Turning Into the New Year

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

The month of Elul, which began this year on August 28, encompasses the four weeks leading up to the Jewish new year. I think of it as a kind of on-ramp, an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of Teshuvah, that go from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur (see pages 4-5 for Elul programs that offer opportunities for this preparation).

"Teshuvah" is one of those Hebrew words that is difficult to translate directly into English. It is often translated "repentance," which is certainly part of the meaning — as one aspect of "doing teshuvah" is acknowledging the ways we have missed the mark and committing to do better. But the English word "repent" — whose root meaning has to do with regret — does not share in the literal meaning of the word "teshuvah," which means "turning" or "returning."

This difference seems significant to me. Whereas "regret" implies something negative — feeling sorrow for the ways in which I’ve gone astray — the metaphor of "turning" or "returning" suggests a more positive action. Whether we take it to mean returning to our Divine Source or turning onto a more wholesome path, teshuvah suggests that the task confronting us is not becoming someone we are not. Rather, it promises that there is something godly at our core which can provide guidance on how to find our way onto a more promising and productive path. Regret for misdeeds is not unimportant; if I have screwed up, I need to acknowledge it and make amends. But the promise of teshuvah is that (re)turning is always possible. According to rabbinic midrash, teshuvah was one of the things created at the beginning of the world.

On Rosh Hashanah, as we celebrate that beginning, we also lift up the inherent possibility of returning to who we are meant to be.

The combined sense of "turning" and "returning" also feels significant in this moment vis-à-vis the COVID pandemic. During the first weeks of the shut-down in 2020, I know that many of us harbored the notion that there would be a clear "end" to the epidemic and life would simply resume as before. Now we are weary but wiser. There is no “before” to return to. This is partly a matter of acknowledging and mourning the very real losses many of us have endured, whether of loved ones, years of schooling or work, or moments of celebration and connection. On a society-wide level, we are still learning what the lasting implications will be for how and where we work, what schooling will look like, and more.

Here at CDT, I see both the losses of the past two years and the possibilities that have been revealed. Our investment in equipment and new staff means that we are now able to Zoom our Shabbat services and other programs beyond our sanctuary, allowing for a level of accessibility we had never before attempted. I have learned over these past two years the extent to which Jewish teachings and rituals were forged not in times of abundance and comfort, but in the cauldron of disruption and distress. The opportunity to come together for shivah minyanim, even over Zoom, proved the importance of community not just for the mourners, but for all who attended. The many ways that folks in our community figured out how to connect in this challenging time — whether as walking buddies or in the reconfigured Zoom Mindful Mornings, in VIMs or the Men’s Group, during Kiddush chats after Shabbat morning services or a virtual Talmud class — revealed that our communal life is like a beautiful spider’s web, stretching across large geographical distances, and making possible a wide variety of connections.

As we enter into the new year of 5783, we have an opportunity to build on what we have learned and to continue to weave that web. CDT staff
and leadership are committed to exploring a variety of formats for our programs, continuing to figure out what works online, what doesn’t, what needs to be in person and what is actually better on Zoom. I am intrigued by how each of our homes became, during the COVID shutdown, a site of the sacred, as each of us tuned in on Shabbat mornings and created a Mishkan, a holy sanctuary, via the Zoomiverse. I am also aware of how nourishing it is to gather in person, whether back in the CDT sanctuary or outdoors, where we can hear one another’s voices and make harmony once again.

I look forward to connecting and reconnecting with the now far-flung members of our congregation in the new year, and I hope that each of you will join in the exploration of what our congregational life might look like in the new reality we are creating together. May we all be inscribed for a sweet, healthy, and meaningful new year — l’shanah tovah tikateivu!

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: What kind of coffee does Rav Tiffany sing about at Purim?

From the Office

OFFICE HOURS & SEPTEMBER CLOSURES
The CDT offices at Second Church will be open Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Please note that our offices will be closed on Labor Day (September 5) and during Rosh Hashanah (September 26-27).

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, edited, 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), Debby Saltzman (copyeditor), and Vivienne Shein (photographer). Please let us know if you’d like to join the team — we especially need photographers and copyeditors!!

CDT

Dorshie 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
Rabbinic Intern: Akiva Nelson,
a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee:
President: Stacey Chacker
Immediate Past President: Bob Warren
VP Finance: Jen Levine-Fried
Secretary: Dan Rome

Vice-Presidents:
VP Membership: Carole Slipowitz and Marjorie Salvodon
VP Education: Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!
VP Tikkun Olam: Tony Broh

Board Members–at–Large:
Sheree Galpert, Melody Komyerov, Ayelet Lipton, Jenny Sartori, Meryl Epstein, and Rebecca Byard

Off-Board Chairs:
Children’s Education: Becca O’Murchadha
Chesed: Gail Pressberg
Nediv Lev: Janice Cole & Ezra Hausman
Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz
Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome
Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling
Education Director Liaison: Lissy Medvedow
Space: Steve Siegel
Website: Dan Halbert
Welcoming: Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!
From the Board

NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN UPDATE
Janice Cole and Ezra Hausman, Nediv Lev Co-Chairs

Thanks to all of your love and generosity, the 5782 Nediv Lev campaign has been a smashing success! As of this writing, we have received gifts totaling $134,763 — exceeding our goal by almost 8%! We also received gifts from 135 households, or 52% of our membership. Of this, $32,979 (24%) came in the form of leadership gifts from our Board members and our past and current presidents.

Donations to our Nediv Lev campaign are a crucial part of our membership structure and our operating budget — and they are also a much appreciated way for members with the ability and desire to support our community over and above annual dues. (If you have not made a Nediv Lev contribution this year and would still like to, you can always do so through the “Giving” link on the CDT website.) We deeply appreciate donations of any size, and we feel blessed as always to have such a caring and supportive CDT community. THANK YOU!

Interview of the Month

WELCOME OUR NEW RABBINIC INTERN, AKIVA NELSON!
Haralie Alpert

Akiva Nelson will be our new rabbinic intern starting in the fall. He is already working with staff members on ideas and programming. While he is attending his third year at Hebrew College, he’ll be working at CDT part-time. Akiva has a very inspiring background as far as his Judaism journey and we look forward to welcoming him to CDT!

Akiva, what is your hometown and what is your religious background?
I grew up in Winston Salem, NC; it was a one synagogue town, a Reform synagogue. The basic story arc is that sometime in my teenage years, I got involved in climate and environmental activism and science and saw it at odds with Judaism. So I ended up rejecting it. For many years environmental climate organizing and political work was my religious community. I wasn’t really involved in Judaism except for once or twice a year for the High Holydays. I moved out to Detroit, MI after undergrad and was working in renewable energy and had a quarter-life crisis, grappling with the climate and environmental movements’ failure to pass big policy.

And I basically turned to Judaism. There was a small, post-denominational, very funky synagogue in downtown Detroit, so I turned there first before getting involved in Reconstructionist Judaism. A few years later, I moved to Israel for a year, and it was there that I made the decision to apply to rabbinical school and started in the fall of 2020.

Why did you decide to become a Rabbi?
When I was working in renewable energy, I knew that business and the corporate world were not a fit. I wanted something where I could learn and teach wisdom. I love the process of community building, love to sing, love teaching... The rabbinical path allows me a lot of avenues to do those things.

What are some of the goals you see for yourself and the congregation while interning at CDT?
I’m going to be focusing on adult programming and community building. Helping with the ritual committee, leading services, helping the rabbi with holiday programming... I’m really excited!!

What do you do in your free time?
There is a sad part to the answer and then there is that happy part of the answer. I’ve been dealing with some really severe chronic back pain for the past few years, so I spend a lot of time with physical therapists and doctors.

On the other (happy) side, I do a lot of meditation retreats and communal singing. I love swimming — I’ve been doing a lot of open water swimming in the ponds around Massachusetts and spending a lot of time over at Crystal Lake, which has been really fun!
SHABBAT SERVICES
All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah beginning at 10 am, and once every month for our musical all-ages erev Shabbat service. Zoom information for each morning 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.

Labor Day Shabbat with Monique Nguyen
Saturday, September 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
ZOOM ONLY

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for Shabbat morning services beginning at 10 am. At 11 am, we will welcome Monique Nguyen, formerly the director of the Matahari Women Workers Center, and newly serving as the Director of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement in Boston. CDT has partnered with Matahari for many years, and we are thrilled that Monique will join us to share her perspective on labor issues and the immigrant experience!

All-Ages Erev Shabbat
Friday, September 9, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
CDT’s Fellowship Hall and CDT Sanctuary

All are welcome to this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candlelighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by a catered picnic dinner. Our musical service begins at 6:45 pm, and the night concludes with Oneg Shabbat at 7:30 pm.
This service will be in-person only.

Shabbat Ki Tetzei & B’Mitzvah of Moth Fayngold
Saturday, September 10, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are welcome to join us in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom as we call Moth Fayngold to the Torah as B’Mitzvah! We will also be remembering CDT member Debbie Sher on the occasion of her 11th yahrzeit.

We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our child Moth Fayngold is called to the Torah, and to join us after at kiddush lunch. Moth grew up in Jamaica Plain, attending the Boston Teacher’s Union Pilot School through 6th grade, and is currently in 8th grade at Diamond Middle School in Lexington. Moth is a longtime artist and recently began learning to draw with charcoal and pastels. Moth’s other interests include dance, historical fashion, linguistics, and disability studies.
– Paul Schimek & Irena Fayngold

SHABBAT services will be in-person only.

KIDDUSH IS BACK!
Pre-COVID, CDT’s Kiddushim were a central way that we brought our community together, allowing us to share a meal and schmooze with old friends and new. To support this, we are again asking each adult member to co-host two Kiddushim per year with a team of other members. Please go on our website to www.dorsheitzedek.org/kiddush-volunteer-signups to learn more and to practice the mitzvah of hospitality with the Dorshei Tzedek community!

MINDFUL MORNINGS
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:15 am
Zoom

We invite all CDT members to consider joining us for meditation. Mindful Mornings meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:15 on Zoom. No meditation experience or regular commitment required. For questions or to find out more, please contact Karen Arnold or Carole Slipowitz.

For this special Shabbat of “turning” between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we will have a special service featuring song and guided and silent meditation, as well as Torah study beginning at 11 am. No meditation experience necessary! We will also be remembering CDT member Zachary Carson on the occasion of his 15th yahrzeit.

MINDFUL MORNINGS
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:15 am
Zoom

We invite all CDT members to consider joining us for meditation. Mindful Mornings meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:15 on Zoom. No meditation experience or regular commitment required. For questions or to find out more, please contact Karen Arnold or Carole Slipowitz.

On Thursdays, September 1, 8, and 15, Rabbi Toba will lead Elul-themed meditations in preparation for the High Holydays.
ELUL PROGRAMS

The month of Elul, the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah, is a time for preparation for the new year and the process of teshuvah, (re)turning — to our divine Source, to our best selves. Elul began this year on August 28, and we have some special programs in September as we prepare for the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe — come join us!

Turning Inward: A Night of Meditation, Song, and Reflection With CDT Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson
Tuesday, September 6, 7:30-8:45 pm
CDT (60 Highland Street) and Zoom

It can be hard to make space in our hectic lives to slow down and turn inward in the time leading up to the High Holydays. If you’re yearning for some space to do just that, come join our wonderful new Rabbinic Intern, Akiva Nelson, for a teshuvah-themed night of song, meditation, reflection, and journaling as we prepare our hearts for the High Holydays.

Nourishing Our Spirits: A Conversation
Wednesday, September 21, 7:30-8:45 pm
Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for individual and communal reflection on what nourished our spirits and grounded us during the tumultuous and difficult past two and half years, since the onset of COVID in March 2020. As we identify these sources of strength and resilience, we will also reflect on how our congregation can move into the new year in new and exciting ways, drawing on all that we have learned and experienced.

Reparations and Communal Teshuvah
Thursday, September 15, 7:30-9:00 pm
Zoom

As part of Reconstructing Judaism’s exploration of movement-wide commitment to societal reparations for the sins of Native American genocide and slavery in the U.S., this workshop will introduce key concepts in reparations and how we can think about it with a Jewish lens. This is the first session in our congregational reflection on a proposed movement-wide proposal on reparations.

Sindyanna Gift Packs for the new year!
Give a gift of fair trade, organic and kosher olive oil and honey for the new year, while supporting Sindyanna, the Jewish-Arab women’s cooperative in Israel! Gift packs are $18 each and contain olive oil, honey, and za’atar spice mix. If you would like to purchase one or more gift packs, please contact Jonathan Rosenthal at jonathan@just-works.com.

Selichot
Saturday, September 17, 8:30-9:45 pm
On Zoom, with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah

All are welcome to join Rabbis Toba Spitzer & Barbara Penzner for this “warm up” for the Days of Awe as we officially begin the work of teshuvah in preparation for the new year and hear and sing some of the special tunes associated with the High Holydays.
Learning

CDT FILM CLUB
Saturday, May 28, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of Tel Aviv on Fire! Watch the film on your own any time before the discussion. Look for the Zoom link on the CDT Calendar.

Contact filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org with questions, film suggestions, if you’d like to lead the discussion about a particular film, or to be put on our mailing list.

Tel Aviv on Fire (1 hr 36 min, 2019, Prime or Apple TV): Salam, an inexperienced young Palestinian man, becomes a writer on a popular soap opera after a chance meeting with an Israeli soldier. His creative career is on the rise — until the soldier and the show’s financial backers disagree about how the show should end, and Salam is caught in the middle.

Visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club for future dates and movie titles!

Wise Aging
Sundays, October 23, November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18, & January 8, 3:00-4:00 pm

A new Wise Aging group will begin on October 23rd and will meet via Zoom at 3:00 pm every other Sunday.

The group will be led by CDT member Dr. Carol Hausman and will include discussion, journaling, hevruta, meditation and more. We will use the book Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit by Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal. Call or email Carol at 202.494.1935 or cpopky@gmail.com if you wish to join.

CDT Groups and Events

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING
Tuesday, September 13, 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 MEN’S GROUP
Monday, September 19, 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. Contact Dan Rome at dan.rome.md@gmail.com for more information.

Community

NEW MEMBER WELCOME
A warm welcome to new members Alyssa Frank Reichman & Ben Reichman, Rebecca & Ben Waber, Lindsey Silver & Rebecca Ellis, and A. Tom Brown!

MAZEL TOV
Mazel tov to Nina Diecidue and her family on becoming Bat Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Angela Jefferson and CDT’s Team Angie on being granted parole after 30 years!

Mazel tov to the CDT newsletter’s very own photographer Viv Shein on her first ever solo photography exhibit!

Mazel tov to Amy Mazur on winning the Extraordinary Leadership Award from the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies!

Mazel Bronstein, Rachel Adler-Golden, and Marcia Okun.

Thank you to Wendy & Charles Frankston for providing Kiddush!

Thank you to Peter Katz and Tony Broh for their unpacking a plethora of boxes of books in support of our move from FUSN!

Thank you to Earnest Arky Solomon and Lise Webbe for their fantastic efforts in moving Dorshei Tzedek out of FUSN after decades of it being home to CDT’s Religious School!

REFUAH SHLEYMAH
We send blessings of healing to Earnest Arky Solomon, Anya Rhodes, Jaime Wurzel,
Emelia Webbe, Gail Pressberg, Harriet Budd, and Ellen Pashall.

YAHRZEIT
This month we remember CDT member Debbie Sher, whose 11th yahrzeit falls on September 10. We will remember Debbie at Shabbat morning services on the 10th; may her memory be for a blessing.

We also remember CDT member Zachary Carson, whose 15th yahrzeit falls on October 1. We will remember Zach at Shabbat Shuvah services on October 1; 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 dorsheitzedek.org/mourning.

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE
Earnest Arky Solomon

In just a few weeks we will be welcoming back over 75 preschool-seventh graders and their grown ups, 19 madrichimot (teen guides), and 14 faculty members to our Sunday program. I am excited to share a few updates about this coming year for youth and families at Dorshei Tzedek. We are making a big move to Cabot Elementary in Newtonville after many wonderful years at the Jewish Community Day School in Watertown. Cabot is a beautiful and newly renovated school with a totally awesome playground and is next to a large public park. There will be plenty of room for our classes and adult ed offerings during Religious School. We look forward to embarking on a new community partnership with the caretakers of the Cabot school.

Each Sunday at Religious School we will be joined by Akiva Nelson, CDT Rabbinic Intern, who will be providing family education, adult learning opportunities, and supervising a parent cafe at Religious School. After over two years of COVID restrictions limiting our adult offerings on Sundays we are approaching this year as a year of reconnection and rebuilding our adult community on Sundays. Stay tuned for opportunities open to the whole community!

We also have two new programs for teens this year. In addition to participating in our madrichimot program and other teen programs in the greater Boston area, we are offering Kulam, a Moving Traditions program, for our eighth graders. Moving Traditions is an organization that develops curriculum for Jewish teen programming that emboldens Jewish youth to challenge gender stereotyping and other forms of discrimination and to pursue personal wholeness (shleimut), caring connections (hesed), and a just and equitable world (tzedek). In Kulam, Jewish teens ask big questions about where, why and how they belong while exploring issues of identity, equity, and justice with Jewish wisdom as a guide. CDT educator and rabbinical student, Hannah Limov, will be facilitating this program. In addition to Kulam, we are piloting a CDT High School Youth Group. High school students will come together monthly for social programming. The youth group leader will collaborate with teens to plan events that reflect how they want to connect with CDT peers.

One other new program will be monthly Shorashim Shabbat morning family programs with expert educator, Devora Rohr. One Saturday morning a month, families with children six and younger (siblings welcome!) will join Devora from 9:30-10:30 for a Shabbat morning program. Afterwards, children can stay for childcare while adults enjoy services. Children of all ages are welcome to join for Shabbat childcare on these days. With all this newness on the horizon, the High Holydays Shorashim (6y/o’s and younger), family services (grades 2-7), and teen programs will be an important kick off to a year of community, connection, and celebration!

As we prepare for another year of CDT youth and family programs, I continue to return to a teaching from Proverbs as an anchor text for this work: chanoch l’naar k’darco, educate a child according to their way. On the last day of Religious School last year staff gathered in the cafeteria to celebrate and reflect on the year. I projected this quote from proverbs on the wall and teachers and madrichimot (teen guides) identified moments throughout the year when this text came alive in their classrooms. They shared memories of creation story-themed fashion shows, children’s access needs being met and supported by other students, the spray paint student-led art project that lit up two fifth graders, and so many more moments of creativity and connection. This orientation to Jewish education emphasizes the need for educators to know their students and create opportunities for students to share of themselves and be witnessed by their peers, teachers, and community.
Youth and Family Programming (cont.)

Within the context of Torah learning this process embodies Torat chayim, a living Torah. When our students connect their own creativity to our tradition and values the Torah lives and grows. I look forward to another year of witnessing our students and growing Torah with this fantastic community of families and educators.

Tikkun Olam

Tikkun Olam articles indicated with an asterisk have been edited due to space constraints; to read the full updates, please visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/tikkun-olam and look for the blog on each webpage.

REPORT FROM THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER
Thursday, September 8, 7:30-9:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St) and Zoom

Please join CDT “graduate” Sarah Arnold as she shares stories of the people she has met during the past two years supporting non-citizens and detainees in Arizona and Texas. This is a great opportunity to learn what life is like on the ground at the U.S.-Mexico border and how current U.S. immigration policy is affecting the lives of individuals and families.

Please see the CDT calendar for Zoom and in-person registration links.

UPDATE FROM TEAM ANGIE
Barbara Shatkin

Since 2017, Team Angie Partakers volunteers (Miriam Bronstein, Lauren Gibbs, Tatjana Meschede, Carole Slippowitz, Denise Yurkofsky, and I) supported Angie Jefferson as she took classes towards her BA degree through BU’s College Behind Bars program. Angie received her degree in the spring of 2022. Following a review of her case by the Integrity Review Team established by DA Rachel Rollins, Angie’s case was heard on January 31, 2022 and her sentence was reduced from first to second-degree murder, thereby making her eligible for parole. In response to our request for additional supporters at that hearing, a large number of CDT members attended by Zoom.

On April 12, Angie appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing. Our team submitted a document in support of Angie being paroled and attended her hearing. Angie was granted parole on July 11 and released to New Beginnings Reentry Services House on July 27. She is doing very well in a myriad of ways and we are planning a dinner to celebrate her release. Our team has decided to plan our future involvement with Angie on an individual basis going forward, such as volunteering as a mentor for her regarding particular curriculum in her re-entry program, rather than continue to function as a team. Our last team meeting was held in early August. We all felt that we had learned a tremendous amount through our Partakers volunteering and that our involvement with Angie and each other had been very meaningful to us.

NEWTON HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE*
Lisa Keshet

Newton Zoning Redesign

The City of Newton’s Zoning Redesign project is a multi-year effort to update and rewrite Newton’s Zoning Ordinance. Would you like to participate in the City of Newton’s Feedback Tool to influence the Zoning Redesign initiative? If so, please let Lisa Keshet and Tony Broh know. We can organize a virtual meeting in which Lisa will present the Feedback Tool, an interactive online survey created by the City of Newton to bring zoning feedback back to the City.

Zoning Redesign is currently focused on village centers. The City of Newton staff is now involved in the second phase of community engagement, where they will present “development scenarios” for large and small village centers based on the takeaways from Phase 1. Some of the values that surfaced as a result of the community input from Phase 1 of Village Centers are:

1. Creating more communal public space
2. Increasing accessibility to buildings and infrastructure
3. Incorporating climate resiliency through built structures and greenspaces
4. Helping small businesses to begin, stay, and thrive
5. Making permitting process easier, clearer, and multi-tiered
6. Adding more diverse housing options and encouraging mixed-use projects
7. Prioritizing safe and accessible routes to and through centers

For more information on this work, visit the Zoning Redesign Library Exhibit at the Newton Centre Public Library or contact Tony Broh or Lisa Keshet.

Update on Santander Bank Project

Many of us have been following the potential new development project that would include the Santander Bank, closely situated to the Second Church, at Washington St. & Davis St. The project is still being discussed within the context of the Newton Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP). Currently, the plans include the transformation of the Santander Bank into a large restaurant and the construction of an additional structure behind the bank (where the parking lot now stands). This structure is being planned as a five-story apartment building with one parking spot for each apartment (41 apartments at market-rate and 9 at affordable rates). There are a number of special permits being requested for this project, for example, but not limited to: height, FAR, and setbacks.

There is quite a lot of debate about this project with much of the concern being centered around the reduced parking that the developer is requesting for the restaurant planned for the Santander Bank. Supporters have been emphasizing the need for more rental apartments in Newton, which are accessible and in village centers.
GBIO UPDATE*

Louise Enoch

Lots of work was done during July to help move forward key legislation that would affect the Housing and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Disorder agendas of GBIO. Both Steering Teams called upon GBIO members to contact Speaker of the House Mariano and Senate President Spilka to express support for both the Real Estate Transfer Fees bill (H.1377/S.868) and the omnibus mental health bill (H.4879 and S.2584). GBIO members made well over 200 calls. If you were one of those who called, thank you! It made a difference. The mental health bill was passed! MAMH (MA Association for Mental Health), with whom GBIO partnered, sent GBIO the following message: “Congratulations on all your work to reach this milestone. All of the calls and emails generated by the GBIO network certainly helped push this bill to the governor’s desk.”

Sadly, the Real Estate Transfer Fees bill, which still had some life in it toward the end of July as an amendment to the Senate’s version of the economic development bill, did not make it out of the Revenue Committee. However, it is primed to be addressed in the next session. GBIO was praised by City Councilor Bok for its work related to the City’s housing budget.

The Reentry Team continues with its efforts to secure IDs for returning citizens. They were successful in getting $2.7 million (more than hoped for) for the Office of Returning Citizens and will continue working on that program’s staffing.

The next Mental Health/SUD Team meeting will be on September 8 at 7:15 pm on Zoom. The Housing and Reentry meetings will be scheduled for sometime in September. Stay tuned.

In an exciting new piece of news, an ad hoc committee of GBIO leaders are meeting with attorney general and gubernatorial candidates to begin the process of finding out where they stand with regard to GBIO’s agenda.

Finally, CDT’s GBIO Core Team will begin holding monthly meetings, OPEN TO ALL, to keep us updated. Everyone is welcome to attend the first of these meetings, which will be on September 7 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will keep it brief and have fun!

Please be in touch with Louise Enoch at lpenoich@gmail.com if you have any questions.

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT UPDATE*

Pam Katz

This summer has been super busy for the Afghan family being hosted by CDT. After those early days of welcoming the family and arranging for benefits, the work since March has focused on supporting them to become a part of their new community. They have made much progress!

In March, MW (the dad) secured a full-time job at Whole Foods. Congregants helped prep him for interviews and once he was hired, helped with onboarding activities and benefits. MW has thrived at his job, and his hard work and congeniality earned him “Hospitality Employee of the Month” in July.

With the support of CDT tutors and the childcare team, MW and Kh (the mom) have made tremendous progress in learning English. With MW working full time, childcare was needed to allow Kh to continue her studies. Kh hopes to explore training opportunities – perhaps in nursing. Four-year old daughter T is thriving at HeadStart. Y, the younger brother, participated last spring in an early education playgroup.

The family has been busy making their house a home. We have some very savvy shoppers at CDT exploiting “Buy Nothing” groups, thrift stores and the generosity of the Congregation to address family needs. A very generous donation of an Afghan rug has become a treasured possession. Volunteers introduced Kh to Savers to pick out clothes and other items for the family. Finally, the CDT food team has made sure that the family has Afghan bread and regular trips to Market Basket!

Despite all of this success, challenges remain. We learned at the end of July that MW needs complicated knee surgery. This surgery will keep him home for approximately 3 months with intensive physical therapy. We will likely need more volunteers to help with transportation to PT and with childcare this fall. If you might want to volunteer time you can learn more by emailing Janet Penn (janetpenn559@gmail.com). Watch for news about other ways to support the family as they make the Boston area a place to call home.

ONE FAIR WAGE UPDATE

Amy Mazur and Ora Gladstone

We have some good news to report on the (Federal) One Fair Wage front. Representative Jahana Hayes from Connecticut introduced a groundbreaking piece of legislation toward establishing One Fair Wage on the FEDERAL level!

The Tipped Worker Protection Act would

• Increase the tipped minimum wage.
• Ensure that all tips are retained by employees.
• Empower employees in tip pools.
• Increase transparency for service charges.

Additionally, seventeen members of Congress signed a letter asking President Biden to adopt the “High Road Kitchens” program, supporting restaurant owners who are proactively raising wages in response to the Great Resignation while maintaining profitability. (You can patronize local restaurants that support One Fair Wage: www.dorsheitzedek.org/ofw-restaurants.)

Remember, the tipped workforce isn’t just restaurant workers — it includes workers in hair salons, car washes, airports, and more. And this workforce is...
disproportionately comprised of people of color and women.

While we urgently need to pass the Tipped Worker Protection Act and implement the High Road Kitchens program nationwide, we also still have work to do to pass One Fair Wage legislation in Massachusetts.

To get involved or to stay updated, visit our CDT Tikkun Olam One Fair Wage webpage: www.dorsheitzedek.org/one-fair-wage.

We use the Lotsa Helping Hands website to facilitate calls for Chesed volunteers. To sign up, CDT members need to create a login at www.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. The Chesed Coordinators can be reached at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Many Gestures of Chesed
Ellie Goldberg

“By helping you, perhaps I was trying to lift up my life a trifle. Heaven knows anyone’s life can stand a little of that.”


I’ll wager that many of us can remember when a book or poem or song taught us what kindness felt like. I remember the loving gestures in the work of A. A. Milne, E.B. White, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Dr. Seuss and Raffi, Ella Jenkins, Pete Seeger and Malvina Reynolds, especially The Magic Penny.

I shared those classics with my own children in hopes of sparking the same deeply comforting sensations in them. Today, the core value of Chesed at CDT creates a similar feeling in both the giver and the receiver when our acts of lovingkindness support one another through life’s milestones and transitions.

We use the Lotsa Helping Hands website to facilitate calls for Chesed volunteers. To sign up, CDT members need to create a login at www.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. The Chesed Coordinators can be reached at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

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:

Afghan Assistance Fund
Meryl Epstein — With appreciation for the kindness of Paul Hattis

Camp Havaya Fund
Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx — In honor of their granddaughters, Frieda and Rose Naumburg, who love the camp
Harriet Isaac — In honor of The Keimowitz Crozier Family; wishing you good health and much happiness in your new home

High Holydays Donations
Kirsten Kuhn & Nicole Kutteh
Jaime & Susanah Wurzel

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund
Mark Paley & Rachel Davenport — In honor of Rachel Davenport’s birthday
# September 2022 • Elul 5782/Tishrei 5783

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong> Elul 1</td>
<td><strong>29</strong> Elul 2</td>
<td><strong>30</strong> Elul 3</td>
<td><strong>31</strong> Elul 4</td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Elul 5</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Elul 6</td>
<td><strong>3</strong> Elul 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Elul</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoftim 10:00 am Labor Day Shabbat Morning Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Elul 8</td>
<td><strong>5</strong> Elul 9</td>
<td><strong>6</strong> Elul 10</td>
<td><strong>7</strong> Elul 11</td>
<td><strong>8</strong> Elul 12</td>
<td><strong>9</strong> Elul 13</td>
<td><strong>10</strong> Elul 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labor Day; Office closed</td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings 12:15 pm CDT Gala Invitation envelope stuffing event! 4:00 pm CDT Staff Security Training 7:30 pm Turning Inward: A Night of Meditation, Song, and Reflection with Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson</td>
<td>7:00 pm New Monthly GBIO Meeting - Everyone Invited!</td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings 7:30 pm Report from the U.S.-Mexico Border</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ki Teitzei 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services &amp; B’Mitzvah of Moth Fayngold 8:00 pm Film Club Discussion: &quot;Tel Aviv on Fire&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> Elul 15</td>
<td><strong>12</strong> Elul 16</td>
<td><strong>13</strong> Elul 17</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> Elul 18</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> Elul 19</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> Elul 20</td>
<td><strong>17</strong> Elul 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings 7:30 pm Avelut</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings 7:30 pm Reparations and Communal Teshuvah</td>
<td></td>
<td>Selichot - 1st Saturday Ki Tavo 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services 8:30 pm Selichot service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18</strong> Elul 22</td>
<td><strong>19</strong> Elul 23</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Elul 24</td>
<td><strong>21</strong> Elul 25</td>
<td><strong>22</strong> Elul 26</td>
<td><strong>23</strong> Elul 27</td>
<td><strong>24</strong> Elul 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selichot - 1st Night 9:30 am Sunday Religious School w/ Nitzaanim</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm CDT Men’s Group</td>
<td>7:30 pm Nourishing Our Spirits: A Conversation</td>
<td>8:30 am Mindful Mornings 6:00 pm Kulam: 8th Grade Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nitzavim 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong> Elul 29</td>
<td><strong>26</strong> Tishrei 1</td>
<td><strong>27</strong> Tishrei 2</td>
<td><strong>28</strong> Tishrei 3</td>
<td><strong>29</strong> Tishrei 4</td>
<td><strong>30</strong> Tishrei 5</td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Tishrei 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah service</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah Tashlikh 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah morning service 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah family service 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Shorashim service 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah teen program for 8th grade and up 4:30 pm Tashlikh services</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah 8:30 am Mindful Mornings 10:00 am All Ages Outdoor Rosh Hashanah Nature Experience 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Zoom Service &amp; Study 2:00 pm Tashlikh on the Ocean</td>
<td></td>
<td>Selichot AYT 8:30 am Mindful Mornings</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Shuvah Vayeileich 10:00 am Shabbat Shuvah Contemplative Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Selichot AYT
- Shoftim
- Shabbat Shuvah Vayeileich
- Nitzavim
- Ki Teitzei
- Ki Tavo
- Shabbat Morning Services
- Mindful Mornings
Do you need a large print version of the newsletter? Contact the office at office@dorsheitzedek.org