobi, and Tamar Arons-Brann**, and to **Janet Penn**, for her beautiful cello rendition of Kol Nidre.

To our Tashlich Leaders, **Michael Feldstein, Sue Lanser, Jo Radner, and Bill Shorr.**

To **Deb Albenberg and Doug Hersh**, for leading the Yom Kippur afternoon Nature Walk.

To **Laya Steinberg and Jaime Wurzel**, our Yom Kippur Zoom Leaders.

To our wonderful High Holydays Family & Youth Service Leaders: **Abbi Hirschfeld,**

Ayelet Lipton, Esther and Ammi Kohn, Ora Gladstone, Tal Shalom Kobi and CDT Youth bands: **The Bandits and The Rubberband**, and Kitah Zayin youth leaders, and youth shofar sounders.

To our High Holyday ushers: **Allison and Ezra Hausman, Sherry Galpert, Debby Saltzman, Cheryl Sacks, Linette Liebling, Bob Warren, Tony Broh, Carla Naumberg, Deborah Waber, Stacey Chacker, Suzi Dargan-Hart, Danielle Klainberg, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx, Miriam Bronstein, and Jen Levine-Fried.** And to the volunteers who helped with set up and registration, *todah rabah!*

To **Paul Hattis and Scott Tepper**, for leading the Member-led Shabbat service.

To our Sukkah Builders: **Dani Krasa; David, Jacob and Elliot Shumsky; Doron, Evan and Ruby Gan; Andy and Julia Stefano, and Stephen Zisk.**

To **David Rhodes**, for his assistance with Religious School Professional Development

And a huge *todah rabah* to our Simchat Torah band: **Tal Shalom-Kobi, Ayla Kobi, Tamar Arons-Brann and Shalev Moser!**

Learning (con't)

ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH CLASS

With CDT Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor
Sunday's from 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom; beginning on October 17th

Wondering what exactly all those 13 year-olds have been learning as they become Jewish adults? Hungry to explore foundations of Jewish living, key concepts in Judaism, and what Judaism has to say on the "big questions," like the afterlife, sex, spirituality, and social justice? Looking to learn from a wide variety of Jewish texts while building relationships with other CDT members? Then this class is for you! Our class will meet weekly on Sunday evenings for approximately 20 sessions, with breaks for holidays. Outside sessions, participants will have the opportunity to learn how to leyn from Torah, lead parts of a Shabbat service, and/or give a d'var Torah. Members may choose to honor their learning through an "Adult B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat" in June, but the nature of our celebration will be up to our group. Please visit the CDT website under "Learning -> Adult Education" to register, and feel free to email Emmanuel at e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org with any questions.

NEW CLASS! 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
Online, on Zoom

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.

A BETTER FUTURE FOR ISRAELIS & PALESTINIANS: AFFIRMING THE SACREDNESS OF ALL HUMAN LIFE

4 Wednesday evenings, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm on Zoom, beginning October 6
Online, on Zoom

The Islamic Council of New England [ICNE] and Boston Workers Circle [BWC] have come together to create a speaker series titled: "A Better Future for Israelis and Palestinians - Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life." This 4-part series will provide opportunities for us as Jews, Muslims and Christians to consider many perspectives and narratives from which to think about the current situation in Israel and Palestine. We hope that our understanding of the forces that created the situation will deepen, that we will be able to open our hearts and minds to each other, acknowledge the past and current injustices of the situation in Israel and Palestine and become part of the solution as advocates for peace and justice in the region.

CDT is a co-sponsor of this seminar series. For more information and to register, please go to <https://circleboston.org/calendar/better-future-israelis-palestinians-affirming-sacredness-all-human-life-4-part-series>

SAVE THE DATE! MUSSAR (APPLIED JEWISH ETHICS) PRACTICE GROUP WITH ORA GRODSKY AND EARNEST VENER

Ten Wednesdays, 7-9pm
November 17, December 1, December 22, January 12, February 2, February 23, March 9, March 30, April 20, May 11

Mussar is a treasure trove of Jewish spiritual teachings and practices for cultivating inner wisdom and spiritual development. It was developed over 1,000 years ago in Babylonia and Spain, was refined in Eastern Europe during the 18th century, and is now enjoying a resurgence in the US.

This class will meet every 3 weeks November-April as a Vaad (learning community) to learn together about Mussar and support each others' practice. Participants will also have

a chavruta (learning partner) to meet with between sessions, and will design their own daily practices, which can be as little as 5 minutes a day. No prior knowledge of Mussar or Jewish spiritual practice is required and all who are interested and able to commit to the class are welcome!

Ora Grodsky is a long-time CDT member. She recently completed a two-year fellowship with Rabbi David Jaffe and the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project which included extensive Mussar study and practice. Ora is an organization development consultant and master facilitator supporting organizations working toward a more just and sustainable world. For more information about Ora: www.just-works.com.



MUSSAR PRACTICE GROUP Q&A: A TINY TASTE OF MUSSAR WITH ORA AND EARNEST

November 17, 2022, 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom

Never heard of Mussar and are looking for more info? Have you been wondering about Mussar, but have questions about if it is right for you? Would you like to join the practice group but want to know more about the content? Come to the Q&A where you will get a tiny taste of mussar and all your questions about the group answered. We can't wait to learn with you!



Tikkun Olam



Tikkun Olam gathering in the CDT Sukkah. Photo by Jo Radner.

GBIO UPDATE

Louise Enoch

GBIO and its members have been very busy over the last several months. After holding about 1500 listening sessions across its member organizations (now numbering about 60) and identifying three major areas for the focus of its work going forward (Housing, Mental Health/Education, and Reentry) it held its Delegates Assembly in August to ratify its platform. Following the ratification, GBIO held its Mayoral Candidates Forum with about 900 members attending. All five candidates responded to GBIO's platform positively, pledging money and efforts in all three areas should they be elected. During the next couple of months, GBIO will be developing its issue teams and focused campaigns to push for progress in all three areas. Here is an opportunity for our CDT members to get involved! Stay tuned! There will be a mayoral event with the two finalists on October 21 and the annual Impact Fund will take place in the fall months. Here is an opportunity to financially support the work of GBIO! There will be many ways to get involved on all fronts

GBIO has clearly demonstrated that together, numbers of people can make a difference. If you have any questions or want to get involved, please contact Louise at lpenoch@gmail.com and SAVE THE DATE: October 21 for the Mayoral Action.

CDT CELEBRATES SUKKOT WITH COMMITMENTS TO HOUSING AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Around 15 Dorshei members gathered on the second day of Sukkot to help plan CDT's upcoming work on two urgent, Sukkot-related issues: housing and climate justice. Led by rabbinic intern Emmanuel Cantor, the group began with a guided chevruta (partner) text study on how venturing outside to the Sukkah calls us to notice the world around us and all that is in need of justice and repair. CDTers then learned about GBIO's affordable housing campaign with Louise Enoch and the Dayenu Climate Circle with Emmanuel. Many referenced Rabbi Toba's Yom Kippur sermon on the climate crisis as having inspired them to get involved in Dayenu. To learn more and

participate, please email Louise at lpenoch@gmail.com for GBIO and Emmanuel at e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org for the Dayenu Climate Circle.

CDT SPONSORS AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY

Annette Jacobs

As you have heard in the news, approximately 60,000 Afghans arrived in the United States last month with approximately 1,000 moving to Massachusetts. Due to the nature of their refugee/immigration status, the Biden administration can offer only limited government support, requiring the private sector to play a larger than normal role.

CDT is actively engaged in this effort. With support from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston and other organizations, the congregation is sponsoring one Afghan family. A small Leadership Team has been established to coordinate various activities with volunteer help from the congregation. These folks need everything for resettlement! The highest priority is low-cost rental housing as well as an immediate need for financial assistance. They also need help with transportation, medical care, employment, clothing, furniture, household items, job interviewing practice, and a warm welcome. Please visit the CDT Tikkun Olam web page for more information about making a donation and/or becoming involved in this effort as a volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Annette Jacobs (a.jacobs2@comcast.net) or Janet Penn (janetpenn559@gmail.com).



Chesed

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

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

Elaine Bresnick – *in memory of Sig Adler*
Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman – *in honor of Ila Karp Albenberg's B'Mitzvah*
Barbara Harris
The Karp Family
Alec Stanton
Barbara Beck
Elaine Bresnick
Helaine & John Carroll
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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jo Ann & Michael Feldstein
Sheree Galpert – *with thanks to Rabbi Toba for officiating the beautiful wedding of Aviva Galpert and Yael Kaufman*
Yael Kaufman – *with thanks to Rabbi Toba Spitzer, with gratitude for officiating our wedding*
Janet Rickles & Arthur Young – *while wishing for speedy recovery for cousin Betsy Ellerin*
Rachel Sacks & Will Cohen – *with gratitude for officiating our wedding*
Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider

HIGH HOLYDAYS DONATIONS

Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent
Sarah Attia
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Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn
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Pamel Schoenberg & Joel Reider
Tal Shalom-Kobi
Susan Silberberg
Alec Stanton
Jamie Tessler
Ashley Weitz – *thank you so much for live-streaming your high holy days services. I live in Utah, where our reconstructionist community is spread far and wide, and I so appreciate Rabbi Toba and everyone else who put so much in to such a beautiful, appropriately heartbreaking, and heart-healing time. Jen Levine-Fried and family are our friends and I am forever grateful for their willingness to share you all with me. Thank you.*
Hilda and Richard Zinner

AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Allison & Ezra Hausman

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

Arielle Cohen



Youth and Family Programs

SHORASHIM SHABBAT: FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 6 AND YOUNGER

Saturday, October 2nd, 10-10:45am
Playground behind 2nd Church

Shorashim families (with children aged 6 and younger) 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

Religious School began on Sunday, September 19th. Seeing our Dorshei Religious School kids fully animated and three dimensional, after a year of getting to know them via small virtual boxes, was a truly joyful experience. We

welcomed 16 new students to our school and welcomed back 63 returning students! Our Sunday Religious School has 79 students, with 10 more students enrolled in our new monthly 8th/9th Grade Program.

While much is familiar about returning to JCDS, our returning students are adapting to new protocols. Our team is working hard to keep our youngest members safe. Masks are worn indoors and outdoors. Our whole school gathering, Zman B'yachad (together time), has shifted from a weekly morning gathering to a monthly outdoor gathering at the end of the day. We had our first Zman B'yachad gathering on opening day. Children, grownups, teachers, and madrichimot (teen leaders) spread out on the black top. It was an exciting start to the school year!

We have an incredible team of teachers bringing our CDT values to life in our Religious School kitot (classes). Our returning staff include Ali Moss (Kitah Alef), Shira Moss (Kitah Bet), Talya Guenzburger (Kitah dalet), Gavi Troper-Hochstein (Kitah Hey), Joanna Marcus (Kitah Hey), Andrea Kamens (Kitah Vav), and Adah Hetko (Kitah Zayin). Our new staff include Migdalia Tracy (Nitzanim), Heather Renetzky(Gan), Emmanuel Cantor



(Kitah Gimel), Sarah Serrano (Kitah Gimel), Shira Cohen (Kitah Dalet), Lila Klaus (Kitah Hey), and Sarah Pollack(Kitah Zayin). Our team of madrichimot are led by Liz Krushnic and include fourteen passionate teens: Ila Karp, Eleanor Kaplan, Jenna Schwartz, Emerald Lent, Anna Kaplan, Hannah Crozier, Nate Feinfeld, Lucy Engels, Ayla Kobi, Jonah Levine-Freid, Celia Gilbert-Sartori, Lev Gordon, Izzy Feinfeld, and Maya Wilson.

Reconstructionist News

SAVE THE DATE! B'YACHAD: RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM TOGETHER CONVENTION, 2022

Come gather from **March 23-27, 2022** for *B'Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together*. During Convention, we will be together both in-person and virtually to learn from and with experts, scholars and lay leaders. We will engage in conversations, ask questions, and listen. We will pray together, sing together, dance together and celebrate all that we do every day in our communities to reconstruct Judaism.

Register for the convention and check out the preliminary schedule on their website, <https://na.eventscloud.com/website/23440/>



OCTOBER 2021 • TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Tishrei 20	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
3 Tishrei 27	4 Tishrei 28 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	5 Tishrei 29 8:30am Mindful Mornings	6 Tishrei 30 Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 7:30pm A Better Future for Israelis & Palestinians: Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life	7 Cheshvan 1 Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm One Fair Wage Testimony Prep	8 Cheshvan 2 5:30pm All Ages Erev Shabbat Service - Outdoors!	9 Cheshvan 3 Noach 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Lila Rumpf
10 Cheshvan 4	11 Cheshvan 5 Indigenous People's Day	12 Cheshvan 6 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Avelut	13 Cheshvan 7 7:30pm With All Your Possessions: The Torah of Money 7:30pm A Better Future for Israelis & Palestinians: Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life	14 Cheshvan 8 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Tikun Olam Steering Committee Meeting	15 Cheshvan 9	16 Cheshvan 10 Lech Lecha 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Kaplan-Tanchel
17 Cheshvan 11 7:00pm Adult B'Nei Mitzvah Class	18 Cheshvan 12 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	19 Cheshvan 13 8:30am Mindful Mornings 10:00am Sukkot Morning Service 7:00pm Mixed Media Midrash: Sukkot with Guest Teacher Abi Oshins	20 Cheshvan 14 7:30pm With All Your Possessions: The Torah of Money 7:30pm A Better Future for Israelis & Palestinians: Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life	21 Cheshvan 15 8:30am Mindful Mornings	22 Cheshvan 16	23 Cheshvan 17 Vayera 10:00am Zoom Shabbat Morning Service
24 Cheshvan 18 7:00pm Adult B'Nei Mitzvah Class	25 Cheshvan 19 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	26 Cheshvan 20 8:30am Mindful Mornings	27 Cheshvan 21 7:30pm With All Your Possessions: The Torah of Money 7:30pm A Better Future for Israelis & Palestinians: Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life	28 Cheshvan 22 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm GBIO Mayoral Candidate Forum	29 Cheshvan 23	30 Cheshvan 24 Chayei Sara 10:00am Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Frieda Naumburg
31 Cheshvan 25 7:00pm Adult B'Nei Mitzvah Class	1 Cheshvan 26 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	2 Cheshvan 27 8:30am Mindful Mornings	3 Cheshvan 28 7:30pm With All Your Possessions: The Torah of Money	4 Cheshvan 29 8:30am Mindful Mornings	5 Kislev 1 Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5:30pm Early Bird and All Ages Shabbat Program	6 Kislev 2 10:00am Shabbat Service and B Mitzvah of Lia Kobi



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
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West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



CDT at Jamaica Pond Beach

