THRIVING IN STRANGE TIMES

Melissa Colten

We live in exceedingly strange times. We’re thrilled to be with friends and family again, to travel again, to venture to restaurants again, but also seem to know more people who have had COVID in the past 2 or so months than the last 2 years. The world is inordinately complex. Enjoying life’s rich in-person offerings once more by ourselves and with our loved ones, while still also attending meetings and classes on Zoom and navigating changing mask mandates, vaccine schedules, and transportation options — it all just seems to take more energy than it used to. Normal life has become hybrid life, and many of us are so exhausted and spread so thin that even deciding where or how to go on vacation feels like too much.

That said, I believe we have simultaneously become life-acrobats and ballet dancers. We have pivoted so often to adjust to whatever life circumstances have come our way that we now beautifully pirouette at a moment’s notice. Our flexibility, after having been asked to change and accommodate so many times in order to dodge adversity, now keeps us in the limbo line until the very end, shimmying to the music all the while. We have learned to sing through it, even to smile or nod at someone else moving and humming along.

We CDTers have done more than just grinned and borne it. We have innovated, we have created, we have shared, and we are continuing to do so. Our numbers are stable, still about 250 households. Our budget is stable — thank you Ez the Trez for such a phenomenal 5783 budget and presentation at the June 12 members meeting! Our staff is stable — our administrative assistant Lise Webbe has now been with us for 3 quarters of a year, Earnest Arky Solomon (note the newlywed’s new name!!) has entered his 3rd year with us and is guiding our Religious School into its new home (see page 8), and our incredible problem-solver of an A/V technician Dennis Maler has been with us for over a year, as has Jess Green, our fabulous inclusion coordinator. I celebrated my 3rd year as executive director in May, Rabbi Toba is back from her sabbatical and heading into her 26th year as CDT’s rabbi with a book out that everyone should read (see page 2), and our new board slate is a collection of highly committed and talented members (see page 3). Wow!

Yes, our organization is stable. So as things slow down this summer and we in the office prepare for the coming High Holydays and membership renewal season, figure out a new and improved kiddush sign up system (yes, kiddush is coming back!), and prepare for religious school, it is time to take stock of how the world around us has changed on the macro level.

Some of these macro-level changes have made it difficult to do certain things. These can no longer be taken for granted and rather, should be cherished:

• Humor and belly laughter so powerful it sends you running to the bathroom
• The abilities to breathe deeply and to focus
• Sharing a meal with friends at a small table indoors, accompanied by the belting out of a couple of songs

Kesher Yisrael’s Shavuot Harvest Celebration, June 2022
Photo courtesy of Viv Shein
A newfound appreciation for these evolved into a couple of successful grant proposals as a way to nourish and protect our community:

1. The Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP) is funding a year-long pilot program exploring how the arts can positively impact mental health and strengthen our community. As you’ll read on pages 8-9, Joanna Marcus is spearheading the planning process for this exciting new initiative supported by RSIP that we will be documenting at every stage to help other Jewish organizations replicate our successes and avoid our mistakes in the future. Help design what we’ll be doing — we need your expertise in both the mental health and arts arenas!

2. The CJP Communal Security Initiative is funding security measures in our sanctuary and offices, as well as to provide training in first aid and de-escalation techniques for office and religious school staff. This is only the first step! We will be installing a new AED device outside the sanctuary in the early autumn and inviting members to be part of a security task force to help formulate congregation-wide policy and recruit more ushers and greeters. (Please Zoom into the kick-off meeting on August 10, 6:30-7:30pm!!) We will also be publicizing in-person and virtual security training opportunities for CDT members, offered by CJP gratis in the Boston area throughout the year. Please see the back page of this newsletter for upcoming sessions!

And so, the office continues to evolve in meaningful, mindful and planned ways. Stop by and say hello during summer office hours (see below), give us your 2 cents, add to the list above, and let us know how you’d like to participate in designing a better world with CDT. Times might be strange, but they are no match for this congregation’s flexibility and creativity.

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

If you’d like to purchase Rabbi Toba’s book at a discounted price ($20 in cash, check, or online), come by the CDT office to pick it up!

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 compiled and designed by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 10th of the month for the following month’s issue. For questions, email us at the same address. Volunteer Staff: Haralie Alpert (interviewer), Vivienne Shein (photographer). 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
- Executive Director: Melissa Colten, m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org
- Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon, e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org
- Administrative Assistant: Lise Webbe, l.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org
- Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green, j.green@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee:
- President: Bob Warren (as of August 1: Stacey Chacker)
- 1st VP (until July 31): Stacey Chacker
- VP Finance: Ezra Hausman (as of August 1: Jen Levine-Fried)
- Secretary: Dan Rome
- Immediate Past President (as of August 1): Bob Warren

Vice-Presidents:
- VP Membership: Debby Saltzman (as of August 1: Carole Slipowitz and Marjorie Salvador)
- VP Education: David Rhodes (as of August 1: Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!)
- VP Tikun Olam: Tony Broh

Board Members—At-Large:
- Sheree Galpert, Melody Komeyerov, Linda Kramer (until July 31), Ayelit Lipton, Carla Naumburg (until July 31), Jenny Sartori, Ro Weichman (until July 31) (as of August 1: Meryl Epstein and Rebecca Byard)

Off-Board Chairs:
- Children’s Education: Rebecca O’Murchadha
- Chesed: Gail Pressberg
- Nefiv Lev: Janice Cole (as of August 1: and Ezra Hausman)
- 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 (as of August 1: Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!)
MEMBERS MEETING RECAP

We are deeply appreciative of everyone who attended our final Members Meeting of 5782 to be a part of the many wonderful things taking place in our community. Among the biggest pieces of news were the Nediv Lev update from Janice Cole, where she reported that the campaign has thus far raised $115,000 of our $125,000 goal with just one more month to go until our annual deadline, and the Religious School update from Earnest, who described our exciting plan to move the Sunday School program to Cabot Elementary School in Newtonville and emphasized the need to publicize our fantastic school (see page 8 for more updates from Earnest).

Linda Kramer then shared an exciting development with us regarding a new project from Reconstructing Judaism, which will choose four congregations in which to conduct an anti-racism congregational assessment. We hope to be selected as one of the four, but if not, we will conduct our own internal assessment, so please keep an eye out for future details!

These updates were followed by Ezra Hausman’s presentation of the proposed budget for 5783, which was approved with a vote of 65 in favor and 0 against. Our new budget will feature a more progressive dues chart, a slight increase in Religious School tuition, an increased investment strategy of our reserves, and a larger Nediv Lev goal.

The 5783 Board Slate was also voted in at 65-for and 0-against. We will welcome Stacey Chacker as President, Jen Levine-Fried as Treasurer, Carole Slipowitz and Marjorie Salvodon as VPs of Membership, and Meryl Epstein and Rebecca Byard as Board Members-at-Large (we are still in need of a VP of Education for 5783, so please consider nominating yourself or a friend!). We also say goodbye and thank you to Ezra “Ez-the-Trez” Hausman, VP of Education David Rhodes, VP of Membership Debby Saltzman, and Board Members-at-Large Linda Kramer, Carla Naumburg, and Ro Weichman. Rabbi Toba and CDT Sings ended the meeting with a spoken and musical farewell given to Bob Warren as outgoing President.

Once more, we extend profound gratitude to all of those who have made these developments (and more) possible. Please join us in looking forward to all that 5783 will have to offer!

5783 BOARD SLATE

Executive Committee
President: Stacey Chacker
Treasurer: Jen Levine-Fried*
Secretary: Dan Rome
Immediate Past President: Bob Warren
Senior Rabbi: Toba Spitzer (non-voting member)
Executive Director: Melissa Colten (non-voting member)

Vice-Presidents:
VP of Tikkun Olam: Tony Broh
VP of Education: TBD*
VPs of Membership: Carole Slipowitz* and Marjorie Salvodon*

Board Members-At-Large: Ayelet Lipton, Melody Komyerov, Sheree Galpert, Meryl Epstein*, Jenny Sartori, Rebecca Byard*

*new to the board

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 #7: How many rabbinic interns has CDT had? Bonus points if you can name them!

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WELCOME STACEY CHACKER, NEW CDT PRESIDENT!!
Haralie Alpert

Where are you from?
I grew up in Merion Pennsylvania, which is in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

What is your Jewish background?
We belonged to a big conservative synagogue. Our home was kosher. We did not keep Shabbat. We had Kiddush every Friday night. We had the holidays at our house; 2 seders, Rosh Hashanah 2 nights in a row. Until my mom died in 2020, we always went to Philadelphia for Thanksgiving and seder.

Can you share with us something special that happened to you when you were growing up?
I always knew I wanted to do social justice work. After college, I joined the Peace Corps and lived in the Central African Republic. That’s where I met my daughter’s father, who is French. After that, on the way home, they gave us a ticket for Air France... I cashed it in and got the cheapest ticket to France. Then I went to Israel where I ended up staying for four months. I lived with a friend of mine who had become a modern Orthodox Jew; I think that’s the first time I became interested in my own Judaism. I was spending time in a very joyous environment around Judaism — lots of Shabbat meals!

My twin sister was living in Jamaica Plain, so I moved to Jamaica Plain.

Why did you join CDT?
If I hadn’t gone to Israel after being in Africa, I’m not sure I would have sought out to belong to a congregation. CDT has Tikkun Olam. I don’t know, I just came there and I found our community to be really true to its mission... very welcoming. To me, growing up in a conservative household, the tunes were familiar. Tikkun Olam was always hugely important to me.

Before my current job, I was a community organizer for 18 years in East Boston. I’ve been in social justice my entire adult life. In September, it will be 22 years that I’ve been a member of CDT.

What is your current day job?
I work at Health Resources in Acton, a nonprofit public health organization. Most of my work focuses on environmental health, and these days, COVID — we support a grant program for community and faith based organizations serving BIPOC communities across MA.

What committee involvement do you have at CDT so far?
I’ve been involved with Tikkun Olam as a participant or leader for many years. I was one of the coordinators for our immigrant justice work when we helped to provide sanctuary to a woman and her 2 children.

What has been your experience with leadership?
I’ve had a lot of experience at working/running projects, community groups, and coalitions. I think I’m good at community engagement, getting people to consensus, and moving projects or campaigns along. I’m pretty good at thinking on my feet!

What are your goals and dreams for your CDT Presidency?
Collaboration!! I’m most interested in building on the work that we have been working on for the past few years, beyond just getting through COVID. One is to continue to work with all of our amazing congregants on our becoming an anti-racist congregation. We will always be working towards this goal, but I look forward to some concrete steps, such as conducting an audit/assessment over this next year to look at our practices and incorporate new practices to support this goal.

Another priority will be to expand our Religious School enrollment. Having families with young children join is vital to us remaining a vibrant congregation!

I’m a collaborator at heart, and look forward to working with both our staff and our community members. We are a community with passion for justice and community building!

How would your mom have reacted to the announcement that her daughter is going to be president of her synagogue?
When my siblings found out that I was asked to be CDT’s president, they said, “mom’s up there (in heaven) telling the SEPTA bus driver (SEPTA is the MBTA in Philadelphia) that her daughter’s going to be the president of the synagogue!” She would be very proud of me.
Shabbat, Holidays, and 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 of all persons 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.

SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICES

During the months of July and August, we hold Shabbat morning services every other week, plus one all-ages erev Shabbat service in the month of August. Weekly Shabbat morning services resume on September 3.

Unplugged Shabbat Morning Services
Saturdays, July 9 & 23, 10 am-noon
Kramer-Zisk Backyard (no Zoom option)

All are invited to these member-led, in-person, outdoor Shabbat morning services. Join us for song and silence, prayer and reflection, and, of course, Torah study! In case of rain, services will move indoors to the CDT sanctuary at 60 Highland Street; check the CDT website on the preceding Friday to find out. On July 23, we will also be remembering CDT member Evelyn Felson on the occasion of her 16th yahrzeit.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat
Friday, August 5, 6:00-7:30 pm
CDT Sanctuary (no Zoom option)

All are welcome to this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by an outdoor picnic dinner (bring your own food; drinks will be provided). Our musical service will begin at 6:45, followed by Oneg Shabbat at 7:30.

Shabbat Vaetchanan Morning Services and Bat Mitzvah of Nina Diecidue
Saturday, August 13, 10:00 am-noon
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom as we call Nina to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah! We will also be remembering Susan Moser on the occasion of her 2nd yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch following the service!

We are delighted to invite the Dorshi community to join us as our daughter Nina is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on August 13th, followed by a kiddush lunch. Nina will be in 7th grade at Day Middle School in Newton this fall, where she especially enjoys playing the saxophone. She recently joined the gymnastics team at MGC in Waltham and she’s a treasured neighborhood babysitter, but Nina’s greatest love is spending Shabbat at Camp Havaya each summer. We are so grateful to celebrate this milestone with our community!

- Hali Diecidue & Emily Mathis

Shabbat Re’eh & Rosh Chodesh Elul Services
Saturday, August 27, 10:00 am-noon
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba as we celebrate Shabbat and the beginning of the month of Elul, the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Services will feature the singing of Hallel and special Torah study, preparing us for the season of teshuvah, “turning.”

Shabbat Shoftim & Labor Day Services
Saturday, September 3, 10:00 am-noon
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

Join us as we resume weekly Shabbat morning services to celebrate Shabbat and Labor Day!

KIDDUSH IS COMING BACK!

Please watch your email in early August for details about our new and improved sign up process using Calendly!

TISHA B’AV

From Destruction to Rebuilding
Saturday, August 6, 8:00-9:30 pm
CDT’s Fellowship Hall (no Zoom option)

The 9th of Av marks the deepest day of mourning on the Jewish calendar: a fast day when we remember the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other moments of loss and exile in Jewish history. It is traditional to chant the book of Lamentations and recite special poemsongs of loss and sadness. Tisha b’Av is also a turning point in the Jewish calendar, for immediately afterwards we begin counting seven weeks to Rosh Hashanah – weeks of comfort and preparation for renewal. At this evening program, we will hear portions of Lamentations, sing contemplative songs, and engage in a creative project to explore together the brokenness in our hearts and in our world as we prepare for the work of tikkun, “repair.”

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!
SAVE THE DATES! HIGH HOLYDAYS PROGRAMMING

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Services**  
Sunday, September 25, 8:00 pm  
Gann Academy

**Rosh Hashanah + Tashlikh**  
Monday, September 26, 9:45 am-5:30 pm  
Gann Academy  
9:45 am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service  
10:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Family Service, Shorashim Service, and Teen Program  
4:30 pm: Tashlikh Services

**Rosh Hashanah Day Two: Services, Text Study, and Outdoor All-Ages Program**  
Tuesday, September 27, 10:00 am  
Zoom & Outdoors

**Kol Nidre Service**  
Tuesday, October 4, 6:15 pm  
Gann Academy

**Yom Kippur**  
Wednesday, October 5, 9:45 am-7:30 pm  
Gann Academy  
9:45 am: Yom Kippur Morning Service  
10:00 am: Yom Kippur Family Service, Shorashim Service, and Teen Program  
12:30 pm: Musaf Service and Nature Walk  
2:00 pm: Yom Kippur Afternoon Programming  
5:00 pm: Mincha/Eleh Ezkereh  
6:30 pm: Neilah & Break-Fast

CDT Groups and Events

**AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING**  
Tuesdays, July 12 & August 9, 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.

**CDT FILM CLUB**  
Saturdays, July 16 & August 20, 8:00-9:00 pm  
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of the two-part documentary *A History of Israeli Cinema*. Watch the film on your own anytime before the discussion, and 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.

* A History of Israeli Cinema: Part 1 (July 16 discussion, 3 hr 30 min) & Part 2 (August 20 discussion, 1 hr 45 min): Raphael Nadjari’s extraordinary two-part documentary weaves together clips from more than 70 years of Israeli film with commentary from filmmakers, scholars, and critics. Crafted for both insiders and outsiders, the film traces the evolution of the country’s cinema alongside political and social history; part covers the overlap between the Zionist struggle to form a state and the propagandistic qualities of revolutionary cinema, and part two covers the shift to reality-based filmmaking and the subsequent transition from the political films.

**CDT MEN’S GROUP**  
Monday, July 18 & August 15, 8:00-9:00 pm  
Zoom

The CDT Men’s Group meets on the third 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**

In the fall, member Carol Hausman will be leading a new Wise Aging group for CDT members. The current plan is to meet in person on a Sunday afternoon once a month for 6 months, with the option of continuing if the group chooses to. We will be looking at several aspects of aging — relationships, spiritual qualities for well-being, living with loss, dying well, and exploring our legacy. Participants are asked to purchase the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit* by Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal.

Carol led several Wise Aging groups in her Reconstructionist synagogue in Washington DC before moving to the Boston area. Please get in touch with her if you are interested in joining this group. Email cpopky@gmail.com or call 202-494-1935.

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Havdallah on the Water at the Fisher-Gomberg’s, June 2022

Photo courtesy of Danielle Klainberg
Community

MAZEL TOV
Mazel tov to Alexander Jablon, son of Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon, for being accepted into the M.B.A. program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill!

Mazel tov to Ayelet Lipton, David Harris, and Shai Lipton on the birth and brit bat of Avigail Forcentra Lipton-Harris!

Mazel tov to Rabbi Shahar Colt, Darya Mattes, and Kalman on the birth and brit bat of Lieba Helen Mattes Colt!

Mazel tov to Esty Dudnik and Liam Opher-Michaels and their families on becoming B’nei Mitzvah!

Thank you to the hosts of the Erev Shabbat Potluck BBQs: Sarah Birkeland & Roy Edelstein, Myra Schwartz, Becky Cohen & Jake Weinberg, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx, Elizabeth Ferrenz & Jenny Siegel (with Batya Ferrenz-Siegel), and Nathan Aranow & Benita Danzing. Special thanks to Sarah Birkeland for coordinating and organizing!

Thank you to Diana & Richard Fisher-Gomberg for hosting Havdallah on the Water once again!

The Butcher-Gordon family gives a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to the CDT community:

After years of Hebrew School, 3 B’nei Mitzvah, countless adult learning classes, and many more warm memories, Kristin, Scott, Yannik, Temana, and Lev are moving to Chicago. Kristin will be at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Yannik will continue going to Wheaton College in Norton, MA, Temana will continue the CDT tradition at Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and Lev will be finishing High School at Roycemore School in Evanston. We wanted to thank Rabbi Toba and all the wonderful people who we have met and befriended during the last 16 years at CDT. It has truly been a blessing and a joy.

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

YAHRZEIT
This month, we remember CDT member Evelyn Felson, whose 16th yahrzeit falls on July 14. We will be remembering Evelyn at Shabbat morning services on July 23. May her memory be for a blessing.

We also remember CDT member Susan Moser, whose 2nd yahrzeit falls on August 13. We will be remembering Susan at Shabbat morning services on August 13. May her memory be for a blessing.

CDT IN MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP ROLES
Chayim Herzig-Marx

Five members of CDT represent Reconstructing Judaism (RJ) at the national level. Lissy Medvedow sits on the Steering Committee of the Plenum; the Plenum is the forum for affiliates of Reconstructing Judaism (RJ) to discuss issues within the Movement and to vote on policy positions. Sue Lanser is a member of the Joint Israel Commission. Commissions are composed of lay representatives of RJ and of representatives of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

The Joint Israel Commission seeks to keep Reconstructionist communities informed about issues relating to Israel and Israel/Palestine and to bring Reconstructionist values to bear on those concerns. It seeks to model respectful discussion of difficult topics across a spectrum of viewpoints and develops resources to help rabbis and congregations engage in productive learning and constructive dialogue. The JIC also works with the leadership of RJ and RRA to develop policy statements on matters of urgency relating to Israel and Israel/Palestine. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein is Chair of the Jews of Color and Allies Advisory Group and sits on the Board of Governors of RJ. This group helps Movement leadership understand the impact of white majority culture and systemic racism on Jews of Color within the Reconstructionist movement and recommends actions the Movement can take to remedy historical inequities, to help affiliates welcome Jews of Color as members, and to integrate Jews of Color into Movement leadership positions. Carla Naumburg sits on the Board of Directors of Camp Havaya, the Reconstructionist summer camping program that many of our members’ children (including two of hers) attend. Chayim Herzig-Marx is co-chair of the Joint Placement Commission and sits on the Board of Governors of RJ. This Commission is charged with re-envisioning how the Movement assists rabbis, affiliates, and other employers to secure meaningful, equitable, and sustainable employment for Reconstructionist rabbis. The Commission will develop policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, and materials in full awareness of the changing employment landscape and of the Movement’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Refugia 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.

Mourning at CDT
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Reconstructing Judaism Movement

MOURNING AT CDT
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Youth & Family Programming

UPDATES FROM EARNEST: NEW ROLE AT CDT AND NEW LAST NAME FOR 5783
Earnest Arky Solomon

I identify as a spoonie. A spoonie is someone who lives with chronic illness and needs to carefully ration their energy. Spoons represent the energy we can spend on any given task. As this school year came to a close, it became clear that I didn't have enough spoons to do the full range of my job sustainably and I needed to decrease my hours and narrow the scope of my job. The pandemic changed the role of Director of Congregational Learning and significantly increased the administrative load of the school. In order to give the school the attention it needs in this important transitional time, I will be shifting away from my congregation-wide responsibilities, such as adult education and holiday programming. My new title will be Education Director and my focus will be on family High Holiday programming and the Religious School. Our fantastic rabbinic intern, Akiva Nelson, will be supporting holiday programming and adult education for the year.

This decision was not easy and there is certainly loss as I let go of supporting learning at every stage of life for Dorshei members. It has been such an honor to be the Director of Congregational Learning and I have studied and uncovered together – in our tradition and within ourselves.

I have one more update. In October of 2021, my partner Emma and I got married. We took on the last name, Arky Solomon, our great grandparents’ maiden names. I’m using this summer as an opportunity to officially change my last name at work. My new email address is e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org. If you email my old address it will also go to this new email. We are honored to carry the names and the memory of these women forward in our family line.

5783 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION
This summer we are working hard to put together a fabulous Religious School staff, deepen our curriculum, and set ourselves up for a great Religious School year. The youngest learners in our school begin at ages 3 and 4 with a monthly Sunday morning family program and Saturday morning Shabbat family program. Please spread the word to any 3 or 4 year olds in your life, or friends with young grandchildren and children! For information about our Religious School program and registration please visit the Religious School homepage on the Dorshei Tzedek Website: www.dorsheitzedek.org/cdt-religious-school.

We need your help to grow our wonderful Religious School! We will have two prospective family events in August: All Ages and Prospective Families Shabbat on August 5th and CDT Religious School and Prospective Families Picnic on August 27th. Please tell your friends about these upcoming events and Dorshei Tzedek’s Religious School. 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 re-post or copy the post about school registration from the CDT Facebook page! Word of mouth is the best way to increase enrollment. I can’t wait to celebrate with you in August!

CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES PICNIC
Saturday, August 27, 5:00-6:30 pm
The Cove at Auburndale Cove

Celebrate the end of summer with CDT on Shabbat afternoon at The Cove at Auburndale Cove! We will have games and stations for kids aged 3-13 from 5-6 pm. During this time, adults are welcome to hang out and prospective parents will have a chance to learn about our Religious School. All are welcome to stay for a picnic dinner (bring your own picnic).

Spread the word and invite your friends! We are especially looking for families to join with children in third grade and younger. Register on the event page on the CDT calendar.

To get to the right location, please type “The Cove, West Pine Street” into your GPS, and park in the lot on West Pine Street.

Inclusion

CDT’S NEW ARTS AND MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
Joanna Marcus

We are excited to announce a new arts and mental health initiative! As a result of an application written by Melissa Colten, CDT has received a grant from the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project. This grant will help us pilot programming that will begin in September 2022 and continue until April 2023. We are in the midst of the planning process.

In recent years, CDT has done a lot of work focusing on mental health. There have also been arts events and programs, such as our sanctuary and virtual art galleries, artists’ talks, our virtual performance coffee house, Purimspiels, and many others! We would now like to meld the two together and explore how the arts can bring moments of hope and peace, forge intergenerational connections that strengthen our community, and even facilitate a gentle exploration of our mental health.

Youth & Family Programming

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Inclusion (cont.)

We hope to promote the idea that creating art can be a source of healing and comfort on both individual and communal levels. We want to create a fun, low-pressure, intergenerational program within the community, bringing together people of different ages, perspectives, and stories.

On June 8th, a group of seven people met to brainstorm goals, hopes, and possibilities for how this pilot might take shape. The planning phase will continue through the summer, and then programming will take place from September through April. If you are interested in participating in this initial brainstorming and planning phase of the project, we invite you to join! Our next few meetings will take place from 4:30 to 6 pm at Second Church and on Zoom on the following Wednesdays: June 29, July 13, August 3, and August 17. If you are interested but can’t make these times, please reach out anyway! And once the program takes off, we hope that you will feel moved to join in.

If you would like to join the planning group, or if you have any questions, please email me at joanna.marcus15@gmail.com.

I’m looking forward to seeing how this idea blossoms!

Tikkun Olam

ONE FAIR WAGE UPDATE
Amy Mazur

Representatives from Dorshei Tzedek and The New England Jewish Labor Committee joined together with workers, employers, and allies at a lobby day at the MA State House on June 15th (see picture below!), where the One Fair Wage bill (raising tipped workers from $5 to $15), after stalling for 6 whole years, just moved out of committee with a favorable recommendation to the Senate floor. An Act Requiring One Fair Wage is moving along, and communicating with our legislators is the next step as the bill makes its way to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

To support the One Fair Wage Massachusetts campaign, please consider writing to your legislator (https://malegislature.gov/Legislators) and asking them to support this important legislation.

Need ideas on what to say? Visit the CDT Tikkun Olam One Fair Wage webpage: https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/one-fair-wage.

Still have questions? Contact one of us:
- Amy Mazur (acmazur@comcast.net)
- Ora Gladstone (oragladstone@gmail.com)
- Ari Fertig, New England Jewish Labor Committee Executive Director (newenglandjlc@gmail.com)

Ending the tipped sub-minimum wage is a fight for racial, gender and economic justice. Raising the Tipped Minimum Wage is Good for Employers and Workers.

NEWTON HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE
Zoning Redesign Community Engagement Network
Lisa Keshet

On May 17th, Reverend Cheryl Kerr, Senior Minister at United Parish of Auburndale, and I represented the Newton Interfaith Coalition for Housing Equality (NICHE) at the newly formed Zoning Redesign Community Engagement Network, a group of community members from all over the city who have volunteered to work with city staff to help inform and engage Newton’s stakeholders on proposed zoning updates. More specifically, the network will prepare for the second phase of engagement on village center zoning updates that will take place in the late summer and early fall of 2022.

As many of you know, Newton is in the process of rewriting (or deciding whether or not to rewrite) its zoning laws. Much is at stake regarding affordable housing, racial and economic justice, and climate change, and it is critical that representatives of many groups, task forces, and organizations be represented in this process.

Zoning laws regulate how land is used across the city and shapes buildings, homes, blocks, neighborhoods, and village centers. Common “uses” in zoning include residential, business, open space, and industrial. Newton’s zoning rules can be found in the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Zoning can determine the size and shape of buildings including their height, the amount of space they can take up on the lot, and more. These dimensional standards can create very different results, which creates variety in how different neighborhoods look and feel.

Zoning Redesign is the City of Newton’s effort to update and rewrite the Zoning Ordinance. Much of the ordinance has not been changed in years, and updates would enable the city to use new strategies and better respond and plan for what the community needs today and in the future.

Last summer, there were community tours, surveys, and studies done to determine what each village center celebrated and looked to improve upon. The results of this study can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/zoning-study-village-center.
This summer, the Newton Community Engagement Network will be looking at this study and asking: Do we believe that the current Newton zoning laws accurately address the needs of the Newton villages? Does it include all we need it to include? Have we heard from all invested parties?

May 17th was the first meeting of the Community Engagement Network of the Newton Zoning Redesign Project. The meeting focused on the chain of communication within Newton’s elected government and the basics of our zoning policies. Follow this link to Newton’s dedicated page on zoning and the redesign process: [www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/plans-policies-strategies/zoning-redesign](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/plans-policies-strategies/zoning-redesign)

The Community Engagement Network’s three objectives are:
1. To help get the word out about the second phase of Engagement
2. To have each network member engage their respective community space and encourage at least 5 people to participate in providing feedback to the city

If you’re interested in issues related to housing equity and/or zoning, please feel free to be in touch with your comments or questions. Zoning regulations impact all of our communities across the Commonwealth and across the entire United States. My choice to be specifically involved in Newton zoning activities reflects my communal investment in as a person who lives/works/prays in Newton.

**Chesed**

**CHESED IN ACTION**

_Ellie Goldberg_

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?*
*If I am only for myself, what am I?*
*If not now, when?*

Rabbi Hillel’s famous quote is an inspiration for action. It is also a call to practice Chesed (Loving-Kindness) and be part of a caring and participatory community.

The Chesed Committee coordinates our community’s acts of loving kindness on LotsaHelpingHands (LHH). Please join the CDT Chesed Caring Community volunteer list by creating a login at [my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated](http://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated). The type of help depends on what the member requests or needs. It might be a meal, a ride or running an errand. The Coordinator can also help set up a personal LHH community if there is an ongoing need for support and the member wants to include other friends and networks.

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. Please contact the Chesed Coordinators at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) with any questions or Chesed requests.

**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:

**ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

Pauline Coderre

**AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND**

Paula Goodrich

**CAMP HAVAYA FUND**

Hazel Keimowitz — In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

**GENERAL FUND**

Carol Hemley — In memory of her beloved mother, Diane Haberman

Lauren Gibbs — In honor of Rabbi Toba, Evi Beck, Idit Klein, and Earnest Vener

Phyllis Glazerman — In memory of her mother, Eva Goldberg, and in honor of and with thanks to Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor

Amy Mazur & Michael Feldstein — In honor of the growing family of Shahar, Darya, and Kalman - Mazel Tov on the arrival of baby Colt-Mattes!

**NEDIV LEV**

Michele Arons & Michael Brann

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp

Miriam Borstein

Helaine & John Carroll

Lisa J. Goodwin Robbins

Judith & Tim Havens

Jennifer Nichols

Gail Pressberg — In honor of Rabbi Toba

Sue Weil & Sandy Goodman

Tikkun Olam (cont.)
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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
Rabbi Toba will be away for the month of July. During this time, there will be “on call” rabbis in case of pastoral needs; please contact the Chesed coordinators if you are in need of rabbinic support.

For the months of July and August, the CDT offices at Second Church will be open in-person Monday-Thursday from 10:00 am-6:00 pm and virtually Friday & Sunday from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

SECURITY AT CDT

CDT SECURITY TASK FORCE MEETING
Wednesday, August 10, 6:30-7:30 pm
Zoom

Help CDT stay safe! Please join us for our inaugural Security Task Force meeting to discuss future security measures, training, and the structure and time commitment involved in volunteering. Every person counts! Contact Melissa Colten for more information.

CJP COMMUNAL SECURITY INITIATIVE
CSI offers free security training in the Greater Boston area. Please see below for upcoming summer opportunities, and visit www.cjp.org/our-work/cjp-communal-security-initiative/csitraining to learn more and register.

Countering Active Threat Response Training
• Tuesday, July 12, 6:00-8:30 pm
  Temple Hillel B’nai Torah, West Roxbury
• Tuesday, July 26, 6:00-8:30 pm
  Congregation Beth El, Sudbury
• Tuesday, August 9, 6:00-8:30 pm
  Temple Shalom, Medford

Key Security Concepts Webinar
Tuesday, August 16, 12:00-1:30 pm
Zoom

Usher/Greeter Security Training
Thursday, September 8, 6:00-7:30 pm
Congregations Beth El, Sudbury