



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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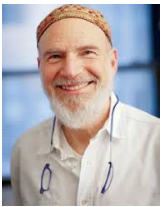
Tevet/Shevat 5782

January 2022



## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LOVING COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling



"Love intensely, love as many people as you can and let them know it- show it."

Those words are from the Kol Nidre sermon I gave in 1991, Dorshei Tzedek's first Yom Kippur. I think that as a community you have shown much love to many people. I remember the morning of the first Rosh Hashanah service, while we were setting up wondering how many people would come and who might they be, all the feelings of throwing a party and wondering if anyone would come. Chayim Herzig-Marx and Dan Rome graciously served as the cantors, bringing warmth to the service. Many people have shown up since, and it is the caring community that you have created that has enticed people to stay. You have an ethos of treating each other with love and respect.

In the last 30 years we have gained a greater awareness of the role that white supremacy has played continues to play in all aspects of our society and are learning, albeit slowly, the need to compensate for the past and change the present. I will be speaking on Shabbat Shira, when we sing the Song of the Sea celebrating the crossing of the sea leaving Egypt, which occurs this year on MLK weekend. Our country is divided and self-destructing, spiritually starving and vastly unequal, racism is at the core of our sickness. We will explore the journey towards freedom on individual and communal levels, how we move from being a white supremacist society towards being an antiracist one.

On Saturday night we will watch the documentary "Praying with Lior" which is about the spirituality of my son Lior, who has Down syndrome. It received six Audience Awards for Best Documentary, the Grand Prix

at the International Disability Film Festival, and was a critic's pick of The New York Times. The movie had a major effect on inclusion policies in the Jewish community. Lior was born a few months before CDT's first High Holyday services and was not yet diagnosed with Down syndrome. Waiting to be picked up for our second High Holyday services, I had a strange encounter with a child with Down syndrome and weeks later Lior was diagnosed. When I flew to Boston to lead the third High Holyday services I brought Lior with me. It was his first plane flight, and most of the flight I pondered how I would be able to protect him in an emergency. I did not yet know his resourcefulness and the blessings that he would bring to the world. Lior will join us for a post-viewing conversation.

On Sunday there will be a workshop based on the work of Buddhist scholar and environmental activist Joanna Macy. Its goal is to build motivation, connection, solidarity, and vision, renewing our courage to act for the healing of our world. In these perilous times, there is a tension between our desire to take urgent action and our need to process reality on a deeper level. We often experience despair, anger, fear, and burnout as we navigate this tension, and at times it feels easier to turn away and close ourselves off. Yet it is through reconnection with ourselves and others, and acknowledging the reality of these times, that we can find hope and the courage to continue.

*Rabbi Mordechai Liebling is the brother of CDT member Linette Liebling and was CDT's first guest High Holydays rabbi. He served in recent years as the director of the Social Justice track at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia.*

# Do you need a large print version of the newsletter? Contact the office at [office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org)

## 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](mailto:e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org). CDT members can also access his phone # in the membership directory online. In addition, our Shiva coordinators, [shivah@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:shivah@dorsheitzedek.org), and Chesed coordinators, [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto: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](mailto:m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org), or CDT president Bob Warren, [president@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:president@dorsheitzedek.org), if you have any questions or concerns.

## ARE YOU 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: Interest in budgeting, investment, and finance. Comfortable with basic budgeting practices, spreadsheets, Excel, and Quickbooks a plus. Everything's online with ShulCloud, which makes the job so much easier than before. This is a great opportunity to learn about budgeting and financial management -- by no means do you need to be an expert! Current Treasurer Ezra Hausman, aka Ez the Trez, will continue to offer support during transition. Reach out to him for more info at [ezradaskal@gmail.com](mailto:ezradaskal@gmail.com). Start date: August 1, 2022.

## 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). Please let us know if you'd like to join the team - we especially need photographers!!

## 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: Lise Webbe, [l.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:l.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org)  
Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green, [j.green@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:j.green@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 Komarov, 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)

# CDT Celebrates 30 Years

CDT is celebrating its 30th year, and we're planning all kinds of wonderful celebrations, from special guests at Shabbat services to our Gala in May, another series of VIMs (Virtual Interest Group Meet-ups), art openings, and many other simchas and joyful events.

## CDT 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA AND CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 1st, 2022  
6-10pm

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this special event, being held at the Windsor Club in Waban (Newton), MA from 6 - 10 pm.

One of the activities as part of the program we will have is a CDT Jeopardy game, created by and emcee'd by none other than our own Sheree Galpert!

**CDT Jeopardy Question #1: Who created the colorful, decorated Hebrew and English letter squares that make up the banners we use during the High Holidays?**



## MORDECHAI LIEBLING IN THE EARLY DAYS OF CDT

Cindy Shulak-Rome



Stories and memories of the earliest days of Dorshei Tzedek have circulated from time to time, most recently over High Holidays when a few of our founding mem-

bers had a chance to share specific memories from the bimah. (Some of those stories can be found here - links on the website yet for the talks on HH about the founding) There's a part of our history that has not been shared as widely- that of our strong initial connection to the Reconstructionist movement and the guiding wisdom of Rabbi Mordechai Liebling from our earliest days.

When a small group\* of us gathered in the Herzig-Marx living room in June of 1991, not only were we launching Dorshei Tzedek by planning our first High Holy Day services, we were also thinking about how to establish ourselves as a Reconstructionist presence in the Boston metropolitan area. We knew from early on that our goal was to grow into a full-service Reconstructionist congregation- one with a full time rabbi, a school for our children and a rich and varied program. Given that there were less than a dozen of us sitting, planning and dreaming together, that thought was, at times, a bit overwhelming!

In that same meeting, Judy Herzig-Marx, who at the time served on the national board of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH, the Reconstructionist movement's national organization), offered to contact Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, then the executive director of FRCH, to ask for his organizational guidance and wisdom, and to ask if he would join us as our rabbinic presence to officiate at these first High Holy Day services.

Mordechai is not only an inspiring rabbinic voice/presence, he is also an organizational expert and we were delighted that he agreed to be our High Holy Days rabbi and advise us organizationally. This launched our relationship with him that endured over the first several years of our development and was instrumental in our establishing this community and growing it to what it has become today.

Ellie Goldberg remembers this about our first connections with Mordechai: "I remember feeling very proud that our little start-up congregation had engaged such an important leader as Mordechai for our initial HH services. I was feeling that his warm presence would boost our confidence in our plans and that it would be a touchstone for the coming years. He set a high standard for our services and that served us well as we grew."

Dan Rome recalls this about Mordechai: "On the bimah he was a warm and strong rabbinic presence, from our earliest days, and this was truly a blessing. I think his organizational

guidance helped give us a level of reassurance and confidence. He brought experience and wisdom to answer questions which helped us establish our congregation and grow."

One of the many silver linings of contracting with Mordechai, is that he brought along his sister, Linette Liebling, who has been a lay leader in our community over many years. Linette remembers fondly, "My brother called me in early summer to say "you are never going to believe it, I got a gig in Boston for the High Holidays. So began my journey with our community. It was one of his greatest gifts to me. At some point Mordechai came to do a workshop about growth and about the movement. I remember him teaching us about separating *consumer* Judaism from *producer* Judaism. He talked about how in many congregations, people strap themselves in with their metaphorical seat belt and expect to be taken on a journey as a passive participant. In producer Judaism, we each work to create community together - and we take responsibility for our community." This idea was certainly an important framework for our early leaders as we thought about how to intentionally grow our nascent congregation.

Chayim Herzig- Marx, a founding lay leader who also served, after Judy, on the board of FRCH as treasurer, remembers "Mordechai gave us three pieces of advice early on, for which we should be eternally grateful: (1) we should hire as much staff as we could afford, so that members are spending their volunteer time on meaningful work and not on clerical



## CDT Celebrates 30 Years (cont.)

tasks; (2) we should aim for at least 25% of our budget to come from donations; (3) we should hire a part-time rabbinic student as a stepping stone to hiring a rabbi.

We continued to rely on Mordechai's expertise about the foundational aspects of building a congregation, particularly as we needed guidance about how to grow thoughtfully and how to know when we'd be ready and able to afford to hire our own rabbi.

Elaine Pollack remembers "My very general memory of Mordechai is a sense of reassuring calm that he was there for us, answering our questions, e.g. "At what point will we be ready to hire a part-time rabbi?" He reassured us that we could succeed in this uncharted journey. He had the chart to guide us, and this was a great anxiety reducer!"

For our first few years we were entirely lay lead, and in 1994, we contracted with Linda Potemken, a rabbinic student at RRC (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College) who joined us once a month, for three years, as our rabbinic student intern, until she graduated in 1997. When the time felt right, we brought Mordechai to Newton for a consultation that was focused on how and when we might proceed to hire our first

rabbi. We had a series of meetings that culminated in a Sunday evening members' meeting.

Lissy Medvedow, a relatively new member at that time, has a clear memory of this meeting. "The memory of Mordechai sharing his thoughts about hiring our first Rabbi resonates with me to this day. I vividly recall him telling us that we were ready to take that leap but not without a concerted fundraising effort. Mordechai said someone had to raise a hand to say "I'll take the lead." With some trepidation, I raised my hand. I was new to the Congregation and thought having a Rabbi would be an important next step for Dorshei Tzedek. Volunteering for that particular goal was a fabulous way to meet people, to get involved, and to be a part of the growth and evolution of CDT. Together with a small group of people who said "yes" to my call (an actual phone call - from a landline) to form a fundraising committee, here we are, years later, still reaping the benefits of having brought Toba into this special community. Thank you, Mordechai, for inspiring me to take action."

Lissy's success in leading this first capital campaign led to our Rabbinic Hiring Committee chaired by Chayim Herzig-Marx, with committee members Louise Enoch, Ellen Hemley,

Linette Liebling and Jill Volk z"l. We hired Rabbi Toba upon her graduation from the Reconstructionist Rabbinic College in the spring of 1997. There's always more to the story, and we'll find ways to share other pieces over the year as we mark the milestone of celebrating 30 years.

Mordechai eventually left his Executive Director position at the Reconstructionist movement and has gone on to engage in important Tikkun Olam/social justice work encompassing many of the core values we have embraced and prioritized here at Dorshei Tzedek: racial justice, climate justice and environmental activism. We are honored and delighted that Rabbi Mordechai Liebling will be joining us for a scholar in residence weekend, January 15-16. We have three vibrant programs planned that will touch on each of these issues and also include a showing of "Praying with Lior" a film made about Mordechai's son, born with Downs syndrome as he prepared for his bar mitzvah. We hope these stories of Mordechai's important relationship to our congregation deepen your understanding of our journey over these 30 plus years and inspire you to join us on the MLK weekend.

## VIMs (Virtual Interest Meet-ups)

To launch the next VIM series we'll be hosting our **FIRST EVER VIRTUAL COFFEEHOUSE AND HAVDALLAH** on **Saturday, January 22, 6:30-8:30pm**. Do you play an instrument? Sing? Rap? Do spoken word poetry? Write flash fiction? Go to the online sign-up page to reserve your performance slot! And then get ready to learn, schmooze, laugh, connect, and meet up with other CDT-ers for 3 weeks of VIMs from January 23 to February 13. Visit [dorsheitzedek.org/vims](https://dorsheitzedek.org/vims) to sign up and stay updated on new additional offerings!

*Saturday, January 22, 6:30pm*

CDT Havdalah & Virtual Coffeehouse with Sheree Galpert

*Sunday, January 23, 1:00pm*

Advocacy with Ellie Goldberg and DB Reiff

*Thursday, January 27, 7:30pm*

Applying to College with Tony Broh

*Saturday, January 29*

*1:00pm:* Multiplayer Minecraft with Noam Brown

*8:00pm:* "Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema" viewing and discussion with Emily Sper

*Sunday, January 30 7:00pm*

Virtual Games Night with Amy Brodesky

*Tuesday, February 1, 9:00pm*

Late night Sudoku with Sheryl Koenigsberg

*Thursday, February 3, 7:30pm*

Cozy Mystery Book Chat with Sheree Galpert

*Saturday, February 5, 2:00pm*

Walk/Light Hike at Beaver Brook Reservation with Jennifer Nichols

*Sunday, February 6*

*4:00pm:* Thinking of Buying an Electric Vehicle? with Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller

*7:30pm:* Art Show and Tell with Viv Shein

*Tuesday, February 8, 7:30pm*

Cozy Soups & Stews with Jenny Leopold

*Thursday, February 10, 7:30pm*

Memoir Book Discussion with Diana Fisher-Gomberg and Debby Saltzman

*Saturday, February 12, 1:30pm*

Participatory play reading with Sheree Galpert

*Sunday, February 13, 1:30pm*

Hiking and Poetry with Esther Kohn

# Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice

Registration is required for all in-person CDT events and services; you can sign-up by clicking on the calendar page on the CDT website. **Vaccination and booster shots are required for all that are eligible in order to attend in-person in our sanctuary, and masks must be worn throughout the service.**

**Please check the online calendar listing in advance of each service to stay updated in case of last-minute switches from in-person to virtual services!**

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evening, February 4, 5:30-6:30pm  
Zoom

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

Light your 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 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. For the time being, we will not be sharing Kiddush lunch together.

### Shabbat Bo with Cantor Louise Treitman

January 8, 10am-Noon  
CDT Sanctuary and livestreamed

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. This morning we also remember CDT member Marty Bresnick on the occasion of his 21st yahrzeit.



**Cantor Louise Treitman** served Temple Beth David in Westwood, MA for twenty years and is honored to be their Cantor Emerita. 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.

### MLK Shabbat with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

January 15, 10am-noon  
CDT Sanctuary and livestreamed

Please join CDT's guest, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, for a Shabbat morning service celebrating both Martin Luther King, Jr Day as well as Dorshei's 30 years.

Fortuitously, *Shabbat Shira*, when we sing the Song of the Sea celebrating the crossing of the sea leaving Egypt, occurs this year on MLK, Jr. Birthday weekend. We will explore the journey towards freedom on individual and communal levels, how we move from being a white supremacist society towards being an antiracist one.

**Rabbi Mordechai Liebling** is the interim Director of Organizing for POWER Interfaith, the largest faith-based community organizing group in Pennsylvania. Prior to that he founded and directed for ten years the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and served as the executive vice president of Jewish Funds for Justice (now Bend the Arc). Rabbi Liebling was the executive director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation for 12 years. He leads workshops on Race, Antisemitism and Christian hegemony; and on the Work That Reconnects developed by Joanna Macy.



### Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Ava Levine-Fried

January 22, 10am-noon  
CDT Sanctuary and livestreamed

During this Shabbat morning service, we will call Ava Levine-Fried to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. All are welcome to joining the service via livestream.

We invite the CDT community to join us in a virtual celebration as our daughter, Ava Lily Levine-Fried, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Ava is a 7th grade student at Boston Latin Academy in Roxbury, and she is an avid debater, soccer player, and dancer. Ava is passionate about the environment and about criminal justice reform, and for her tikkun olam project, she is volunteering at the Prison Book Project in Quincy. We are thrilled to celebrate this simcha with you!

**-Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried**

### Shabbat Mishpatim with Rabbi Toba

January 29, 10am-11:30am  
Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the Zoomiverse, beginning with song and prayer at 10am, and Torah study and discussion beginning at 11am. We will close with prayers for healing and Mourners Kaddish at approximately 11:30am. This morning we will remember CDT member

**Mara Gibbs**, on the occasion of her 5th yahrzeit.

### Shabbat Teruman with Rabbi Toba

February 5, 10am-noon  
CDT Sanctuary and livestreamed

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in person, or to participate via livestream, as we read the instructions to the Israelites to create a Mishkan, a holy place, in their wilderness wanderings. This morning we remember CDT member **Francis Greenberg** on the occasion of his 17th yahrzeit.

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Mark Farber** and **Sherry Katz** on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Jonah Edward Farber, born on November 19 to their son and daughter-in-law, Jacob Farber and Courtney Voss!

Mazel tov to **Carolyn Fine** and **Jerry Friedman** on the birth of their new granddaughter, Pepi Friedman, born on December 10 to their daughter Rose Friedman and Andrew Anastasi!

Mazel tov to **Jonah Stark** and his family on becoming bar mitzvah!

## Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 21st yahrzeit falls on January 1; we will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 8. May his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member **Mara Gibbs**, whose 5th yahrzeit falls on January 13; we will remember Mara at Shabbat morning services on January 29. May her memory be for a blessing.

We also remember CDT member **Francis Greenberg**, whose 17th yahrzeit falls on February 5; we will remember Francis at Shabbat morning services on February 2. May his memory be for a blessing.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to **Reinhard Engels** on the death of his father, Walter Engels, father-in-law of Karen and grandfather of Lucy, Clara, and Isaac. May his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to **Dianne Lior** on the death of her mother, Irene M. Selig. May her memory be for a blessing.

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the community.

## MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website at [dorsheitzedek.org/mourning](http://dorsheitzedek.org/mourning).

## AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

*Tuesday, January 11, 7:30-9:15pm*

A group of CDT members in various stages of the journey of mourning meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month to support one another, to reflect on loss on the occasion of a yahrzeit 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).

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Ellie Goldberg**, **Al Glazerman**, **Steve Adler-Golden**, **Emma Price**, and **Emelia Webbe**.

## TODAH RABAH

Many thanks to **Jake Weinberg**, the **Salvodon-Schafer** family, **Amy Mazur**, the **Adler-Lewis** family, **Matthew Valleau**, **Pauline Coderre**, the **Kaplan-Tanchel** family, **Lissy Medvedow**, **Lisa Keshet**, the **Name-row-Klein** family, **Roy Edelstein**, the **Shalom-Kobi** family, **Melissa Spatz**, **Alex Stanton**, **Marion Ross**, and the **Stefano** family for making CDT Lights a success.

Thank you to the **Children's Education Committee**, **Corinne Lofchie**, CDT teachers, **Tam Trio**, **Tal Shalom Kobi**, and **The Band-its** for helping with the Chanukah Block Party.

Thank you to **Ellie Axe** for her fabulous adult learning session, "Raising Jewish Antiracist Kids: How to Start Conversations with Young Kids about Race using Picture Books!"

Finally, many thanks to **Rena Kirsch**, **Margo Michaels**, and **Rosalyn Negrón** for covering the front door during Religious School.



Steve Adler-Golden. *Quiet Kitchen*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas.



## CDT Events

### DAYENU CLIMATE CIRCLE PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, January 5, 7-8pm  
Zoom

All are welcome to attend this open planning meeting for future programming and activities. For more information about our Dayenu Climate Circle and to get involved, please contact Dorshei Dayenu Climate Chair Gail Pressburg at [GPressberg@aol.com](mailto:GPressberg@aol.com).

### CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, January 17, 8-9pm  
Zoom

The CDT's men's group meets the 3rd Monday of each month and is open to anyone who identifies with manhood.

### GBIO INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 7-8pm  
Zoom

For those interested in the latest from GBIO, please attend our meeting! We will bring you up to date on the GBIO platform, the groups that are forming to work on them, how to get involved, where the Impact Fund stands, and how to build our relationships within CDT to work on GBIO efforts and become a closer community in general.

### UNDERSTANDING RACISM MEETING

Wednesday, January 26, 7-8:15pm  
Zoom

Understanding Racism is a CDT group that explores antiracism through education, discussion, and activism. We have several projects we are working on now. Even if you have never been to a meeting or are new to exploring the topic, we welcome you.

We look forward to gathering and updating each other on our various initiatives as well as discussing ways to reach out to the larger CDT community.

## Learning

### EXPLORING AGING THROUGH LITERATURE WITH CAROL HAUSMAN

Second Sunday of each month, 3-4:30pm: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, and May 15

Come read, learn, and grow with CDT's WISE AGING member and facilitator Carol Hausman, a clinical psychologist, gerontologist, teacher, and new member of CDT. The class will meet on Zoom to read novellas, short stories, and poetry on many topics of aging, including 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.

### WORKSHOP WITH RABBI MORDECHAI LIEBLING

Sunday, January 16, 10am-12pm  
CDT Sanctuary

Join us for a workshop based on the work of Buddhist scholar and environmental activist Joanna Macy. It is a transformational group process that builds motivation, connection, solidarity, and vision, renewing the courage to act for the healing of our world. In these times of environmental degradation, rampant inequality, systemic racism, and other daily catastrophes, there is a tension between our desire to take urgent action and our need to process reality on a deeper level, and it is through reconnection with ourselves and this reality which we share with others that we can find hope and the courage to continue. Pre-registration is required for this free workshop.

### PRAYING WITH LIOR: FILM AND DISCUSSION

Saturday, January 15, 7:30-9:30pm  
Zoom

Join special guest Rabbi Mordechai Liebling for a viewing and discussion of the film *Praying with Lior*.

Please register in advance on Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a personalized encrypted link to join the meeting.



Steve Adler-Golden. *Nathan's (Coney Island)*, 2014. Oil on canvas.

## CDT Artist Spotlight



Self-portrait. Acrylic on canvas.

### STEVE ADLER-GOLDEN

CDT member Steve Adler-Golden has been creating art for most of his life, and will be exhibiting his work for the first time at the Gorse Mills Studio, 31 Thorpe Rd, Needham for the month of January. Join us online as Steve introduces us to examples of his work, including painting, printing and mixed media.

*Steve was born in Brooklyn, and later attended Yale, Cornell, and MIT. As a scientist, he has had a successful career at Burlington-based Spectral Sciences Inc. since 1981, where he has been involved in both government and commercial research projects in optical remote sensing.*

*Throughout this time, he has continued his passion for making art in various forms—including painting, printing, and mixed media.*

*Dr. Adler-Golden finds inspiration in nature, his travels, and from animals (most importantly, his many pet dogs over the years). He also says he gets inspiration from his wife of 43 years, Rachel, a piano teacher. They met through their fathers, who were U.S. Army buddies during World War II.*

*Dr. Adler-Golden and his wife Rachel have two grown children, Lisa and Daniel. The “empty nesters” live in Newton with their two standard poodles, Tzipi and Raphi. Dr. Adler-Golden was recently diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.*

*You can see these and other works at <https://sadlergolden.wixsite.com/artwork>.*

## 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. For pastoral support during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical, please contact rabbinic intern Emmanuel Cantor, [e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.cantor@dorsheitzedek.org), or [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to get in touch with “on call” rabbis.

### HOW TO BE A GRIEF ALLY

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.

One of the most frequent and most important Chesed roles is offering support when a family member dies. How to help?

Podcaster and author Jenny Lisk has created a suite of helpful resources that can enable us to become “grief allies.” (<https://jennylisk.com>). The main focus of her podcast and articles is advice and inspiration for helping young widowed parents but the stories, suggestions and principles for how to support grieving family, colleagues, friends and neighbors are universal.

She writes: Here's what I've noticed: people really wish they could “fix” the situation...So they either say things they think might help fix it, or — not knowing what to say — they say nothing. The thing is, no one can truly “fix” the issue...

The Grief Allies Toolkit provides many resources and references and, best of all, there are suggestions of what to say and examples of what not to say. It even includes suggested texts, condolence card messages and gift ideas. The Toolkit is one of the free downloadable resources on her website <https://pages.jennylisk.com/allies-download>. Highly recommended.

The Chesed Coordinators for January are Abby Cohen and Gail Pressberg.

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. Please contact the

Chesed Coordinators if you have questions or a request for Chesed at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

**Chesed Covid Precautions:** For the past year, we have been ordering Chesed meals from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, thanks to Rabbi Toba's Discretionary Fund. Now, some members prefer the option of a home cooked meal. 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.

**Rides:** For everyone's safety, the volunteer driver and recipient need to discuss precautions (masks, open windows, sitting in the back seat), their vaccination status and the status of people in their household when they confirm arrangements for the ride.



## AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

Annette Jacobs

Happy 2022! We are delighted that the Afghan family we are helping support arrived in the last part of December. They have been resting, recovering from their long trip from Afghanistan. With two small children, one a newborn, the parents are quite busy. The Afghan family begins this year in a new and very different culture, and hopefully, will build a meaningful and happy life with the support of CDT and HBT members and others who are working with us.

Beth and Jeff Green and Alice Markowitz and Rick Glassman met them at the airport and have been able to spend a great deal of time with them since arrival. Based on many conversations with staff at the Jewish Community Relations Council and Catholic Charities and other congregations who already are hosting families, we learned that this is a critical period needing daily in-person check-ins with the family. Families also prefer to have as few people in contact with them as possible, after the long, tiring journey, when they have been in contact with a myriad of people. All families suffered trauma leaving Afghanistan, lived in several temporary places, and arrive very tired. Time for rest, recovery, friendly faces who become familiar, and continuity of contact are essential to a good beginning.

Alice and Rick's decision to volunteer did not come immediately or easily:

*Truthfully, at first, we thought this would be too much. Then, literally overnight, both of us separately came to the same conclusion: There's never a perfect moment and we'll just do the best we can. Already it's become a chance to join with other CDT members -- some of whom have been working on this for months and months -- in something that is hopeful and can make a difference.*

Beth and Jeff had this to say about their commitment:

*While there are many opportunities to be philanthropic, there are relatively few that require you to be face to face with those you want to help. ... Stepping forward in a personal way is a bigger challenge. We also think much is owed to these displaced Afghans. Their tragedy was*

*committed in our names. Hopefully, this small gesture might help wipe that debt off the books.*



Jeff Green cleaning appliances

Volunteers from CDT and HBT are organized into teams with team leaders and are working together to support the family's major needs. The team leaders, coordinated by Meryl Epstein, are meeting to learn from each other, share experiences, and coordinate support to the family. Over time, this group will become the major support team coordinators for the family, and the Leadership Team will meet less often. With Pamela Schoenberg Rieder's leadership, volunteers saw that the apartment was well stocked with food and cleaning supplies prior to the family's arrival.

Through Janet Penn's professional connections, she identified Dari interpreters who are helping us communicate with the family. We are also exploring the family's interest in a relationship with a mosque and will be able to find them an appropriate place through Janet's knowledge of and relationships with mosques throughout Massachusetts.

We are also incredibly grateful to have received extremely generous gift cards from Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Target and Marshall's for the family. In exchange for these gift cards, Big Brothers/Big Sisters is placing a bin in the CDT parking lot for clothing donations. We ask that members who have clothing to donate that we cannot use for the Afghan family be put in this bin. Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) also became interested in the needs of Afghan families and will be speaking with the Jewish Community Relations Council and Catholic Charities representatives to see how the BBBS organization can be helpful in fundraising and

furniture donations for Afghan families. Many, many thanks to Mordie Weintraub, a Temple Hillel B'nai Torah member, who facilitated this contact with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

This project has received amazing support from the CDT community. To date, 64 members have made financial contributions; 20 members offered to donate baby items when we learned an infant might be assigned to us. The apartment was fully furnished by in-kind donations from 15 members.

We are most grateful for the December 5th CDT school event organized by the Director of Congregational Learning, Earnest Vener, to support the Afghan Family Resettlement Program. Joyous music was provided by Rabbi Toba, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Band-its ensemble, and special guest, Shira Moss.

Corinne Lofchie gave an overview of the program to a large crowd of adults and children, all of whom listened intently. She spoke of how our core values helped us make the decision to support an Afghan family:

*Two of these values are tikkun olam, repair of the world, and chesed, loving kindness. One way some of us are going to be able to do that today is by making cards to welcome this family. We can act with tikkun olam when we give tzedakah to create more justice, more fairness by sharing money when we have been given more than we need with someone who currently has less than they need. We have the chance today to give tzedakah that will go towards giving toys to Afghan kids who are resettling in the United States.*



Troh Broh arranging furniture

Congregation members, once again, contributed generously to support toys and supplies for children of Afghan families living in

## Tikkun Olam (cont.)

the United States, children made welcoming cards, games were played, and everyone was in high spirits to actually see and communicate with each other in person on a beautiful, albeit chilly, day. Many thanks, again, to this wonderful community.

### UNDERSTANDING RACISM GROUP UPDATE

CDT's Understanding Racism Group (UR) gathered on zoom on November 15th. Thirty-three mostly white identified CDT members were in attendance, including 5-10 people who had never before attended a UR meeting. Clearly there is a lot of interest in pursuing racial justice.

We discussed our journey to become a more welcoming community and an anti-racist community.

Current projects include working on reparations, and connecting with our parent organization, Reconstructing Judaism, that had taken this on.

Tatjana gave an update on Baby Bonds, which is another approach to right the uneven racial distribution of wealth. Alan reports that

GBIO may take on baby bonds as one of its campaigns.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 26** from **7-8:15pm** on Zoom. All are welcome. We will send out a zoom link and agenda closer to that time. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Alan Epstein at [ade26g@gmail.com](mailto:ade26g@gmail.com) or Tatjana Meschede at [tatjana.meschede@gmail.com](mailto:tatjana.meschede@gmail.com).

### 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.

### ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE

CDT is cosponsoring a free series about Israel/Palestine led by Reconstructionist rabbis over 9 sessions between January and May. Zionists, non-Zionists, anti-Zionists, and those unsure of how to define themselves are all welcome to participate as the meanings of these terms are explored. Each 90-minute session includes a lecture and discussion. Details and registration can be found on the CDT calendar.

#### January Schedule (8-9:30pm):

*Wednesday, January 12* - Rabbi Rebecca Alpert, "Reconstructionism Without Zionism"

*Wednesday, January 26* - Sarah Brammer-Shlay, Solomon Hoffman, and Rachel Kipnes, "We find ourselves in Tears": A Conversation About Israel/Palestine with Reconstructionist Rabbinical Students

## Nediv Lev

### CONTRIBUTIONS

**We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:**

### AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent  
Ellie Baron & Kate de Bethune - *as part of the fair trade chocolate religious school sale*  
Tony Broh - *in honor of the birth of "Pepi Friedman," granddaughter of Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman*  
Helaine & John Carroll - *to support CDT efforts for Afghan families*  
Nina Cohen - *as part of the fair trade chocolate religious school sale*  
Louise Enoch  
Sheree Galpert - *in memory of Jerry Brodesky*  
Lisa Hirsch & DB Reiff  
Farah Jaffer

Ilana Mainelli - *as part of the fair trade chocolate religious school sale*  
Amy Pollack-Howard - *in memory of Idit Klein's safta*  
Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis  
Bob Warren & Meg Wilcox

### GENERAL FUND

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp  
Ellie & Judah Axe - *for the lending library*  
Christopher Combest - *in continued gratitude for the welcoming community of CDT and the warm individual connections I have made through it*  
Edith Epstein & Michael Tsuk  
Sue Fischlowitz & David Roberts  
Sheree Galpert  
Kathy Pillsbury & Cindy Rika Marshall - *with thanks to the Graf-Gan family and the Dain-Dud-*

*nik family for their generous and loving care for our dog, Coco*  
Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis  
Wren & the Stefano family - *in honor of Jonah Stark's bar mitzvah. Mazal tov!*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider  
Zoe Stark & Jen Guptill - *In honor of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah and with gratitude for all the many people who have helped him grow and learn.*

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Karen Leitner & Noah Rumph

# January 2022 • Tevet/Shevat 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Tevet 29	3 Shevat 1 Rosh Chodesh Shevat	4 Shevat 2  8:30am Mindful Mornings	5 Shevat 3  7:00pm Dayenu Meeting	6 Shevat 4  8:30am Mindful Mornings	7 Shevat 5	8 Shevat 6 Bo 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services with Cantor Louise Treitman
9 Shevat 7  9:30am Nitzanim/Gan Family Ed 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Nitzanim/Gan at JCDS 3:00pm Exploring Aging through Literature 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	10 Shevat 8  8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	11 Shevat 9  8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School 4:00pm Rosh Hodesh Tuesday RS 6:00pm 8th/9th Grade Tuesday Program 7:30pm Avelut	12 Shevat 10  7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener 8:00pm Reconstructionist Rabbis on Israel/Palestine: Reconstructionism without Zionism, Rabbi Rebecca Alpert	13 Shevat 11  8:30am Mindful Mornings	14 Shevat 12	15 Shevat 13 Beshalach 10:00am MLK Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling 10:00am Shorashim Shabbat 7:30pm Praying with Lior: film and discussion
16 Shevat 14  10:00am 8th/9th Grade Kids4Peace 10:00am Workshop with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling	17 Shevat 15 Tu B'Shvat Admin:MLK Day  8:00pm CDT Men's Group	18 Shevat 16  8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:00pm GBIO Informational Meeting	19 Shevat 17	20 Shevat 18  8:30am Mindful Mornings	21 Shevat 19	22 Shevat 20 Yitro 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Ava Levine-Fried 6:30pm CDT Virtual Havdallah and Coffee-house
23 Shevat 21  9:30am Sunday Religious School 1:00pm VIM: Advocacy 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	24 Shevat 22  8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	25 Shevat 23  8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School	26 Shevat 24  7:00pm Understanding Racism Meeting 8:00pm We find ourselves in Tears: A Conversation About Israel/Palestine with Reconstructionist Rabbinical Students	27 Shevat 25  8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:30pm VIM: Applying to College	28 Shevat 26	29 Shevat 27 Mishpatim 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services 1:00pm VIM: Multi-player Minecraft (Java edition) 8:00pm VIM: Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema. Film viewing and discussion
30 Shevat 28  9:30am Kitah Vav Family Ed 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:30am Parenting Through a Jewish Lens 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor 7:00pm VIM: Virtual Games Night	31 Shevat 29	1 Shevat 30 Rosh Chodesh Adar I 8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School 6:00pm 8th/9th Grade Tuesday Program 9:00pm VIM: Late Night Sudoku	2 Adar I 1 Rosh Chodesh Adar I 7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener	3 Adar I 2  8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:30pm VIM: Cozy Mystery Book Chat	4 Adar I 3  5:30pm All Ages Shabbat	5 Adar I 4 Terumah 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services 2:00pm VIM: Walk/Light Hike at Beaver Brook Reservation



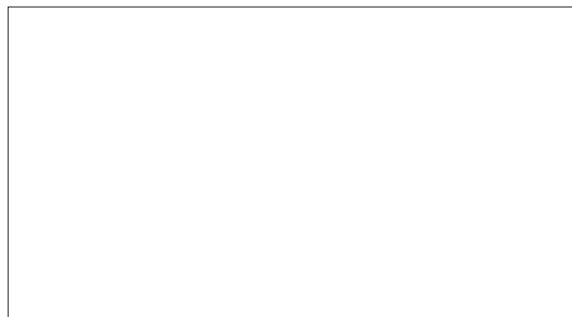


## Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



CDT's Afghan Resettlement Team is working with CMRK, Inc. and Big Brother Big Sister Foundation to help the Afghani family we are sponsoring together with HBT! The items collected are sold to thrift store chains throughout the United States and Canada. Profits from sales are distributed to BBBSF mentoring agencies throughout Massachusetts including CDT, so please use the bin in the parking lot of Second Church!

# DONATE TODAY!

Our temple in conjunction with the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation is collecting clothing and shoes.

Place your items in our bins to help thousands of children throughout Massachusetts.



## BAGGED

- All types, sizes and styles of clothing (women, men and children).
- Household textiles (e.g. blankets, towels, curtains)
- All shoes and sneakers
- Accessories (e.g. purses, backpacks, belts, jewelry, hats, gloves, socks and more)!

*\*All donations are tax deductible. No furniture.*

You can also schedule a free home pick up of clothing textiles.

### For more information:

Call or text: 508-466-4590

Visit our website: [bbbsfoundation.org](http://bbbsfoundation.org)