



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Kislev/Tevet 5782

December 2021



THE LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH AWAKEN US AS WE HEAD INTO THE WINTER DARKNESS

Bob Warren



Our community is moving forward during this new normal of the COVID era. Even as we begin the winter darkness there are great signs for Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Recently at our first truly hybrid Members meeting, nearly 100 households participated in person or by Zoom to hear about our ongoing programs as well as spend time connecting.

Rabbi Toba began with a teaching about our ancestor Jacob wrestling with an angel and receiving a new name, "Israel." Yet for the rest of the book of Genesis, he is sometimes called "Jacob," and sometimes "Israel." Holding on to a previous identity while taking on a new one is a metaphor for how we have adapted to our hybrid identity in the realms of ritual, education, social justice advocacy, and Chesed.

As part of this light, I want to extend a welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Lise Webbe, introduced by Executive Director Melissa Colten zooming in from Arizona where she attended the National Association of Temple Administrators Conference.

At the meeting, many members expressed active interest in helping with our Afghan Resettlement Project (see page 8). This direct act of lovingkindness connects with one of our core values, Chesed. Our community has already raised over \$20,000.00 for this effort. As Co-Chair Janet Penn reported, our efforts are a marathon and not a sprint.

Gail Pressberg reported on CDT's ongoing efforts to combat climate change with the development of our Dayenu Circle. Working with Rabbinical Intern Emmanuel Cantor, CDT is one of six Dayenu Circles in Massachusetts working on the local and national levels to affect policy and build power for climate justice.

CDT is front and center in the state-wide One Fair Wage Campaign to raise the minimum wage for tipped workers in Massachusetts. Amy Mazur shared a video clip of member Ora Gladstone's testimony at the State House hearing on the legislation that led to praise for Dorshei Tzedek by Vice-Chair Timilty at the hearing.

The on-going and long-term efforts to make CDT a truly anti-racist congregation were described by Board member Linda Kramer. This work includes anti-racism training for our religious school staff and in the curriculum in our school; plans for CDT Board training; conducting an audit congregation-wide on how we are doing and what needs to be done long-term. The report from last year's Anti-Racism Working Group will be available on the CDT website for our members, along with updates on current activities.

Rabbi Toba summarized the great activities planned during her upcoming two-part sabbatical. Some highlights include Rabbi-in-Residence for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, who led our very first High Holydays services in 1991; a return of our first rabbinic intern, Rabbi Linda Potemken; Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Reconstructing Judaism's Director of Racial Diversity, Equity

and Inclusion as well as other guest officiants. These events are all aspects of the activities leading up to 30th Anniversary Gala scheduled for May 1 at the Windsor Club in Waban, Massachusetts. (link for date and joining 30th Gala planning)

Members felt energized schmoozing about activities they may want to join and then brainstormed a new round(s) of VIMs (Virtual Interest Meetups). Stay tuned for a calendar of events.

As we pass through our Chanukah celebration where we have been lighting candles together as a community in celebration of our Congregational values, I encourage everyone to continue to come together in various ways during Rabbi Toba's upcoming sabbatical to keep our spirit strong and vibrant.

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 csbrome@comcast.net.

Rabbi Toba's Sabbatical

Rabbi Toba will be taking her sabbatical in two segments this year: December 15 - January 17, and then February 15 - April 4. She will be "on" and available January 18 through February 14. During the sabbatical periods, there will be special guests joining us on Shabbat mornings, as well as talented CDT members! We are especially excited to welcome some wonderful rabbis who have played a special role in CDT's first 30 years: Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, our first High Holydays rabbi, joining us for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend; Rabbi Linda Potemken, CDT's student rabbi, Zooming in on March 12; Rabbi Adam Lavitt, who served as our Community Educator, offering a d'var Torah on February 19; and our very own Rabbi Shahar Colt, CDT's first Director of Congregational Learning, leading Torah study on December 18.

While Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical, CDT Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor will be available for pastoral support; you can reach him at e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org. CDT members can also access his phone # in the membership directory online. In addition, our Shivah coordinators, shivah@dorsheitzedek.org, and Chesed coordinators, chesed@dorsheitzedek.org, will be available for support, and we will have "on call" rabbis in the area: Michael Luckens, Barbara Penzner and Karen Landy. Please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Colten, m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org, or CDT president Bob Warren, president@dorsheitzedek.org, if you have any questions or concerns.

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

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Staff & Board

Staff:

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Director: Melissa Colten, m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org

Director of Congregational Learning: Earnest Vener, e.vener@dorsheitzedek.org

Administrative Assistant: Lise Webbe, l.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org

Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green, inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org

Rabbinic Intern: Emmanuel Cantor, 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: Rebecca O'Murchadha
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)

November 14 Members Meeting Recap

On November 14, 2021, 10-11:30AM, CDT held its very first hybrid members meeting, which was in-person in the JCDS library (masked and distanced) and via Zoom. We had 80 devices connected and 25 people in person. Please see an overview of the meeting below!

Rabbi Toba noted in her D'var that just as Jacob's new hybrid identity, Israel, emerged after wrestling with the Angel, so too is Dorshei Tzedek on a hybrid journey. We are creating something new while continuing with our core. Wrestling is a challenge, but also a loving embrace!

The congregation was able to meet and hear from our new Administrative Assistant, Lise Webbe (they/them), whose hours are Sunday-Thursday, 10-6, and will split their time between office and religious school support. Welcome again, Lise!

Ezra Hausman, CDT Treasurer of 4 years, invited all members interested in taking on the role of Treasurer to contact him ezradaskal@gmail.com.

It's CDT's 30th anniversary, so block off the evening of **May 1 on your calendars for CDT's Anniversary Gala event**. We'll recognize our founders and second generation members, celebrate Toba's 25 years with our congregation, and be together! There will be a montage, CDT jeopardy, a DJ, dancing and more! Other programs, including MLK Shabbat with Rabbi Mordecai Liebling, will be interwo-

ven throughout the year leading up to this celebration.

Rabbi Toba's **sabbatical** will be in 2 parts: December 15 – January 17, then Feb 15 – April 4. Her book, *God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine*, will be launched in March. She will be at the March 22nd at Reconstructing Judaism convention in Tysons Corner outside of D.C., joined by CDT members - please consider going! (See page 9 for more information about Convention and page 2 about her sabbatical). Please reach out to Rabbi Toba before December 15 if you have questions or you can check in with her again in February.

We heard **updates on Tikkun Olam and Board Initiatives**. **Janet Penn** shared an update on the **Afghan Family Resettlement**, whose leadership team consists of: Paul Hattis, Janet Penn (co-chairs), Tony Broh, Annette Jacobs, Jerry Friedman, Meryl Epstein, Corinne Lofchie, Elaine Bresnick and Julie Korostoff (from Hillel B'nai Torah).

CDT will be supporting an Afghan family. We have raised over the needed \$20,000, have found a 2-bedroom apartment in Cambridge, and only a few more household items are still needed. Please visit our website to see what else is needed <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/afghan-family-support.html>.

It's a very diverse group of refugees who have experienced trauma and left behind almost everything, and need and want welcoming human contact as they settle in.

* Note: We never mention the name of family or post pics on social media due to concerns of safety.

This is a marathon, not a sprint. There are opportunities to get involved now and in the future, e.g. six months from now. For more information on how to get involved, donate items, or otherwise get involved, please go to <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/afghan-family-support.html>.

Gail Pressberg presented an update on **CDTs Dayenu Circle – A Jewish Call to Climate Action!**, which is working on Build Back Better legislation related to climate change along with other activists in synagogues around the country. There are 6 Dayenu circles in MA, and Rabbinic Intern Emanuel Cantor and Gail have been in touch with the other circles.

Stay tuned for webinars about issues relevant to Massachusetts where we can take action, e.g. helping state workers to remove fossil fuels from their pension fund, micro-grids, renewable energy, etc. For more information please visit our website <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/dayenu.html>

Amy Mazur presented an update on the **One Fair Wage Campaign**. There was a meeting last Feb 13, 2021, and a gathering last May to end sub-tip minimum wage. Other groups involved include the Matahari Center, and NE Jewish workers. MA minimum wage is \$13.50 an hour, but many tip workers get less. On Oct 19, CDT was well represented in testimony for house and senate bills. CDT member Ora Gladstone testified at Mass State House at the One Fair Wage Zoom hearing at the State House, and Vice Chair Timilty said he admired the activism of CDT and gave a heartfelt thank you message to CDT in this video clip: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4017>. Please eat at restaurants who follow One Fair Wage (OFW) and High Road Kitchens www.highroadkitchens.com, and contact Amy Mazur acmazur@comcast.net or Ora Gladstone oragladstone@gmail.com to get involved!

CDT Board member and member of CDT's Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG), Linda Kramer, presented an update on **CDT's Anti-Racism efforts** to make CDT welcoming to all and how to hold ourselves accountable



Members Meeting

for the long haul. (Remember, it's a marathon, not a sprint.) In addition to Linda Kramer, the UR group includes Alan Epstein, Tatjana Meschede, Ora Gladstone, Ellie Axe, Linda Kramer, Lisa Schneier, Jonathan Rosenthal, and Jordan Namerow, supported by Toba and Earnest.

Anti-racism is a strategic focus of CDT, and the initiative will include Board training, a future audit of how we are doing, and community-wide surveys. The group has been focusing on research to create an initial vision for the future, and has met with a consultant, held a listening session with CDT members of color, and presented recommendations to the CDT Board. Since summer of 2020, DCL Earnest Vener has included anti-racism training for school staff and included antiracism as part of the CDT religious school curriculum.

CDT's **Understanding Racism Group** is working on key readings, survey, reparations research, and unmasking Fidelity by calling out Fidelity's support of white supremacist groups.

Lauren Gibbs invites members to join the **Criminal Justice Reform** list by writing to ladarelk@verizon.net

Bob Warren informed our membership that there is a board working group focusing on present and future office, school, and pastoral staffing needs.

Our **VP of Membership, Debby Saltzman** and **Board Member-at-large, Sheree Galpert** led a break-out schmooze groups to explore what CDT activities and congregational involvement have been connecting and nourishing, and to provide us all the opportunity to get to know each other better. The next round of **VIMs** (Virtual and In-person Interest Meet-ups) sessions in January. Breakout groups brainstormed topics they may be able to lead or be interested in attending. For those who were unable to do so on November 14, please complete a brief interest survey for, at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS_GrtTD6D_VZ5X-M1gm7KRflgocdzTFWDsCCiFD_UtRMxn2g/viewform

Our next Members meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2022 in fellowship hall.

Save the Date!

Sunday, May 1, 2022
4-8pm

CDT's 30th Anniversary Gala and Celebration

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evening, December 3, 5:30-6:30pm
Zoom

Please note: There will be no all-ages service in January, while Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical

This Shabbat of Chanukah, we'll begin with "CDT Lights" (see page 6), and then light our Shabbat candles and enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, friendly to kids but meaningful for all! Have your Shabbat candles and grape juice/wine for Kiddush ready to go! Zoom links are available on the CDT website.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES AND SABBATICAL GUESTS

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah, beginning at 10am. Zoom or YouTube streaming information for each service can be found on the CDT website; just click on the calendar link in purple writing on the upper right corner of the homepage. If you'd like to join us in-person, registration is requested; you can sign-up by clicking on the calendar page on the CDT website. Only those who are vaccinated may attend in-person in our sanctuary, and masks must be worn throughout the service. For the

time being, we will not be sharing Kiddush lunch together.

Shabbat of Chanukah, December 4, 10am-noon: All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary for this special Chanukah Shabbat service, featuring the singing of Hallel! Livestream will be available as well.

Shabbat Vayiggash, December 11, 10am-noon: During this Shabbat morning service, we will be calling Jonah Stark to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah! All are welcome to join the service via Livestream.

We are so grateful to Rabbi Toba, Debby Gelber, Earnest Vener and Jonah's Hebrew school teachers for their thoughtful teaching. We appreciate Jonah's CDT classmates and their families who are sources of insight and camaraderie. Thank you also to the whole community at CDT who warmly welcomed our family from our first days as members. Mazel Tov to Jonah! We are so happy to share this occasion with you. - *Zoë Stark and Jenn Guptill*



Shabbat Vayechi, December 18, 10am-11am: We are thrilled that Rabbi Shahar Colt will lead us in Torah study and discussion, as we bring the book of Bereshit/Genesis to a close. The study will end with an opportunity to recite Mourner's Kaddish.

Sabbat & Holidays (cont.)

Shabbat Shemot, December 25, 10am-11:30am, on Zoom: All are welcome to join CDT members for morning blessings and songs and the Shacharit service from 10am-11am, and then a Torah discussion with John Holohan beginning at 11am, as we begin our reading of the book of Shemot/Exodus. The service will end at approximately 11:30am with blessings for healing and the Mourners Kaddish.

We will take a Shabbat "off" on New Year's, January 1; there will be no Shabbat program this morning. All are encouraged to sleep in!

Shabbat Bo, January 8, 10am-noon, in the CDT sanctuary and livestreamed: Special Guest Cantor Louise Treitman will return to lead a service exploring the connection of prayer and meditation. She will also share a beautiful book of Psalms translated by Rabbi Richard N. Levy, including his spiritual interpretation: *Songs Ascending*. She looks forward to spending Shabbat with you again.



Cantor Louise Treitman served Temple Beth David in Westwood, MA for twenty years and is honored to be their Cantor Emerita. She has served at several other

Boston-area congregations. Connected to Hebrew College since the 1980s, she currently teaches and coaches cantorial, rabbinic, education and music students there. She is the High Holy Day Cantor at Beth Hillel Roma, a Progressive congregation in Rome, Italy.

In the 1980s, Louise was an early member and co-president of the Greater Boston Reconstructionist Havurah (from which developed Dorshei Tzedek). She served as GBRH's High Holy Day cantorial soloist for five years and this experience inspired her to study for the cantorate. She looks forward to returning to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.

Chanukah

The Festival of Lights is early this year, and we have something for everyone! While we can't yet have our regular in-person latke extravaganza as in years past, we hope you'll join us at one or more of these activities over the week of Chanukah:

CDT LIGHTS

Daily, through Sunday, December 5, 5:30pm-5:45pm
Zoom

Each night of Chanukah we will gather as a community via Zoom to light our chanukiot and re-dedicate ourselves to our CDT Core Values, lifting up one value each night and affirming our Kehillah (Commitment to Community). Each night will feature Chanukah music from around the globe, a personal story from a CDT member relating to that night's value, and candle-lighting (have your chanukiah and candles ready!):

Sunday night, 11/28, one candle: Inclusion and Human Dignity

Monday night, 11/29, two candles: Chesed (Lovingkindness)

Tuesday night, 11/30, three candles: Talmud Torah (Lifelong Jewish Learning)

Wednesday night, 12/1, four candles: Mitzvah (Ethical & Ritual Practice)

Thursday night, 12/2, five candles: Machloket l'shem shamayim (Debate for the Sake of Heaven)

Friday night, 12/3, six candles: Spirituality

Saturday night, 12/4, seven candles: Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World)

Sunday night, 12/5, eight candles: Kavanah (Sacred Intention)

CHANUKAH MINDFUL MORNING

Thursday, December 2, 8:30-9:15am
Zoom

This Mindful Mornings session will be led by Rabbi Toba on a Chanukah theme.

ALL AGES CHANUKAH AND EREV SHABBAT

Friday, December 3, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Zoom

This Shabbat of Chanukah, we'll begin with "CDT Lights," and then light our Shabbat candles and enjoy a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, friendly to kids but meaningful for all! Have your Shabbat candles and grape juice/wine for Kiddush ready to go!

SHABBAT CHANUKAH

Saturday, December 4, 10am-noon
In person and streamed from the CDT sanctuary

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this special Shabbat morning service, featuring the singing of Hallel. Come celebrate the light!

CHANUKAH BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, December 5, 11:30am - 12:30pm
In-Person outside at JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

Celebrate Chanukah with Dorshei Tzedek! CDT members of all ages are invited to come together at JCDS for an afternoon Chanukah block party. There will be Chanukah music from the CDT youth band the Band-its, a relay race, Yiddish dance with live music, art, and treats. Activities will be happening both indoors and outside. The root of the word Chanukah is dedication, a time to rededicate ourselves to building a more just world. This Chanukah event will be dedicated to the Afghan Family Resettlement Project; among other activities, we will launch a tzedakah project and make welcoming cards for the Afghan family we are hosting. In case of inclement weather, we will move indoors.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Idit Klein**, on her 20 years as Executive Director and CEO of Keshet, the premier national organization working for full LGBTQ equality in Jewish life. Idit's visionary leadership was recently recognized with Keshet's Rosh Pina award.

Mazel tov to **Lia Kobi** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Allegra and Laura Heath-Stout**, on the birth of River Benjamin!

Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 21st yahrzeit falls on January 1. We will remember Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 8; may his 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.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Jonathan Magaziner, Hilary Marcus, Noah** and **Mayan Magaziner** on the death of Jonathan's mother, Edith Magaziner; may her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Pam, Steve, Joseph, David** and **Elan Katz** on the death of Pam's father, Charles Henry Covington; may his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Liz Reisberg**, on the death of her mother, Miriam Reisberg; may her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Idit Klein, Jordan Namerow**, and **Lior Namerow-Klein**, on the death of Idit's grandmother, Margareta Klein; may her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Rebecca, Aongus, Una** and **Conall O'Murchadha**, on the death of Rebecca's mother, Rabbi Joyce Galaski; may her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Amy Brodesky, Rex Flynn**, and **Emily** and **Avi**

Flynn, on the death of Amy's father, Jerome Brodesky; may his memory be for a blessing.

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesdays, December 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 or Dianne Lior, 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 for complete healing to **Ellie Goldberg, Al Glazerman, Steve Adler Golden**, and **Emma Price**

TODAH RABAH

Many thanks to: Emy Webbe, Susan Dargon-Hart, and Sara Ulanet for volunteering for door duty at Religious School.

Jonathan Rosenthal for teaching Kitah Hey about fair trade.

David Rhodes, VP of Education, for co-facilitating our religious school conversation about Israel/Palestine with CDT parents.

BE CDT'S NEXT TREASURER!

Help keep Dorshei on its fiscal track, create a finance committee, and think about how to secure and support our congregation for future generations.

Qualifications: Good at Excel. Comfortable with Quickbooks. It's online with ShulCloud—which makes the job so much easier than before. Comfortable with basic budgeting practices. A great opportunity to learn about budgeting and financial management, but no means do you need to be an expert. It's a great learning opportunity, and current Treasurer Ezra Hausman, aka Ez the Trez, will continue to offer support during transition. Reach out to him for more info: ezradaskal@gmail.com. Start date: August 1, 2022.

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. For pastoral support during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical, please contact rabbinic intern Emmanuel Cantor, e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org.

CHESED Q&A

Ellie Goldberg

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.

Do I need to respond when I get a Chesed request?

When you receive a Chesed request for volunteers, it feels like a personal request from the Chesed Coordinator. But it isn't. The announcement goes out to the whole list of potential volunteers. If you can volunteer, sign up on the LotsaHelpingHands CDT Chesed Caring Community website to find out more about the request. There is no need to re-

spond to the Coordinator or send regrets if you can't volunteer.

How do I create a login to Lotsa Helping Hands?

To coordinate the community's chesed needs, we use the Lotsa Helping Hands website. We ask that all Dorshei Tzedek members create a login to Lotsa Helping Hands by clicking on this link. Please fill out the right-hand side of the form where it says 'Interested in becoming a member of this community?' Click on 'Continue' and then 'Send Email' on the next page. Once a Chesed Coordinator approves your request, you will receive an email with instructions for signing in.

What are the Covid precautions?

Due to Covid, we had only been ordering Chesed meals from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, thanks to Rabbi Toba's Discre-

tionary Fund. Now, some members prefer the option of a home cooked meal. When a need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about food preferences and send out a request from LotsaHelpingHands for a volunteer to either prepare or to pick up and deliver a 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.

The Chesed Coordinators for December are Abby Cohen and Laura Katz. Please contact the Chesed Coordinators if you have questions or a request for Chesed at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Tikkun Olam

MASSACHUSETTS JEWS FOR REPARATIONS: TAKING STOCK AND TAKING ACTION

*Tuesday, December 14, 7:00pm-8:30pm on Zoom
Sponsored by Boston Workers Circle's Acting For Racial and Economic Justice Committee*

Rabbi Toba will be participating in an online convening to bring together Jewish communities across Massachusetts to share ideas and practices around reparations, in solidarity with the Grassroots Reparations Campaign's bi-annual "Reparations Sundays." The panel will speak about the ways we as Jews can engage with the spiritual, moral, political and economic aspects of the work of reparations. In addition to Rabbi Toba, speakers will include Rabbi Devorah Jacobson and Jeff Gold, co-chairs of the Reparations Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst, Israel Harris and Yolanda Savage-Narva of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and Boston Workers Circle members. To register, please go to <http://bit.ly/jews4repMA>.

DE FACTO ANNEXATION - WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING ON THE WEST BANK?

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 pm

All are invited to join this special Zoom event co-sponsored by our Israel-Palestine Peace Group and J Street featuring a video presentation by Michael Sfard, Israeli human rights lawyer. In a powerful, thought-provoking and informative 20 minute video, Sfard explains how Israel's legal system and infrastructure policy contribute to de facto annexation in the West Bank and create obstacles to a two-state solution. We will watch the video together. Discussion will follow.....reactions, questions, taking action. There is a great deal for us to learn and a great deal to do to ensure that US policy helps move the new Israeli government in a more positive direction.

Please RSVP to Elaine - elainefelson@gmail.com - if you can attend and she will forward the Zoom link to you.

GBIO UPDATE

Louise Enoch

The Mayoral Action on October 27, which also included City Council candidates, was well attended by our CDT members. It was a successful event with about 700 community members demonstrating to the candidates the power of GBIO's organizing efforts. It was clear from the candidates' responses, particularly those of the mayoral candidates, that they were already well acquainted with GBIO and the issues that GBIO is calling for action on. Michelle Wu and the successful City Councilors will start their terms knowing GBIO will hold them accountable to their promises to work on affordable housing, mental health and the schools, and reentry.

The action was meaningful to our members. Here are a few quotes from those who attended.

"I am very glad I attended the GBIO event. One impression was how important it is for can-

Tikkun Olam (cont)

didates for City government to see and hear from an organized, progressive, social justice-oriented religious coalition representing diverse congregations from across the Metro area. For this event in particular, it's a great way for congregations, outside of the City of Boston, to be allies in solidarity with those from Boston-based congregations, showing support for issues that are going to impact them directly and all of us, if more indirectly." - *Jacob Weinberg*

"This was the first time I attended a GBIO Mayoral Action. I found it deeply moving to be a part of such a diverse group, with people from different races, ethnicities, and class, all working together on critical issues of social justice. Listening to the stories of those directly affected by these issues was also very powerful and inspired me to become a more active player in future GBIO campaigns." - *Muriel Heiberger*

"As a Boston voter, I was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the GBIO event of City Council candidates and Mayoral Candidates. It was an incredible opportunity to hear from so many candidates in one place. Many candidates had genuine and caring responses and conveyed a real sense of concern about addressing the issues that came out of the GBIO conversations." - *Esther Kohn*

Looking ahead, there will be opportunities for CDT members to participate in actions around the above mentioned issues. Please let me know if you want to get involved. GBIO is also holding its annual Impact Fund process. Thanks to those who have already given, to those who have pledged to give, and to those who are considering making a donation to the important work GBIO (and we) are doing! Donations can be made on the GBIO website.

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

Annette Jacobs

By the time you read this, the Afghan family we are sponsoring is likely to be here, moved into the apartment, and settling in, or is on their way here. We are delighted to be welcoming them and thankful to the volunteers among you who have stepped forward to learn and continue to learn about the nuances and cus-

oms of the Afghan culture and to support this family in a myriad of ways.

Welcome Afghan Refugees: Understanding Cultural Strengths and Needs of Recent Arrivals, a presentation about Afghan culture and the needs of recent evacuees, was led by Sina Baha, on Sunday, November 7, via Zoom for all who were interested. This program was sponsored by Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. One hundred people attended. The program was recorded and posted to the Afghan Family Resettlement webpage. Many thanks to the co-chair of the Afghan Resettlement Leadership Team, Janet Penn for arranging this and skillfully moderating, as many people asked important, relevant questions for close to an hour. People attended from all over the country, and everyone learned an enormous amount.



Sina Baha, who lives in Kansas City, is a mother of four children and volunteers to help refugees and at her local mosque.

Donations from all of you and the generosity of Welcome Home in Newton allowed us to completely equip the apartment from toothbrushes to kitchen utensils, pots and pans, and a sofa and a TV. Move-in happened in stages with ease over several days.

We also were provided with a list of foods and condiments that Afghans like and stocked the kitchen, in addition to having recipes to offer the family a warm Afghan meal upon arrival.

Please join the Afghan Family Resettlement team along with Earnest Veneer and the CDT religious school on Sunday, December 5, 11:30-12:30 PM at the CDT school at JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, for a Chanukah Block Party for the entire congregation dedicated to the Afghan Family Resettlement Program. Among other activities, children will begin tzedakah and will be making welcoming cards for the Afghan Family. We will also be learning a few Dari and Pashto words so we can speak to the Afghan family in their language. To learn how you can get involved with this project, please click on "Afghan Family Reset-

tlement" under "Social Justice" on the CDT website home page.



PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

The Prison Book Program In Quincy has resumed regular volunteer hours, but volunteers must now sign up in advance (no drop-ins) and only seven volunteers per session are permitted. Volunteer slots go very quickly. For the foreseeable future, CDT will not be volunteering as a group. If anyone wants to volunteer individually, the signup site is : <https://signup.com/go/ZeaXPfL>.

Anyone interested in supporting the PBP during their temporary closure due to COVID-19 can order books from the PBP's wish list on Amazon. Books ordered from this list are being sent to a PBP volunteer staffer, who is sending out individual, specially requested books to prisoners from her home. Other books that come off the wish list will be set aside until the PBP is reopened. The link for the PBP wishlist is: <http://a.co/iYr7Tkv>.

Books can also be donated directly to the PBP by dropping them off during regular volunteer hours at the door to the PBP (back door of church), Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-9 pm and alternate Saturdays 1-4 pm.

Learning

TORAH STUDY WITH RABBINIC INTERN EMMANUEL CANTOR

Monday mornings, 8am-8:45am, Zoom

Start your Monday mornings with Torah Study! Join Emmanuel for a weekly 45-minute study session, focusing on the weekly Torah portion. You are welcome to drop-in or come every week. All are welcome and no prior knowledge is required. See the CDT website for Zoom information, and email Earnest at e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org with any questions.

MUSSAR (APPLIED JEWISH ETHICS) PRACTICE GROUP WITH ORA GRODSKY AND EARNEST VENER

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

"The Goal of Mussar practice is to help us fulfill our potential to really live as the holy souls we are." -Rabbi Alan Morinis, Everyday Holiness

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!

EXPLORING AGING THROUGH LITERATURE

Sunday afternoons, 3-4:30pm, January 9, Feb 13, March 13, April 10

Join CDT's WISE AGING member Carol Hausman, a clinical psychologist, gerontologist, teacher, Wise Aging facilitator and a new member of CDT. The course will meet for five sessions, on Sunday afternoons from 3 o'clock to 4:30 on the second Sunday of the month from January through May.

The class will read short novels, short stories and poetry on many topics of aging--relationships with children, love, caregiving, dementia, institutionalization and relocation, illness and death, and the search for meaning. We hope to deepen our awareness of some of the challenges and opportunities faced by elderly people and their caregivers, and perhaps gain some insight into our own fears of and resistance to looking at issues of aging.

The class is asked to read Carry Me Across the Water by Ethan Canin before the first session on January 9.

The course is open to all members of CDT. Class size will be limited to 15 in order to maximize opportunities for discussion so please register in advance.



B'YACHAD

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM TOGETHER

CONVENTION • MARCH 23-27, 2022

Registration is Open! Reconstructing Judaism Convention, March 23-27, 2022

CDT members are invited to join Rabbi Toba, Earnest, Melissa, and members of the CDT Board at this exciting gathering of Reconstructionists in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. During Convention, members of Reconstructionist communities around North America will gather in-person and virtually to learn from and with experts, scholars and lay leaders. We'll have opportunities to pray together, sing and dance together, and celebrate all that we do every day in our communities to reconstruct Judaism. Go to the Reconstructing Judaism website for more information and to register - www.reconstructingjudaism.org. Please contact Melissa Colten for information about financial subsidies.

CONTRIBUTIONS

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program) and, most important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers; this fund allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community. **We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:**

ADULT EDUCATION

Pauline Corderre — *with thanks to Earnest Vener for the Talmud for the 99% class*

AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Miriam Bronstein — *with thanks to Annette Jacobs, Janet Penn and the rest of the Team leading this effort. Kol haKavod!!*

Matilda & Ed Bruckner

Barbralu Cohen — *with thanks to Elaine Bresnick*

Sandy Goodman & Sue Weil

Jeff Green

Judith & Tim Havens

Annette Jacobs — *in memory of Annette's immigrant family and in honor of all the immigrants who have come to this country without being welcomed*

Danielle Klainberg — *in memory of Irene Rosenberg*

Esther Kohn — *in honor of Rabbi Toba's birthday*

Elaine Landes & David Felson

Michael Luckens & Sharon Schumack — *in memory of Susan Moser*

Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

Amy Mazur

Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen

Amy Pollack-Howard & George Howard

Joel Reider

Barbara Shatkin

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

Jodie Siegel — *in memory of Diane & Norman Bernstein*

Annie Spanel

Bonnie Teneriello & Andrew Sofer

Maya Townsend & Robin Bernstein

Merle Wolofsky

GENERAL FUND

Harriet Budd — *in honor of the mitzvah that Helaine Carroll and Alice Markowitz performed on 10/12 to schlep her to MGH*

Helaine & John Carroll

Rose Fiore — *with thanks to Karen Arnold for her kind email re: your efforts to help refugee families*

Sharon Gorberg — *in honor of the marriage of Earnest Vener and Emma Price*

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp

The Naumburg/Herzig-Marz Family — *with gratitude and appreciation to Rabbi Toba, Melissa, and Dennis for all their support with Frieda's Bat Mitzvah*

Pamela & Steven Katz

Esther Kohn — *with thanks to Murray Bushman and Barbara Pittel*

Cindy Shulak Rome & Dan Rome — *in honor of Jordana, Frieda, & Lia*

HIGH HOLYDAYS DONATIONS

Carol Hess

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Naumburg/Herzig-Marz Family — *with gratitude and appreciation to Rabbi Toba, Melissa, and Dennis for all their support with Frieda's Bat Mitzvah*



December 2021 • Kislev/Tevet 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>28 Kislev 24</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p>	<p>29 Kislev 25 Chanukah</p> <p>8:00am Chanukah Torah Study</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p>	<p>30 Kislev 26 Chanukah</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>3:00pm Tuesday Religious School</p> <p>4:00pm Rosh Chodesh Chanukah</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p>	<p>1 Kislev 27 Chanukah</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p> <p>7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener</p>	<p>2 Kislev 28 Chanukah</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p> <p>7:00pm Shivah gathering for the Brodesky family</p>	<p>3 Kislev 29 Chanukah</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting and All Ages Erev Shabbat Candlelighting</p>	<p>4 Kislev 30 Chanukah</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Tevet Miktetz</p> <p>10:00am Chanukah Shabbat!</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p>
<p>5 Tevet 1 Chanukah</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</p> <p>9:30am Sunday Religious School</p> <p>10:00am 8th/9th Grade Kids4Peace</p> <p>11:30am Chanukah Block Party</p> <p>5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candle-lighting</p> <p>7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor</p>	<p>6 Tevet 2 Chanukah</p> <p>8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor</p>	<p>7 Tevet 3</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>3:00pm Tuesday Religious School</p>	<p>8 Tevet 4</p>	<p>9 Tevet 5</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p>	<p>10 Tevet 6</p>	<p>11 Tevet 7 Vayigash</p> <p>10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Stark</p>
<p>12 Tevet 8</p> <p>9:30am Sunday Religious School</p> <p>7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor</p>	<p>13 Tevet 9</p> <p>8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor</p>	<p>14 Tevet 10</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>3:00pm Tuesday Religious School</p> <p>6:00pm 8th/9th Grade Tuesday Program</p> <p>7:00pm Massachusetts Jews for Reparations: Taking Stock and Taking Action</p>	<p>15 Tevet 11</p>	<p>16 Tevet 12</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>7:30pm De Facto Annexation - What's really happening on the West Bank?</p>	<p>17 Tevet 13</p>	<p>18 Tevet 14 Vayechi</p> <p>10:00am Shabbat Vayechi Torah Study with Rabbi Shahar Colt</p>
<p>19 Tevet 15</p> <p>9:30am Parent Learning: Antiracist Jewish Education</p> <p>9:30am Sunday Religious School</p> <p>9:30am Nitzanim/Gan at JCDS</p>	<p>20 Tevet 16</p>	<p>21 Tevet 17</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p> <p>3:00pm Tuesday Religious School</p>	<p>22 Tevet 18</p> <p>7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener</p>	<p>23 Tevet 19</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p>	<p>24 Tevet 20</p>	<p>25 Tevet 21 Shemot</p>
<p>26 Tevet 22</p>	<p>27 Tevet 23</p>	<p>28 Tevet 24</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p>	<p>29 Tevet 25</p>	<p>30 Tevet 26</p> <p>8:30am Mindful Mornings</p>	<p>31 Tevet 27</p>	<p>1 Tevet 28 Vaera</p>



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Address correction requested

