



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Sivan/Tammuz 5782

June 2022

Two Years of a New Normal

by Bob Warren



As I conclude my term as President of CDT I want to reflect on how our community has transformed and thrived during the COVID pandemic. My entire presidency has been book-ended by

this new normal, and I want to pay tribute to the amazing members of our community during this time. Here are just a few examples of these trying, tumultuous and rewarding two years:

As the pandemic rolled into full swing, we were fortunate to welcome **Earnest Vener** as our Director of Congregational Learning after an entirely on-line national job search. I knew our community would survive and endure whatever came our way as over 200 members participated in some way in that hiring process. Earnest shares the same time period as I do, having led education programming exclusively during the pandemic period. With our religious school, Earnest converted our program to hybrid learning including introducing Hebrew tutoring by Zoom. As the two years have continued, our religious school's enrollment remained stable and grew by 13 students and 8 new families. Teachers were trained in Zoom, an outdoor education program was created to maintain adult and kid in-person connection and CDT has been able to retain students throughout the year(s) of lockdown at a time when other synagogues were struggling to retain students.

In the first year of my presidency, CDT members learned to attend services, educational programming, social justice actions and all



of our meetings virtually. And we thrived! Our membership remained basically stable, gaining a few new households while losing a few households, as well as expanding our geographical membership to over 6 states nationwide by our virtual programming. This is an aspect that will endure as we settle into the new normal.

During the first year of the new normal we conducted virtual High Holydays. It was part of our congregation striving to provide a spiritual and safe celebration. And, we were able to organize the first in-person encounters of our community during COVID when we conducted more than 12 de-centralized and outdoor Tashlich ceremonies on Rosh Hashanah. For most members, it was the first time they had seen each other beyond the Zoom experience. Last September we held hybrid in-person High Holydays at the spacious Gann Gymnasium and as best as anyone can ascertain, no COVID outbreak occurred.

I want to note that our Congregation has stepped up with our amazing Afghan Assistance project where we have welcomed and supported an Afghan refugee family of four to get settled in the Boston area. There are too many of our members to mention who

have stepped up with in-kind services, financial donations and wonderful personal connections with this family. Our community's efforts of Chesed and Tikkun Olam showed throughout this project. I want to give special gratitude to the leadership team members who have steered this effort.

Our wonderful VP of Membership **Debby Saltzman** initiated our VIMs or Virtual Interest Meetups during COVID. The VIMs allowed CDT members the opportunity to share a skill or an interest and to virtually invite other members to participate. Some VIMs led to ongoing CDT programming such as the CDT Men's Group of which I participate. Other VIMs met in-person for outdoor activity as well.

Louise Enoch has coordinated our GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) work throughout COVID, involving dozens of members in actions including housing, prison inmate re-entry and mental health equity. CDT has been an active participant in GBIO's "refounding."

During COVID, CDT has continued to deepen our work not only in Understanding Racism but to continue working to become an

anti-racist community. My gratitude to the members leading that work especially former and current Board members **Jonathan Rosenthal, Ellie Axe, Linda Kramer** and **Jenny Sartori** as well as **Alan Epstein's** great leadership.

During the new normal our Israel Palestine Peace initiative continued its work with educational series and advocacy, and an intense year-long project with a group of CDT Israeli and Israeli-identified members that gave birth to our Keshet Yisraeli group.

Our professional staff led by our remarkable Executive Director, **Melissa Colten**, guided the congregation not only through COVID but through Rabbi Toba's two-part sabbatical leave of absence this year. Melissa has overseen our complete transition to a hybrid Congregation with great skill and perseverance. She coordinates our COVID response with our COVID advisory task force, CDT members who have strived to provide the best and most up-to-date science to guide our community safely through the pandemic. Along with Melissa's program assistants throughout the pandemic years-Lidia Prunete, Erin Dimson-Doyle and Lise Webbe, A/V tech Dennis Maler, and inclusion coordinators Amira Shul-

man-Kumin and Jess Green, CDT has felt like a safe place to call home during COVID. I also want to give special thanks to our stalwart Ritual Committee, Chesed, and Nediv Lev coordinators.

Finally, I want to express gratitude to all of our members who participated on the CDT Board of Directors during my term: **Lissy Medvedow** (Past President), **Ezra Hausman** (VP Finance), **Ro Weichman** and **Dan Rome** (Secretaries), **Debby Saltzman** (VP Membership), **Sheree Galpert** (VP Leadership), **Diana Fisher Gomberg** and **David Rhodes** (VP Education), **Stacey Chacker** and **Tony Broh** (Tikkun Olam), and at-large Board members **Ellie Axe, Linda Kramer, Carla Naumburg, Jonathan Rosenthal, Lisa Samelson, Melody Komyerov, Ayelet Lipton** and **Jenny Sartori**. With you, CDT was able to survive and thrive during COVID. The community will be in great hands with my successor and a person I have admired for many years, Stacey Chacker, who will lead us into the next period.

Last but not least, I would like to give special gratitude to Rabbi **Toba Spitzer** for her inspirational leadership during these strange but wondrous times.

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,
j.green@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee:

President: Bob Warren
1st President: Stacey Chacker
VP Finance: Ezra Hausman
Secretary: Dan Rome

Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman
VP Education: David Rohodes
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: Becca O'Murchadha
Chesed: Gail Pressberg
Nediv Lev: Janice Cole
Newsletter: Vacant - could be you!
Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz
Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome
Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling
DCL Liaison: Lissy Medvedow
Space: Steve Siegel
Website: Dan Halbert
Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

From the Office

VACATIONS/OUT OF OFFICE

Melissa will be out June 6 & 7.
Lise will be out June 8 & 9.
Earnest will be out June 24 - July 4.

From the Board

SAVE THE DATE: CDT MEMBERS' MEETING!

CDT's next members' meeting is on Sunday, June 12, 4:30-6:00 pm, both in-person at CDT in Fellowship Hall and virtually on Zoom! Please come to honor board members who are stepping down, discuss new board nominations, vote on the 5783 budget, and so much more!

Rabbinic Liaison

While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, there are other avenues through which to bring concerns. The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between Rabbi Toba and the congregation. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact Rabbinic Liaison Chair Cindy Shulak-Rome at cbsrome@comcast.net.

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. For questions, email us at the same address. Volunteer Staff: Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Haralie Alpert (interviewer). Let us know if you'd like to join the team - we especially need photographers!!

CDT Celebrates 30 Years

CDT GALA AND CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2022!

Saturday, November 5, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

The Windsor Club (1601 Beacon St, Waban, Newton, MA 02468)

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this very special event! One of the activities as part of the program we will have is a CDT Trivia game, created by and emceed by none other than our own **Sheree Galpert!**

CDT Trivia Question #5: Which of the following has CDT NOT been involved with?

- a) building a Habitat for Humanity house
- b) writing postcards and making phone calls to Get Out the Vote
- c) urging grocery stores to pay more for tomatoes to support the Imokalee Workers Coalition
- d) championing employee's rights at nursing homes
- e) protesting inhumane treatment of incarcerated persons
- f) lobbying for government-supported healthcare
- g) working to eliminate tip-based pay to restaurant workers

Interview of the Month

CDT MEMBER EVI BECK AT MAY 17TH RALLY IN WASHINGTON, DC!!

HARALIE ALPERT

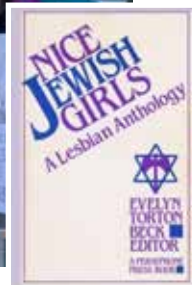


EVY BECK is a pioneer in the women's movement. She remembers celebrating and reading the first edition of Ms. Magazine! She lives in Washington, DC and became a member of CDT when Zoom services started due to Covid-19.

On June 7th, Evi will be joining us on Zoom as a panelist for a discussion entitled Generations of Pride: LGBTQ+ panel. We are looking forward to her stories and insights!

Currently, Evi is the Women's Studies and Jewish Studies Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland where she started and built their Women's Studies Program. She is also the Alum Research Fellow, Creative Longevity and Wisdom Initiative, at Fielding Graduate University.

Regarding her background, Evi is a refugee, a child survivor of the Holocaust; at age 6 she and her family escaped the Nazis from Vienna to Milan, Italy. At age 7 they received visas for the USA and she grew up in Brooklyn. Her activities, in youth Zionist groups as she grew up, offered her a set of values and leadership skills that remain with her to this day. As a 12 year old, Evi even made speeches in the subways of New York to obtain support for Israel. She states that "My feminism really stems from my Zionism."



What was it like to be at the JEWS FOR ABORTION JUSTICE rally last month in Washington?

The National Council of Jewish Women and 150 other organizations organized a day of Jews supporting reproductive rights and abortion justice...There was a good turnout. A lot of men as well as women, a lot of young people, old people. It was a very spirited turnout.

(The rally was) on the grass right in front of the capital. Speakers included Rep. Judy Chu, D-CA and Sen. Richard Blumenthal D-CT who introduced the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021. There was also spirited singing from the Kohenet Priestess Institute. Heather Booth spoke.

It was very important, I think, to go.

What were your feelings and observations as you stood in the crowd at this important event?

Very powerful. Good spirits. Really hopeful. (There were) signs that were really fun (including):

"Justice is a Jewish Value"

"Another Jewish Lesbian for Choice."

"Seriously, my mom already marched for this!"

"I will not go back to the 50's!"

"Ruth sent me!"

Evi, it seems like you haven't slowed down in your retirement!

I think I've speeded up!

What is your current role in the field of Women's Rights and Jewish Learning?

I've been doing a lot of teaching in Washington, DC through our fabulous bookstore, Politics & Prose and Temple Micah's Wise Aging and Lunch & Learn programs. I recently presented on the work of Jewish feminist artist, Judy Chicago, whose Dinner Party transformed our understanding of women's contributions to culture; her many other projects (such as The Holocaust Project) should be more widely known, and not only among Jews as she also helped to change our concept of what constitutes art.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

I've done a lot of writing but putting together *NICE JEWISH GIRLS: A LESBIAN ANTHOLOGY* (1982 and revised in 1989) means the most to me because it made an impact on lesbian lives and reached people far beyond lesbian communities.

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Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice

We are excited to be gathering again in person for Shabbat services and holiday programs (most are also available on Zoom).

Covid Protocols: For our in-person gatherings, **vaccination/booster shots are required for all those who are eligible, and masks are required for everyone aged 2 and older** (KN95 or better recommended). Kids too young for vaccination are welcome! Please check our website for ongoing updates about our Covid policies, and see the calendar listing for each service to find information about Zoom links, links to our Shabbat prayerbook, and other information.

We are fragrance-free: For the health of our community, we also ask that all those attending programs in person refrain from wearing fragrances, including perfume, hair and body sprays, and other scented products. These cause illness for some of our members, and we appreciate all of our members' and guests' efforts to keep our space fragrance-free.

SHABBAT SERVICES

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah beginning at 10 am. Zoom 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.

All-Ages & Prospective Families Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 3, 6:00-7:30 pm

CDT Sanctuary (in person only)

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, friendly to kids but meaningful for all!

We'll begin at 6:00 with a CDT-sponsored dinner from Comella's and Inna's (gluten and dairy-free options available). You may also bring your own food, if preferred. Those comfortable eating in an indoor mask-optional setting may do so, and those comfortable eating outdoors may do so as well! We all move into the Sanctuary at 6:45 for a mask-required service. Oneg & schmoozing to follow at 7:30pm. Share widely with friends and family, especially those with kids aged 3-11, to find out about our religious school and family programming!

Erev Shabbat Community Potluck BBQs & Picnics

Fridays, June 10 & 17, 6:00-9:00 pm

Various member's backyards

Do you remember how, pre-pandemic, CDT members around the metro area would host erev-Shabbat potlucks? Those were great, right? We're bringing them back! This time in a COVID-friendlier format, as backyard barbecues/picnics. The host(s) will be responsible for a main course, and everyone else can bring a side or dessert. The gatherings will range in size from a few people to dozens,

depending on the host(s)' outdoor space and preferences.

Sign up by going to the Members-only Sign-Up page on the CDT website. You'll need to log into the website to see it!

Contact **Sarah Birkeland** at sbirkeland@gmail.com or **Melissa Colten** at m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org with any questions.

Shabbat Bamidbar Morning Service and Celebration of Learning

June 4, 10 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

As we prepare for the holiday of Shavuot, we will dedicate our Shabbat morning service to our past year of learning at Dorshei Tzedek, including a celebration of the participants in our Adult B-Mitzvah class and our rabbinic intern, Emmanuel Cantor. Over the course of this year, the Adult B-Mitzvah class has delved deeply into a wide range of topics, from Jewish views of the afterlife to Talmud to Judaism and sexuality and much more. To celebrate their learning with Emmanuel, a few members of the class will offer reflections and teachings, and we will call them all to the Torah for a special aliyah.

We will also be celebrating all those who have studied Torah and other topics at CDT this year, and celebrate our graduating high school seniors. All are welcome to join us either in the CDT sanctuary or via Zoom!

Pride Shabbat & B-Mitzvah Celebration of Liam Opher-Michaels

Saturday, June 11, 10am – noon

CDT Sanctuary and on Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in person in the CDT sanctuary (or on Zoom) as we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride with special readings and Torah study. We will also be calling

Liam Opher-Michaels to the bimah as b'nai mitzvah.

Liam will be called to the Torah "officially" at Temple Sinai in Brookline on June 25, but we are thrilled that they will lead the Torah service and have an aliyah in honor of becoming a Jewish adult here at CDT. Liam is a 7th grader at Bigelow Middle School in Newton. They enjoy cooking, art, science and history. For their Tikkun Olam project, they volunteered at Hebrew Senior Life where they ran art classes for the residents. Liam says that they enjoyed doing this because they saw people finding many ways to express themselves and finding joy.

- Margo Michaels

Shabbat Beha'alotcha Morning Services and Bat Mitzvah of Esty Dudnik

June 18, 10:00 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary or via Zoom for Shabbat morning services as Esty is called to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah!

We invite the CDT community to join us in celebration as Esty is called to the Torah. Esty is a 7th grader at Newton's Day Middle School who loves to spend time with friends and family, read novels, and run track and cross country. We're proud and excited to be welcoming Esty as an adult in the CDT community.

- Amy Dain and Misha Dudnik

Shabbat Sh'lach Morning Services

June 25, 10:00 am-11:30am

Zoom only

We gather together in the Zoomiverse for Shabbat morning davvening and Torah study led by CDT members. Have a cup of coffee, sit out in your backyard, enjoy the AC, wherever you are - join us!

Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice (cont.)

SHAVUOT

Shavuot, the “Festival of Weeks,” first appears in the Torah as a spring festival celebrating the first fruits of the grain harvest. It was “reconstructed” by the early rabbis as a celebration of the moment at which the Israelites received Torah at Mount Sinai. Each year we re-experience that moment by preparing to receive our own Torah – insight, learning, wisdom. Join us for two special CDT Shavuot events this year!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot – A Night of Learning

Saturday evening, June 4, 8pm-midnight

At Second Church, 60 Highland Street (and partially on Zoom)

As has become our custom, we will dedicate our Shavuot learning to the memory of Gina Fried, CDT Rebbetzin and master educator. It is traditional to usher in the holiday of Shavuot with all-night Torah study, and we will honor Torah and Gina's memory with an evening of learning with and from Rabbi Toba, DCL Earnest Vener and CDT members. So come learn with us, whether the whole evening or just as long as you can stay awake!

The evening will begin at 8pm with a **presentation by Rabbi Toba about her recently published book, God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine.** Rabbi Toba will share selections from the book and invite questions and conversation about this exploration of new/old metaphors for God that get us beyond the “old man in the sky.” Whether you are a believer, a skeptic, or seeking something new for your spiritual life, join us! This session will be accessible by Zoom.

9:00pm Havdallah

Session One: 9:15pm-10:10pm (in person only)

Mazaltob – Text study & discussion with Fran Malino: In 1931, France's prestigious Académie française awarded Mazaltob, a novel by the Algerian Jewish woman Blanche Bendahan, one of its annual prizes. Bendahan was the only Jewish laureate among 53 (8 were women), and

also the only to have written on a Jewish theme. Who was Blanche Bendahan? And why did her novel, set in turn of the 20th century Tetouan Morocco, merit such an award? Reading together excerpts from Mazaltob, we will explore their connection both to the life of Blanche Bendahan and to the Jewish women teaching in Northern Morocco.

A Harvest of Gratitude – A Collage Workshop with Marjorie Salvodon & Marie-Carmel Schafer: In the spirit of Shavuot – the giving of Torah to us and the harvest of first fruits – all are invited to join Marjorie and her daughter Marie-Carmel to make art that shows your gratitude to anything/ anyone that fills you with gratitude. We'll supply the art materials, you bring your hands, your creativity and your sense of gratefulness!

DESSERT & COFFEE/TEA BREAK – 10:15-10:40pm

Session Two: 10:45-11:35pm (in person only)

Love & Chosen Family in the Book of Ruth, with Earnest Vener: It is traditional to read the Biblical book of Ruth on Shavuot. Let's read together and explore why we read this story of female love and untraditional family as we mark receiving Torah.

Shavuot Gentle Yoga with Jenny Leopold: All are welcome to join Jenny, Kripalu-certified yoga instructor, for some gentle yoga, to prepare our bodies and hearts for receiving Torah! Some yoga mats are available, or bring your own.

Final Session: When the Heavens Open: 11:40pm-Midnight (in person only)

We will come together for a brief closing teaching and meditation with Rabbi Toba, at the time when, traditionally, the heavens open and the Torah (teaching) meant especially for each of us is most accessible.

Shavuot Celebration of Israeli Music & Dance

Sunday, June 5, 5:30pm-7:00pm

In person, the Kramer-Zisk backyard (rain alternative - Second Church)

As we celebrate the harvest on Shavuot, all are invited to join members of CDT's Keshet Yisraeli group and dance instructor Pazit Zahav for an early evening program of Israeli music and dance! We'll begin with music and communal singing at 5:30pm, then enjoy a light Middle Eastern dinner, and learn some Israeli folk dances (no experience necessary!). Adults and kids are welcome.

Tikkun Zoom Shavuot: 25 Hours of Learning

5pm June 4 – 8pm June 5

www.tisrael.org/event/tikkun-zoom-shavuot-25-hours-of-learning/

Hosted by the Center for Adult Learning at Temple Israel of Boston

For those interested in going all night and all day, there is a virtual Shavuot program beginning early evening on June 4 and running through the day of Shavuot, with a wide variety of learning sessions, and a closing concert at 7pm with Nefesh Mountain! Go to www.tisrael.org/event/tikkun-zoom-shavuot-25-hours-of-learning/ for more information.

Mindful Mornings

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:15 am

Zoom

During the summer, Mindful Mornings will continue to meet virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-9:15 am. Thursday sessions will continue to take the form of a structured meditation with a leader. In June, July, and August, Tuesday sessions will be time for silent meditation with a host, but without any formal teaching or instructions. Those in attendance who are in mourning or observing a Yahrzeit will have the opportunity to recite kaddish after the meditation. As always, the Mindful Mornings link is on the CDT website. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not!

CDT Groups and Events

CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL

Sundays, June 5, 12, & 19, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Various fields & parks

The 2022 season is underway! Don't miss out on any of the action. For more information, contact head coach **Elliot Pittel** at epittel@comcast.net and check out the team's Facebook page at [facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam).

GENERATIONS OF PRIDE: LGBTQ+ PANEL, DISCUSSION, AND CELEBRATION

Tuesday, June 7, 7:00-8:15 pm

Zoom

CDT is blessed to have among our members groundbreaking pioneers in the decades-long struggle for LGBTQ+ equality and pride in the American Jewish community. Join **Evi Beck**, editor of *Nice Jewish Girls: An Anthology*; **Idit Klein**, the President and CEO of Keshet, the national organization for LGBTQ+ equality in Jewish life; and Director of Congregational Learning, **Earnest Vener**, transgender Jewish educator and advocate for GLaNT (Gender Independent, Nonbinary, and Trans) youth, for a look back and a glimpse into the future. Please register in advance for this Zoom event; the link can be found on the CDT calendar.

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, June 14, 7:30-9:15 pm

Zoom

All CDT members who are in the various stages of mourning are welcome to attend. Our monthly gathering meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month to support one another, reflect on loss on the occasion of a *yahrzeit*, and remember the legacies of the loved ones we carry with us. Drop-ins are always welcome anytime. For more information, please contact **Nancy Gertz** at nancy.gertz@gmail.com or **Dianne Lior** at dianne.lior@gmail.com.

HAVDALLAH ON THE WATER

Saturday, June 18, 6pm-9:30pm

Back by popular demand – Havdallah on the Water! We'll bring Shabbat to a lovely, magical end with canoeing and kayaking on the Charles River at the Fisher Gomberg home. We will begin with a vegetarian potluck dinner and boating at 6pm, then head out onto the Charles River together at about 8:45pm to do Havdallah. A campfire will likely occur afterwards! RSVP's are requested in order to ensure enough boats are available. All ages and paddling experience are welcome. Please RSVP to **Diana and Richard** at DFGomberg@gmail.com by June 12 if possible (and let them know if you are bringing your own boat; there will be boats available for those who don't have). Please bring a vegetarian dish to share!

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, June 18, 8:00-9:00 pm

Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of *Etgar Keret: What Animal Are You?*. Watch the film on your own anytime before the discussion. Look for the Zoom link on the CDT Calendar. Contact **Emily Sper** at emily@emilysper.com with questions, film suggestions, or if you'd like to lead a discussion about a particular film.

Etgar Keret: What Animal Are You?: Portrait of Renowned Israeli Writer (Kanopy, 2013, 59 min): For this entertainingly intimate documentary portrait of renowned Israeli writer Etgar Keret, filmmaker Gur Bentwich accompanies his longtime friend on a whirlwind book tour to the Big Apple. Between readings and interviews, Keret ruminates on his life as a writer and the recent death of his father; he also hangs with New York pals including author Nathan Englander and *This American Life*'s Ira Glass. By turns poignant, absurd, and hilarious, *What Animal Are You?* is a personal and playful journey with one of world literature's most original voices.

CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, June 20, 8:00-9:00 pm

Zoom

The CDT's men's group meets the 3rd Monday of each month and is open to anyone who identifies with manhood. Please contact **Dan Rome** at dan.rome.md@gmail.com for more information.

WISE AGING

A new Wise Aging group will be forming in September, to be facilitated by CDT member **Carol Hausman**. Look for details in the July-August Newsletter!

Chesed

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF CHESED?

Ellie Goldberg, June 2022

Since its beginning, the Chesed Committee members have been dedicated to strengthening our community's connections by facilitating gestures of caring and compassion.

When members have a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness, the Chesed Committee offers our members the opportunity to experience the joys and blessings of Chesed as receivers and givers. Accepting Chesed creates that 'Pay It Forward' feeling, a flow of abundance, caring and gratitude during some of life's most fragile moments.

We encourage members to sign up on the Lotsa Helping Hands website so we can share information about each other's needs. To sign up, CDT members need to create a login at [CDT Chesed Caring Community \(Updated\)](https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated). (<https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated>)

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.

Community

MAZEL TOV TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

Mazel tov to **Temana Gordon** for graduating from Newton South HS and being accepted into Earlham College to study zoology!

Mazel tov to **Lev Sugerman-Brozan** for graduating from Boston Latin School and being accepted into Colorado College!

Mazel tov to **Maya Fisher Gomberg** for graduating from Wesleyan University's College of Social Studies program!

Mazel tov to **Abigail Scout Caputo** for graduating from Newton North High School and being accepted into Smith College!

Mazel tov to **Sophia Wilcox-Warren** for graduating from University of Vermont with a BS in Food Systems and going on to work for the State of Vermont Cooperative Extension Program working with farmers on soils and crops!

Mazel tov to **Zanny Weinreb** on graduating from Wesleyan University and seeking a job in an Emergency Department!

Mazel tov to **Bayla Kamens**, CDT tutor and child of Andrea Kamens, on graduating from Kenyon College and continuing on to Washington University in St. Louis for a PhD in Classics!

Mazel tov to **Roë and Stav Keshet**, twin daughters of Lisa & Meirav Keshet! Roë is graduating with honors from Brandeis Uni-

versity, and Stav is graduating with a graduate thesis from Mount Holyoke College.

Mazel tov to **Caleb Schwartz**, son of Abigail & Jordan Schwartz, on graduating from Newton South High School and being accepted into Boston University where he will study Engineering and participate as a member of the Men's Rowing Team!

Mazel tov to **Sam Zisk**, son of Linda Kramer & Stephen Zisk, on graduating from the University of Vermont with a BA in Theatre, specializing in Lighting Design with projects lighting both dance and theatre performances! Sam will remain in Burlington after graduation, working and doing theatre gigs in multiple capacities.

Mazel tov to **Joita Diecidue**, daughter of Emily Mathis & Hali Diecidue, on graduating from Clark University!

Mazel tov to **Maya Garg**, daughter of Lori & Pushkal Garg, on graduating from Newton South High School and being accepted into Georgetown University!

Mazel tov to **Wren Stefano** and their family on becoming B-Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Sam Cohen-Weinberg** and his family on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Jesse Dash** and his family on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to the Religious School students of Kitot Gimmel-Vav on their Siyyumim!

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to all of our Religious School teachers for a fabulous year! Thank you to the parent physician advisory group for helping us stay safe and together! And thank you to the Childhood Education Committee (CEC) for such a wonderful last day of school with pizza and popsicles!

Special thanks to **Barbara Pittel** for designing this month's newsletter while Lise was on vacation!

From Harriet Budd and Joyce Traister:

Joyce and I would like to express our gratitude to all of the membership, chesed committee and all those who have helped with food shopping while Joyce recuperates from her broken ankle and I remain in poor health! We'd be lost without all of your kindness and generosity. THANK YOU!

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to Anya Rhodes, Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, Gail Pressberg, Joyce Traister, Harriet Budd, and Ellen Pashall.

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember **David Keimowitz-Crozier**, whose 10th yahrzeit falls on June 15. We will be remembering David at Shabbat morning services on June 18; may his memory be for a blessing.

We also remember **Noah Marcus**, whose 3rd yahrzeit falls on June 29. May his memory be for a blessing.



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 <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/mourning>.

UNDERSTANDING RACISM

The Sum of Us Book Reading and Discussion

Saturday, June 4, 12:45-2:15 pm

In person and on Zoom

CDT's Understanding Racism (UR) group invites you to the launch of our new project: reading and discussing *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. All interested members are welcome to join a hybrid (in person and virtual) kick-off discussion of the book's introduction (while you don't need to read the intro in advance, it is encouraged). McGhee's book has been acclaimed for revealing the hidden costs of American racism and for showing what a new solidarity can achieve.

Next fall, we will begin working through the book chapter by chapter in gatherings where we can share our thoughts and reactions as we read *The Sum of Us* through a Jewish and congregational lens.

While you can, of course, get the book through any bookseller, you might want to consider purchasing it from Frugal Bookstore, a local, black-owned business.

CDTERS JOIN 2022 MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

By Abby Cohen

On Sunday, May 8th, CDT participated in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. A small group of hardy folks started out at Town Field in Dorchester to hear inspiring speeches by Peace Institute founder Chaplain Clementina Chéry, Mayor Michelle Wu, Attorney General Maura Healey and Representative Ayanna Pressley among others before beginning the full 7.7 mile loop.

At Madison Park High School we were joined by many CDT members including families with children in the Religious School. So far CDT has raised over \$4,000. Donations are still being accepted up until Father's Day on June 19th just go to: <https://www.mothers-daywalk4peace.org/TeamDorsheiTzedek>

Thank you to all the walkers and supporters for re-starting this yearly tradition!



GBIO DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

Thursday, June 23, 7pm

In person and on Zoom,

Hyde Park Seventh Day Adventist Church

At this gathering of GBIO members, we will:

--> Elevate and Accelerate our campaign work on Reentry, Housing, and Mental Health

--> Celebrate the conclusion of our Core Teams Campaign

You're right - our plan HAD been to meet on May 26th. But, some of the issues we were going to engage that night worked out weeks before the 26th, and so that exciting action was headed toward celebration of resolution. Plus, in some of our campaigns, we realized that the end of May timing didn't make political sense for the issues we were working on. And so, the planning team decided that a better use of everyone's time was to have a delegates assembly in June. Register at bit.ly/JuneGBIO.

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT UPDATE: EMBRACE, EDUCATION, ESTABLISH

By Tony Broh

Members of Reservoir Church in Cambridge and Temple Hillel B'nai Torah joined members of Dorshei Tzedek for an Orientation meeting on May 12 about a new "Team-structure" that will support the Afghan Family Resettlement. The meeting began with Rabbi Toba's inspiring words about the sacred work of welcoming "strangers within our gates" and the historical commitment of the Jewish com-

munity to support immigrants. Those in the Zoom meeting heard **Liz Reisberg** describe the volunteer support structure as currently organized and plans to expand participation among the host congregations. Currently, "Family Liaisons" have most of the contact with the Afghan family while a relatively small number of additional volunteers take care of shopping and other needs.

Under the theme of "Three E's," the current structure successfully **"Embraced"** the family and assured their welcome in the greater-Boston area. The father now has a job at Whole Foods; the father and mother converse in English with our volunteers; the daughter is enrolled in Head Start and now says goodbye to our volunteers with "see ya!," and the infant has outgrown his baby car seat and bumps his way around the apartment.

Thus, the family has begun the Second E to **"Educate"** themselves about American culture and use community resources in Cambridge and beyond. The three host congregations are now planning for the Third E so the family can **"Establish"** itself for eventual self-sufficiency. To accomplish this object, we are forming "Teams" that the Liaisons and eventually members of the family can call upon for support as needed.

To distribute the handling of tasks, each Team needs several volunteers. Currently, we are asking for help with (1) Food shopping, (2) Basic Necessities shopping, (3) Childcare, (4) Technology, (5) Healthcare & Wellness, (6) Neighborhood Orientation in Cambridge, and (7) Last-minute Help. Note that most of the tasks for each Team can be scheduled in

Tikkun Olam (cont.)

advance and/or have enough backup that volunteers can decide for themselves when to help.

If you have not signed up for a "Team" or you are not sure about a commitment that fits your busy schedule, email Tony Broh (canthony@broh.com) for additional information.



Pride Day, Sam Daniel Cohen-Weinberg

Nediv Lev

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 importantly, to help out congregants in need. **We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:**

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

Judi Gottschalk - *In honor of The B Mitzvah of Wren Stefano; in honor of reading from the Torah*

GENERAL FUND

Jackie Fleischman - *in memory of Stan Fleischman*
Rosalyn & Pablo Goldbarg - *In honor of Neo Goldbarg*
Jodi Rosenbaum-Tillinger & Ben Tillinger - *In honor of Ali & AJ's Siyyum, May 2022...with much gratitude to Earnest, Liat, Rabbi Toba, and all the RS staff*

NEDIV LEV

Ronin Bernstein & Maya Townsend
Lynne Brandon & JylLynn Felman
Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander
Benita Danzing & Nathan Aranow - *In memory of our parents, Daniel and Myra Danzing and Saul and Alice Aronow*
Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein
Sheree Galpert - *In honor of Chad Pytel for officially becoming a member of the tribe! And In honor of Nurse Audra-Yasher koach and mazel Tov!!*
Phyllis Glazerman - *in honor of Rabbinnic Intern Emmanuel Cantor and Rabbi Toba for their support and kindness*
Ellie Goldberg - *in loving memory of her mother-in-law Reva Goldberg*
Gail Harris & David Reider
Carol Hemley
Doug Hersh & Sarah Little - *in memory of Mara Gibbs*
Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx
Laura & Joel Katz
Susan Kaufman & Laura Schulz
Jeffrey Kichen
Linda Kramer & Steve Zisk
Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus
Ruth Paris & Rob Saper
Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

Jodi Rosenbaum-Tillinger & Ben Tillinger
Emily & David Shumsky - *with our appreciation to the whole CDT community for coming through with love and support!*
Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan - *in honor of Earnest Vener and the CDT religious school team*
Jamie Tessler - *In memory of my mother, Eleanor Feige Etty Licht Tessler, 100 years after her birth*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elaine Bresnick - *with thanks to Diana Fisher Gomberg for the use of her transport chair during my recovery from a broken ankle. Thanks, Diana!*
Melanie Kalman & David Zimet - *in honor of their grandson, Noah Pytel*
Rabbi Michael Luckens and Sharon Schumack

Youth and Family Programming



Religious School Update from our DCL, Earnest Vener

I am excited to share that registration for the 5783 (2022-2023) school year is live! Our registration form includes lots of details about our program for the upcoming school year. You can find the form on the [CDTRS Homepage](#).

After many wonderful years renting from the Jewish Community Day School, we are looking for a new location for our Religious School. JCDS needs all their space for in-house programming. While we are sad to say goodbye we are hopeful about finding a great place to land in the coming school year. We have some exciting developments that we will be able to share more about soon. We are prioritizing a location that is close to both JCDS and 2nd Church, and a building that is an accessible, joyful, and bright place to learn, play, and pray together.

We have exciting news about our Shorashim program. Shorashim means roots and it refers to our youngest learners, in Kindergarten and younger, and their families. One Saturday a month, families with children 5 and younger will come together for a Shabbat family program followed by childcare for children 3 and older, allowing adults to join in on Shabbat morning services. Children ages 3-PreK will also have a family program one Sunday a month from 9:30-10:30am, followed by optional childcare until noon.

We need your help to grow our wonderful school! Please tell your friends about Dorshei Tzedek's Religious School. Grandparents, reach out to your kids who live locally! We are especially trying to reach families with children in 3rd grade and younger. Help spread the word by posting on neighborhood facebook groups and listservs. You can simply repost or copy the post on the CDT facebook page.

some states was in danger, especially among voters of color. It felt important to continue to do something, to try to make a difference.

Evelyn Torton Beck holds Ph.D.s in both Comparative Literature and Clinical Psychology. She is Women's Studies Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland and a Research Fellow with the Creative Longevity and Wisdom Initiative at the Fielding Graduate University. She has pioneered numerous interdisciplinary courses on topics as diverse as Women in the Arts; Mothers and Daughters; Jewish Women in International Perspective; Women and the Holocaust; Death and Dying in Modern Literature; Lesbian Studies; Gender, Power and the Spectrum of Difference; and Feminist Perspectives on Psychology, among others. She has also written and lectured widely on the intersections of sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia. In 2021 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from a University in Vienna, Austria, for her interdisciplinary life's work as well as her determination to change the world through education and activism.



Interview of the Month (cont.)

What do you want to say to CDT members about this time in history and their place in it?

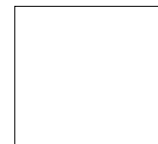
It is important to me to be part of a community in which there is continually growing recognition of multiple, intersecting differences, where everyone feels as if they belong and also knows their history. That said, I feel it vital to remember my own specific history--as a Jew, a woman, a lesbian, an old person.

During Covid, when I was stuck indoors, I wrote postcards to alert people on a variety of issues, especially voter registration, which in

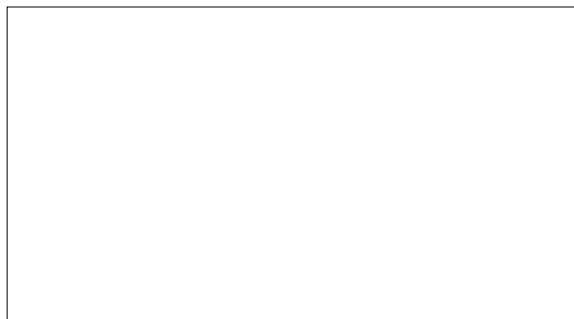


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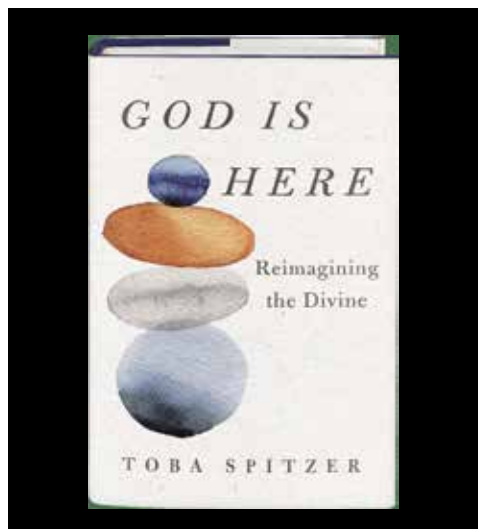
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 Sivan 2 46th Day Omer 7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener | 2 Sivan 3 47th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 3 Sivan 4 48th Day Omer 6:00pm All Ages & Prospective Families Erev Shabbat | 4 Sivan 5 49th Day Omer Bamidbar 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services & Celebration of Learning 12:45pm "The Sum of Us" Reading and Discussion: An Understanding Racism Program 5:00pm Tikkun Zoom Shavuot 8:00pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot |
| 5 Sivan 6 Shavuot - 1st Day 12:00am Tikkun Zoom Shavuot 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Shir Tikvah-Winchester | 6 Sivan 7 Shavuot Yizkor | 7 Sivan 8 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Generations of Pride: LGBTQ+ panel, discussion and celebration | 8 Sivan 9 | 9 Sivan 10 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 10 Sivan 11 | 11 Sivan 12 Nasso 10:00am Pride Shabbat Morning Service |
| 12 Sivan 13 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth Elohim-2 Wellesley | 13 Sivan 14 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor | 14 Sivan 15 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 15 Sivan 16 | 16 Sivan 17 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 17 Sivan 18 | 18 Sivan 19 Beha'alotcha 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Esty Dudnik 6:00pm Havdallah on the Water 8:00pm CDT film Film Club: "What Animal Are You?" |
| 19 Sivan 20 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth El/EitzChayim-Belmont/Cambridge | 20 Sivan 21 Office Closed for Juneteenth 8:00pm CDT Men's Group | 21 Sivan 22 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 22 Sivan 23 | 23 Sivan 24 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm GBIO Delegates Assembly | 24 Sivan 25 | 25 Sivan 26 Sh'lach 10:00am Shabbat Morning Zoom Service |
| 26 Sivan 27 | 27 Sivan 28 | 28 Sivan 29 8:30am Mindful Mornings | 29 Sivan 30 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz | 30 Tammuz 1 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 8:30am Mindful Mornings | July 1 Tammuz 2 | 2 Tammuz 3 Korach No Shabbat Morning Services |



Address correction requested



CDT Spotlight



God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine

Rabbi Toba will be discussing her new book, *God is Here: Reimagining the Divine* in two upcoming Zoom programs with Reconstructionist colleagues – all are welcome! Copies of the book at a discounted price are available in the CDT office, be in touch with Melissa to get yours (and contact Rabbi Toba to sign it if you'd like!).

Woodstock Jewish Congregation, in conversation with Rabbi Jonathan Kligler – Wednesday evening, June 1, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Zoom info can be found at www.wjcsul.org.

Discussion with Rabbis Nancy Fuchs Kreimer & Jacob Staub on *Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations* – June 23 at 1:00 pm, go to <https://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/web-conversations/> to register.

Do you need a large print version of the newsletter?
Contact the office at office@dorsheitzedek.org