



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Elul **5783**/Tishrei **5784**

September **2023**



SACRED SERVICE AND COMING NEAR

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



In this season of teshuvah – often translated "repentance," but more literally meaning "turning" and "returning" – I am drawn to reflect on the turnings and returnings in which we are currently engaged, three and a half years after the initial Covid shut-down. We have "returned" in many good ways — celebrating with a full sanctuary (and kids' parties later!) for B'nei Mitzvah; hearing our voices blending together during services, and then sitting and schmoozing together at Kiddush afterwards; our

kids and teachers together again on Sunday mornings. And at the same time, we have "turned" onto some wonderful new paths. Our programming is much more accessible, as we can now offer a virtual component to our services and many other programs. Indeed, we have discovered that for some things – like evening classes – Zoom makes it possible for many more people to attend than did in the past. And our

virtual offerings have expanded our reach, as we now count members from the D.C. area to Milwaukee to New Hampshire!

The shake-up of the pandemic – the extraordinary disruption to and reinvention of communal life – has also been a significant learning opportunity. Beginning about a year and a half ago, I and members of the Ritual Committee convened conversations with a variety of CDT members to explore what we had learned during the shut-down and its aftermath. We reflected on what had sustained, nourished, and grounded our spirits, both in general and at Dorshei Tzedek in particular. And just as I had learned in those early days of the pandemic that it was indeed possible to feel connected to one another in mind and spirit over Zoom, we learned that folks found sustenance in many different ways via the CDT community, whether attending a virtual Shivah minyan or walking with a buddy, doing Zoom Torah study or discussing a film on Saturday nights, reading a Shabbat email or continuing our social justice commitments. During a time when we physically could not all gather together, we nurtured a web of CDT life, with no particular center, just many types and sizes of nodes of connection.

This past summer, we continued the conversation on what we've learned and how it might inspire us, framed by two concepts from Jewish tradition. The first is the notion of *avodah*, a word for "work" that was used by the Talmudic rabbis to refer to priestly service in the Temple in Jerusalem. Once the Temple was destroyed, the rabbis had to reformulate what such "service" now meant. In a famous commentary on a verse from Deuteronomy, calling on the Israelites "**to serve** God with all of your heart," the rabbis asked: "What is 'service' of the heart? You'd have to say, this is prayer" (Ta'anit 2a). Prayer – and spiritual practice more broadly – can thus be thought of as a kind of "service," leaving open the question: what, and how, might we serve?

The other concept we explored was the term used to describe the offerings made in the Temple. These were called "*korbanot*," which is usually translated as "sacrifices," but whose root is from the verb to "come close." Through these offerings, the ancient priests were creating pathways to connect themselves and their community to the Divine. This led us to another question: to what, and how, do we seek to "come close" in our own ritual and spiritual lives?

Our conversation on both of these topics was very rich. On the notion of "service," participants noted that it is inherently relational, and it implies that each of us has something to give. Service contains a sense of *kavvanah* — of directing oneself, pointing towards something important. On the question of what we might be seeking to "come close" to in our communal and ritual lives, people included: something within myself; to community, even from afar (Zoom); to a sense of goodness in the world; to Something bigger and beyond, Something vast; to a sense of mystery.

Based on small group conversations of how we might apply these concepts to our spiritual and ritual life at CDT, some interesting themes emerged, and at our second conversation, we broke into five working groups, exploring possibilities in the realm of Nature/the outdoors, song and music, physical movement, opportunities for communal participation/offerings, and an open brainstorm. If you missed one or both of these conversations, not to worry! We have recordings of both, and a wonderful Google document that captures many of the ideas that emerged (and that continue to emerge). Please go to the Spiritual Life page (www.dorsheitzedek.org/spiritual-life) on the CDT website for links to those recordings and to the Google document. Add your ideas and indicate what you might be interested in helping to lead or organize!

May the new Jewish year 5784 be one of continued learning and exploration, as we play and experiment with some new ideas, even as we "return" to what we have always appreciated about our communal life here at CDT. May each of us, in the new year, find our own unique way to serve That which sustains and inspires us, and may we be blessed to "come close" to our inner goodness and to the Source of Life and Love itself. *L'shanah tovah tikkateivu* — may we be written for goodness in the new year!

From the Office

SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS AND CLOSURES



The administrative offices at CDT are open Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm.

Education Director Earnest's Arky Solomon's office hours are Monday-Friday, 10:30 am-4:30 pm.

The office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day and on September 16, 17, 25, and 30 for the High Holydays and Sukkot.

The CDT Newsletter is produced by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, photos, and questions to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Volunteer Staff for this issue: Debby Saltzman (copyeditor). Please let us know if you'd like to join the team!

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 of Operations: Margaret Farmer, m.farmer@dorsheitzedek.org
Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon, e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org
Administrative Assistant: Alistaire Webbe, a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org
Inclusion Director: Jess Green, j.green@dorsheitzedek.org
Rabbinic Intern: Akiva Nelson, a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee:

President: Stacey Chacker
First VP: **Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!**
VP Finance: Jen Levine-Fried
Secretary: Dan Rome

Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Carole Slipowitz and Marjorie Salvodon
VP Engagement: Melanie Adler Cohen and Rebecca Byard
VP Tikkun Olam: Pam Katz

Board Members—at-Large:

Meryl Epstein, Abby Cohen, Esther Kohn, Jonathan Lewis, Tatjana Meschede, and Jennifer Nichols

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 of Operations Liaison: Linette Liebling
Education Director Liaison: Lissy Medvedow
Space: Steve Siegel
Welcoming: **Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!**

Interview of the Month

YOUR DIRECT LINE TO ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HIGH HOLYDAYS — EMILY MATHIS!!

Haralie Alpert

In addition to teaching in our school and leading High Holydays programs for children and families, CDT member Rabbi Emily Mathis is now filling a new CDT position as our High Holydays Assistant. I interviewed her about her journey to CDT as well as the goals of her position. The CDT office is asking folks to email or call CDT and Emily will call them back; her email is highholydays@dorsheitzedek.org.

What is your Jewish background and how did you decide to join CDT?

I was raised with a Reform Jewish background, and came to the Reconstructionist movement after college. I was looking for a Jewish life and practice that was meaningful, musical, and connected to the broader community. I certainly don't blame my parents, but suburban Jewish life was not super engaging in the 1970s.

When I was in college in Providence, I attended the nearby Quaker meeting, and that community was very much a home for me for several years. But eventually I knew that I needed to find a Jewish community that would fit. I next found two other Reform congregations: Central Reform Congregation when I spent time back in St. Louis where I grew up, and then Congregation Beth El in Sudbury. I was connected to the music, the learning, the



social justice work, and the progressive values. Yet, the Reconstructionist movement and its focus on an always-evolving tradition adds a layer of engagement that I love.

When we moved to West Newton, we knew that we wanted to join a congregation that was walkable, that was in the community — not to feel like we had to go to another town for our Jewish life. We were considering a couple of congregations, and when I ran into Carla Naumburg at a conference, she said, "Join Dorshei; they're your people!" (Of course, Dorshei is Carla's people as well.) Literally, that was her response to my deliberation situation, and she was right. We wanted our family and kids to be with our people, and to be able to connect easily. People join congregations for

all sorts of reasons. You like the rabbi, or it's where your friends are, or the Religious School seems great — and in our case, it was all of those and it was three blocks away.

What are your current roles at CDT?

I teach Kitah Gimmel (third grade) in the Religious School, both on Sundays and Hebrew on Tuesdays. Last year, I led several High Holydays services/programs for families with young children. I've also served on the Children's Education Committee (CEC) for a number of years; it's important to me to take an active role in helping students and families to have a sense of inclusion and belonging, and the CEC is a really good group of people!

What is the role of the High Holydays position?

My role is to support members who have questions or needs regarding the High Holydays services, programming, and logistics. Members can find information in the packets that were sent recently, as well as on the Spiritual Life tab on the website — but for any questions not answered, feel free to call or email me!

What do you want to say to members?

If you have any questions, please reach out! We want everyone to be able to enter the High Holydays feeling prepared for a meaningful beginning to the New Year.



Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice

We are excited to be gathering again in person for Shabbat services and holiday programs, most of which are also available on Zoom!

WE HAVE UPDATED OUR COVID PROTOCOLS: We strongly encourage those attending our services and programs to be fully vaccinated, and we are "mask friendly." Masks are not required, but all should feel comfortable wearing a mask at our programs; we will continue to have masks available, and there will be a mask-only section reserved in the CDT sanctuary. We ask that anyone exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 please refrain from attending, even if testing negative, and that CDC guidelines be followed for those who have tested positive in recent days. For our current COVID policy, please go to www.dorsheitzedek.org/covid-19-resources.

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.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Friday, September 8, 6:00-8:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St)

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba at 6 pm for candle-lighting and Shabbat blessings, followed by a catered, vegetarian Shabbat dinner. An engaging, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service begins at 6:45 pm, and an Oneg follows at about 7:30 pm. This is also an opportunity to learn about our Religious School, especially for families with children aged 4-10. Help spread the word!

Upcoming dates: November 3 (potluck dinner),
December 1 (catered dinner)

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Labor Day Shabbat

Saturday, September 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Zoom

We will gather on Zoom with Rabbi Toba and special guest, CDT member Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, who serves in the Boston Mayor's office as Deputy Chief of Worker Empowerment, to celebrate Labor Day. We will also be remembering CDT member Debbie Sher on the occasion of her 12th yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayeilekh

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary for Shabbat morning services and Torah discussion (**for logistical reasons, we**

are not able to Zoom this service). Kiddush lunch follows services at noon.

Shabbat Shuvah Contemplative Service

Saturday, September 23, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a morning of song and chant, silent and guided meditation, and Torah study, for this Shabbat of "turning" between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We will also be remembering CDT member Zachary Carson on the occasion of his 16th yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.

September 30 and October 6 are holiday Shabbat programs; read on for details!

SELICHOT PROGRAM

Co-sponsored with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah

Saturday, September 9, 8:00-10:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary (60 Highland St)

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba and HBT's interim rabbi, Sarah Noyes, as we begin the process of teshuvah – (re)turning – at this evening program featuring song, study, and reflection.

SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

Sukkot is the "Festival of the Ingathering," the Biblical harvest holiday where we celebrate the abundance in our lives while remembering the precariousness of our ancestors' journey through the wilderness. The Sukkot week begins this year on Friday evening, September 29. During Sukkot, we build and eat our meals

in the sukkah, wave the lulav and etrog at services, and are instructed to be joyous — here are some opportunities to do all three!

This year, our communal sukkah will be located near our Religious School space in Newton's Cabot Park and will be available for anyone who wants to use it during the holiday.

Want your very own Lulav & Etrog set? Visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/form/lulavorder for the order form! (Orders must be received by Monday, September 18.)

Sukkah 'Stravaganza

Friday-Saturday, September 29-30

This year, we are welcoming the Sukkot holiday with Sukkah 'Stravaganza, a series of splendiferous gatherings hosted by Dorshei members for the community in neighborhoods across metro Boston. Join us as we gather with friends and neighbors to share food, good times, and the joy of eating together under the stars. Sign up for a meal at www.dorsheitzedek.org/sukkot-5784.



Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

First Day of Sukkot Service

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

At this special Shabbat service, we'll sing Hallel in honor of the Sukkot holiday! We will also be remembering CDT founder Efrem Goldberg on the occasion of his 21st yahrzeit and CDT member Marianka May on the occasion of her 1st yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.



All-Ages Sukkot Celebration

Sunday, October 1, 9:30 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sukkah (Cabot Park, Newton)
[Rain plan: Cabot Elementary School]

Religious school families as well as kids and adults of all ages are invited to join us beginning at 9:30 am for coffee, hot chocolate, and bagels in the CDT Sukkah! At 10 am, we'll gather together for Sukkot songs and stories, followed by Sukkot activities for kids and adults, including sukkah decorating, nature walk, stories and games, and adult learning from 10:30 am to noon. All are welcome!

Erev Shabbat in the Sukkah

Friday, October 6, 6:15-9:00 pm
CDT Sukkah (Cabot Park, Newton)
[Rain plan: CDT (60 Highland St)]

All are welcome to join Rabbinc Intern Akiva Nelson for a brief Shabbat evening service followed by a potluck veggie dinner and a Jewish song-share and sing along. This is an adult-oriented, all-ages-welcome gathering. Please bring a veggie main dish or salad to share as well as your songful spirit!

Shemini Atzeret Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for this final service of

the Sukkot week, featuring an ancient prayer for rain. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 7
CDT (60 Highland St)

5:30 pm — *Shorashim Celebration (families with children 5 and younger)*

6:00 pm — *Candle-lighting and catered dinner*

7:00 pm — *Simchat Torah celebration*

Come celebrate as we close our year of Torah reading and re-roll the scroll to start again! Families with younger children are invited to begin the celebration of Torah at 5:30 pm, and then all are welcome for a special holiday dinner at 6. At 6:45 pm, we will honor our CDT Religious School students and their Torah learning. At 7 pm, we'll gather in the CDT sanctuary for a fun evening service including Torah Quiz (prizes for kids and adults!), followed by dancing with the Torah scrolls and unrolling the Torah! Join Rabbi Toba and CDT musicians for a fun, musical evening.

YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE FOR NEWTON FOOD PANTRY

Our names are Libi and Almog Keshet, and we're organizing a synagogue and neighborhood food drive for our BMitzvah Tikkun Olam project this year (we'll become BMitzvah on May 25, 2024 at CDT). Our mom, Lisa, is a weekly volunteer at the Newton Food Pantry (City Hall) that provides food and personal care items to residents of Newton facing food insecurity. Below is a list of items that the Newton Food Pantry told us they need this year. They're incredibly grateful to us for our support. We'll be collecting these items from Erev Yom Kippur on Sunday, September 24 through the end of Yom Kippur on Monday, September 25. There will be a spot in the Gann Academy front lobby to drop off your donations. We're asking for every person or family to donate at least one item, if possible.

This year, the Newton Food Pantry is in serious need of:

- deodorant
- toothpaste
- individually packaged toothbrushes
- shampoo/conditioner

- diapers & pull-ups
- baby wipes

In addition, the Newton Food Pantry needs:

- breakfast cereal
- tuna
- canned soup
- jam
- sliced pears
- canned mandarin oranges

Also, you're welcome to order the most-needed items directly from the Newton Food Pantry Amazon Wish List. The order will be delivered straight to the Newton Food Pantry — just select Newton Food Pantry as the delivery address upon checkout.

Thank you so much,
Libi & Almog

For more details about the food drive, please contact Lisa at 617.902.8205 or lfkeshet@gmail.com.



MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

We invite CDT members and guests to join us for guided and silent meditation, twice a week or whenever you can! Mindful Mornings meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:15 am on Zoom, and we close each sit with Mourners Kaddish for anyone observing a yahrzeit or in mourning. Sessions are led by CDT members, and Rabbi Toba joins us the second Thursday of each month. No meditation experience or regular commitment required. For questions or to find out more, please contact Karen Arnold and Carole Slipowitz at mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org. The Zoom link can be found on the CDT calendar.

CDT Groups and Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Do you like movies? Do you enjoy watching and discussing Jewish films but don't always have the chance? CDT members gather on Zoom (and in members' homes when it becomes safe to do so again!) generally on the second Saturday of each month to discuss moving and thought-provoking Jewish films from around the world, many of which have been featured in Jewish film festivals.

There will not be a film discussion in September due to the holidays, but please visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club to see future movies and dates. Everyone is welcome to attend one or all discussions. We hope you'll join us!

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



AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, September 12, 7:30-9:15 pm
Zoom

All CDT members who are in the various stages of mourning are welcome to attend as we 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 and Dianne Lior at avelut@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, September 18, 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 mensgroup@dorsheitzedek.org for more information.

Starting in October, Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson will be joining the group for 5 sessions of special learning. Stay tuned for details!

Learning

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, October 21, November 11, & December 16, 9:00-9:45 am
CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for an exploration of the weekly Torah portion, through the lenses of commentary both ancient and modern. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

LEYNING REFRESHER CLASS

With Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Sunday OR Monday evenings, October 15/16, 29/30, November 5/6, & 19/20, 7:00-8:15 pm
[Format (in-person or Zoom) and meeting day will be determined with participants]

REGISTRATION REQUIRED — please email Rabbi Elaine at elainep@icloud.com if you are interested in this class

Chanting from the Torah scroll at Shabbat morning and holiday services is a wonderful

way to contribute to the community as well as a meaningful mitzvah. If you have leyned in the past but feel like you need a refresher or some additional support to do so again, this class is for you! Participants should have some past experience with leyning and ability to decode Hebrew; if you are not sure if this is for you, please contact Rabbi Elaine. Nourish your soul and do a good deed for CDT at the same time!

LUNCHTIME STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA

Wednesdays, October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, & December 6, 12:30-1:30 pm
Zoom

Our rabbinic forebears were no strangers to experiences of communal and individual crisis, and they turned to fasting, prayer, and other practices to get them through. In this weekly study, we will explore fascinating stories and discussions from the Talmudic tractate Taanit ("Fast") for wisdom about how we might respond to the times we find ourselves in. No experience with reading Talmud necessary! Come to one session or come to all.

D'VAR TORAH EXPLAINED — YOU CAN DO IT!

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday, October 28, 12:45-1:45 pm
CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

Ever wondered how to make sense of the weekly Torah portion, or how to turn a mountain of material into an interesting question to explore? All are invited to join Rabbi Toba to learn some ways into offering insights and leading a discussion on the weekly Torah portion. And if you'd like to lead a d'var Torah at CDT, we will follow up with you and give support!

REPARATIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

With Rabbi Toba and members of CDT's Undoing Racism group

Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, & December 14, 7:00-8:30 pm
Zoom

In the wake of Reconstructing Judaism's adoption of a resolution supporting reparations for historical and ongoing

Learning (cont.)

harms done to African Americans and Native Americans, we will review the case for reparations, and explore historical examples of reparations and current proposals and actions for reparations in the U.S. today. What in Jewish tradition supports the case for reparations? What are our personal connections to this

issue? How might we as a congregation begin to take action in this realm? The class will combine reading, conversation, and presentations from activists as we move from study to action on reparations.

We invite all who are interested in this topic

to join us for exploration and conversation. We will assume some basic understanding of the issues; if this topic is new to you or you'd like more grounding, please visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/adult-education for a variety of resources that you are encouraged to explore before the class begins.

Community

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members Ali Moss and Susan Cohen & Fred Traub! Ali joins us as an official member after a long and much-appreciated stint as the Kitah Alef lead teacher at CDT's Religious School.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Earnest and Emma Arky Solomon on the birth of Lyle Eden!

Mazel tov to Stuart Snyder for earning the place of co-gold medalist at the Fenway Pickle Ball tournament!



Mazel tov to Cheryl and Jeff Sacks on the birth of their grandchild Evan Sherman to CDT "graduate" Rachel Sacks and Will Cohen!

Mazel tov to Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp on the birth of their grandchild Lenora Charlotte Karp to CDT "graduate" Adam Karp and his wife Rachel Diamond Bond!

Mazel tov to Rabbi Toba and Nessa Spitzer on the marriage of CDT "graduate" Zoe Miller to Remy Carpinito!

Mazel tov to Phyllis Glazerman on the marriage of her son Mike Glazerman to Maryeline!

Mazel tov to Debby & John Saltzman on the marriage of their daughter Rachel Saltzman to Cole Kinsler!

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to the Fisher-Gombergs for hosting another fabulous Havdallah on the Water!



A huge thank you to Thea Breite, Annette Jacobs, Laura Katz, Bruce Miller, Abby Cohen, and Peter Katz for folding, stuffing, sealing, and stamping all of the High Holydays/ Membership Renewal paper mailings!

Thank you to those who provided Kiddush in August:

Batya, Elizabeth, & Jenny Ferrenz-Siegel, Gavriela Bogin-Farber (in memory of her mother, Nina Morris-Farber, whose yahrzeit is in August), Allison Peiser, Rebecca Pomerantz, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Caroline Chauncey & Richard Thal, Wendy & Charles Frankston, Linda Katz, Hope Kellman (in honor of her Mom, Jo Kellman, turning 95!), Pauline Coderre, Barbara Beck (in memory of her sister, Louise Beck), Phyllis Glazerman, Randi Levine, Janet Penn, Debby Saltzman, Mark Schafer, and Elaine Bresnick.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, and Harriet Budd.

YAHARZEIT

This month we remember these members of CDT:

Debbie Sher, whose 12th yahrzeit falls this year on August 31. We will remember Debbie at our Labor Day Shabbat services; may her memory be for a blessing.

Zachary Carson, whose 16th yahrzeit falls this year on September 21. We will remember Zach at Shabbat Shuvah services on September 23; may his memory be for a blessing.

Efrem Goldberg, whose 21st yahrzeit falls on September 29. We will remember Efrem at Sukkot morning services on September 30; may his memory be for a blessing.

Marianka May, whose 1st yahrzeit falls on September 29. We will remember Marianka at Sukkot morning services on September 30; may her memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Esther Kohn on the death of her spouse, Mary Hickie. May her memory be for a blessing.

We also extend our condolences to Gail Harris on the death of her father, Jerry Harris, father-in-law of David Reider and grandfather of Livia and Ben. May his memory be for a blessing.

And we extend our condolences to Dianne Lior on the death of her stepmother, Evelyn Botkin, mother of former CDT member Naomi Botkin. May her memory be for a blessing.

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT

Since December 2021 when CDT members greeted the Afghan refugee family at Logan Airport, volunteers have supported this warm, extraordinary family (mother, father, and two young children) with their progress in housing, employment, basic necessities, schooling, English, health, and other challenges in order to transition to a life in Cambridge, MA. There are many opportunities to join this collective effort, both short and long term, in order to continue to support this family's journey towards independence, as it truly takes a village.

BEYOND INCARCERATION

CDT's Beyond Incarceration group participates in a statewide campaign for Criminal Justice Reform focusing on replacing the carceral state with programs that treat people as human beings, no matter their transgressions. We work to change biased and ineffective laws such as mandatory minimums for drug offenses and unreasonable parole terms. Through active participation with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), we helped pass the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform law and the 2020 Police Accountability law, and we are active in the Housing Justice Campaign. This year, CDT members also became involved in the No New Women's Prison Campaign.

GBIO

Since 2003, CDT has been a member of GBIO, a broad-based coalition of sixty area churches, synagogues, mosques, unions, and community organizations that have built a relational and action-oriented community of shared values and commitment to racial, social, and economic justice. Based on the concerns of its members, GBIO's current campaigns focus on housing, support for returning citizens, and mental health/substance-use issues. The leadership team includes Louise Enoch as GBIO Liaison, Alan Epstein as Strategy Team member, and Rabbi Toba as a coordinator of the GBIO Clergy Caucus and Strategy Team member. Other CDT members participate as CDT's Core Team, and all CDT members are encouraged to get involved.

GBIO Update

Louise Enoch

GBIO led a powerful action on June 26 to highlight its Housing Justice Campaign. Significant allies and elected officials were present and on the stage, as well as 1400 GBIO members in the audience! Moving stories were told by those most affected by the issues. Officials were asked to move forward with the Public Housing Bond bill, the Real Estate Transfer Fee bill, and two pieces of legislation directly affecting Returning Citizens.

The next step in the campaign is to press for passage of the relevant bills by the legislature. We will do this by organizing "In-District Meetings," where legislators are invited to meet with their own constituents to hear what those who put them in office are asking them to do for our Housing Justice Campaign. CDT members have participated in planning and attending these important meetings in the past, and we hope that many of you will step forward again (or for the first time) to get involved in this rewarding activity. This is an opportunity to engage in direct organizing using GBIO's playbook, as well as a chance to work with GBIO members outside of CDT from your district.

You say you don't know how to do this? That's understandable, but if you attend one of the two scheduled **GBIO Trainings – September 12 (in-person) and 21 (on Zoom), both at 6:30 pm** – on how to organize an In-District Meeting (IDM), you'll become a pro! If you want to learn more about these meetings and get training in how to be an effective participant, please contact Louise Enoch (lpeneoch@gmail.com). Your presence adds to GBIO's power and influence!

ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE

CDT's I/P Peace Group aims to foster deep learning, respectful dialogue, and activism toward justice and equality in Israel-Palestine. We maintain an active email list open to all members of CDT. This year, we focus on visions for a fully democratic Israel/Palestine, beginning with presentations by Palestinian human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab (October 4) and by CDT's own Middle East expert Gail Pressberg (November TBD).

Beyond the Two-State Solution with Dr. Jonathan Kuttab

Co-sponsored by Boston Workers Circle, Temple Beth Zion, and the Temple Sinai Brookline Israel Committee

Wednesday, October 4, 7:30-9:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

Human rights lawyer and peace activist Jonathan Kuttab will share with us his vision for peace in Israel-Palestine that he advances in his short book *Beyond the Two-State Solution*. Dr. Kuttab challenges the assumptions of both Zionism and Palestinian nationalism in his transformative vision of a homeland for both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples that meets the existential needs of both people. Please join us for what promises to be a thought-provoking conversation! *Beyond the Two-State Solution* is available to download for no charge; visit www.nonviolenceinternational.net/beyond2states.



Jonathan Kuttab is a renowned Palestinian human rights lawyer, cofounder of the independent NGO Al Haq, the premier human rights organization in the West Bank, and cofounder of Nonviolence International, which seeks to realize the worth and dignity of all people through the nonviolent resolution of conflicts around the globe.

DAYENU CLIMATE CIRCLE

Under the slogan "Dayenu! Enough! Climate Justice Now," CDT has established a CDT Dayenu Climate Circle, connecting climate activism with struggles for racial and economic justice. With other local Circles, CDT will continue to be involved in climate justice campaigns, including a non-partisan "get out the vote" movement and the study of Jewish perspectives on ecology and protest. Dayenu provides training and resources for building a

Tikkun Olam (cont.)

multi-generational movement to confront the climate crisis with spiritual audacity.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY GROUP

We live in a society with economic inequities that create human suffering. CDT's Economic Disparity Group's work investigates how economic and class differences within our community can create both barriers and paths to equity and inclusion. Participants in this Board-sponsored effort discuss important and relevant issues and bring dialogue and insight to the larger congregation. Our work builds understandings that help to address challenges of economic inequality in our personal relationships within the congregation and in the larger world.



NEWTON HOUSING PROJECT

On April 11, 2022, CDT hosted a program sponsored by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and the Newton Interfaith Housing Coalition to understand the racial discrimination in Newton housing and zoning policies that has persisted for more than a century. Since that meeting, CDT Newton residents have advocated for diverse and abundant housing through public meetings about proposed construction projects and zoning laws.

ONE FAIR WAGE

CDT has long been committed to workers in precarious situations and to a livable wage for all who labor in our community. With other Jewish organizations and worker centers, we support the One Fair Wage campaign, aimed to eliminate sub-minimum wages for the 130,000 tipped workers in Massachusetts. Two-thirds of these workers are women, who have seen a 70 percent decrease in wages since the pandemic began.

UNDOING RACISM GROUP

UR enables CDT members to explore issues of racism and white privilege, educate ourselves, and listen to each other as we unwrap our misunderstandings. We sponsor presentations and discussions of issues, books, and films. Members also participate in outside anti-racism organizations and initiatives.

Discussion of *Who We Are*

Wednesday, September 27, 7:00-8:30 pm

In-person only (exact location TBD; will be confirmed will all who register)

Join CDT's Undoing Racism group for a discussion of Jeffrey Robinson's film, *Who We Are*. We learned a great deal when Mr. Robinson was with us last Yom Kippur, and now, his new film has been released: "Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and revelations, ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to modern America."

Please register on the CDT calendar and note if you plan on watching the film beforehand!

Chesed

Rabbi Toba is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an appointment, please contact Rabbi Toba (confidentially) at t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org. For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is completely confidential. For pastoral support while Rabbi Toba is away, please contact chesed@dorsheitzedek.org to get in touch with "on call" rabbis.

KINDNESS IS CHESED

Ellie Goldberg

Our community values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. When a member has a life event such as a birth or adoption, an injury or illness, or death in the family, a Chesed coordinator contacts them to ask if they would like a gesture of Chesed love. It could be a Shabbat dinner, a weekday meal or a food basket, a ride, an errand, or a visit.

Then the Chesed Coordinator uses the Lotsa Helping Hands website to send out a call for volunteers. These gestures of practical

comfort, kindness, and caring acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times.

Chesed at CDT is "members helping members." You can make Congregation Dorshei Tzedek a more caring community by joining the CDT Chesed Caring Community volunteer list at LotsaHelpingHands. PLEASE SIGN UP at dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup to get announcements of Chesed volunteer opportunities.

If you have a need for Chesed or are interested in joining the Chesed Committee, please contact the Chesed Coordinators at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Chesed@DorsheiTzedek.org



Thanks to everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed.

September Kiddush Assignments

Kiddush Note: The complete Kiddush and holiday assignment schedule can be found on the Kiddush page of the website (under the Members section) or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/KiddushTrackers5784>. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in Kiddush, and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up!

Parents of students in grades 5, 6, and 8, who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah Kiddushim, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

SEPTEMBER 2 — ZOOM SHABBAT MORNING

Zoom Greeter: Rob Greenly

SEPTEMBER 8 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Kiddush Team: Jon Adler, Ami Gordon, Jonathan Gordon, Becca Matloff, Joshua Matloff, Nathan Vierling-Claassen

SEPTEMBER 9 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Steven Katz

Kiddush Team: Barbara Beck, Robin Bernstein, Tim Caputo, Marni Goldstein Caputo, Wendy Frankston, Charles Frankston

SEPTEMBER 23 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Kirsten M. Kuhn-Kutteh

Kiddush Team: Bryn Austin, Benis Bernstein, Liz Carver, Lori Garg, Hilary Marcus

Zoom Greeter: Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein

SEPTEMBER 30 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Linda Kramer

Kiddush Team: Rick Glassman, Laurie Goldman, Phyllis Kirschner, Andrew Littman, Alice Markowitz, Erica Streit-Kaplan

Zoom Greeter: Kevin Hsu-Weinstein



*Havdallah on the Water at the Fisher-Gomberg home, August 2023
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Farmer)*

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:**

HIGH HOLYDAYS DONATIONS

A huge *todah rabah* to all who have contributed towards our High Holydays programming!

GENERAL DONATIONS

Jacqueline Fleischman — *In memory of Stan Fleischman on his birthday, August 11*

Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp — *In honor of the generosity of Allison Andrews, who passed along hand-painted furniture from her family to ours*

Pauline Coderre — *In memory of my loving father, Irving Kleiman*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Barbara Magaliff — *In honor of Mark Bronstein and Ellen Hemley*

NEDIV LEV

Muriel Heiberger

Ilana Mainelli & Daniel Seidman

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp

Lisa Hirsh & DB Reiff

Emily & David Shumsky — *With thanks to Rabbi Toba, Amy Pollack-Howard, Meryl Epstein, and Trish Nuzzola*

Bob Warren

John & Helaine Carroll

Vilunya Diskin

Lauren Gibbs

Rachel Adler-Golden

Elliott & Barbara Pittel

Zoe Miller

Amy Pollack-Howard & George Howard

Melanie Adler Cohen & Andy Cohen — *In honor of Lloyd Adler*

Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller — *In honor of our daughter Marina's marriage to Patrick Brosseau*

Margo Michaels — *In memory of my parents, Arthur Michaels & Lois Greene Kaplan, whose summer yahrzeits are only 3 weeks apart*

Jacqui Bloomberg — *In memory of Christopher Johnson*

Phyllis Glazerman

SCHOOL FUND

Pauline Coderre — *In honor of the birth of precious Lyle Eden/Taire Dodi to proud parents, Earnest & Emma Arky Solomon*

September 2023 • Elul 5783/Tishrei 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Elul 10	28 Elul 11	29 Elul 12 8:30am Mindful Mornings	30 Elul 13	31 Elul 14 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm GBIO Informational Meeting	1 Elul 15	2 Elul 16 Ki Tavo 10:00am Zoom-only Labor Day Shabbat Morning Services
3 Elul 17	4 Elul 18 Office Closed for Labor Day	5 Elul 19 8:30am Mindful Mornings	6 Elul 20	7 Elul 21 8:30am Mindful Mornings	8 Elul 22 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat & Religious School Open House	9 Elul 23 Nitzavim-Vayelekh 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services 8:00pm Selichot Program
10 Elul 24	11 Elul 25	12 Elul 26 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:30pm Avelut 6:30pm GBIO In-District Meeting Training	13 Elul 27	14 Elul 28 8:30am Mindful Mornings	15 Elul 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	16 Tishrei 1 Rosh Hashanah Office Closed 9:30am First Day Rosh Hashanah Morning Service 10:00am Rosh Hashanah Family Service 10:00am Rosh Hashanah Shorashim Service 10:00am Rosh Hashanah Teen Program
17 Tishrei 2 Rosh Hashanah Tashlikh Office Closed 10:00am Second Day Rosh Hashanah Morning Service and Torah Study 10:00am Second Day Rosh Hashanah All-Ages Nature Walk Service 2:00pm Tashlikh on the Ocean – CDT Super East (Cape Cod) 4:00pm Tashlikh Services	18 Tishrei 3 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	19 Tishrei 4 8:30am Mindful Mornings	20 Tishrei 5	21 Tishrei 6 8:30am Mindful Mornings 6:30pm GBIO In-District Meeting Training	22 Tishrei 7	23 Tishrei 8 Shabbat Shuvah Ha'Azinu 10:00am Shabbat Shuvah Contemplative Service
24 Tishrei 9 Erev Yom Kippur 6:30pm Kol Nidre Service 6:45pm Kol Nidre Children's Program	25 Tishrei 10 Yom Kippur Yizkor Office Closed 9:30am Yom Kippur Morning Service 10:00am Yom Kippur Shorashim Service 10:00am Yom Kippur Family Service 10:00am Yom Kippur Teen Program 12:35pm Yom Kippur Musaf Service 12:35pm Yom Kippur Nature Walk 3:00pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Programming 5:00pm Yom Kippur Mincha, Eleh Ezkereh, Neilah, & Break-Fast	26 Tishrei 11 8:30am Mindful Mornings	27 Tishrei 12 7:00pm Undoing Racism Group: Discussion of <i>Who We Are</i>	28 Tishrei 13 8:30am Mindful Mornings	29 Tishrei 14 6:00pm Sukkah 'Stravaganza (Sukkot Home Dinners)	30 Tishrei 15 Sukkot Office Closed 10:00am First Day of Sukkot Morning Service 6:00pm Sukkah 'Stravaganza (Sukkot Home Dinners)



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



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

JOIN CDT FOR THE HIGH HOLYDAYS 5784!

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Friday, September 15, 8:00 pm
Gann Academy & Livestreamed

Rosh Hashanah Day One

Saturday, September 16
Gann Academy & Livestreamed

9:30 am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
10:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Family Service,
Shorashim Service, and Teen Program

Rosh Hashanah Day Two

Sunday, September 17

10:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Service & Text
Study (Gann Academy & livestreamed);
Outdoor all-ages program and Tashlikh (*in-person only*)
4:00 pm: Tashlikh services (*in-person only*)

Kol Nidre

Sunday, September 24
Gann Academy & Livestreamed
6:30 pm: Kol Nidre service
7:00 pm: Children's program

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 25
Gann Academy & Livestreamed
9:30 am: Yom Kippur Morning Service
10:00 am: Yom Kippur Shorashim Service,
Family Service, and Teen Program
12:30 pm: Musaf Service (*indoors*) and
Nature Walk (*outdoors*)
2:00 pm: Yom Kippur Afternoon
Programming
5:00 pm: Mincha/Eleh Ezkereh
6:30 pm: Neilah
7:15 pm: Break-Fast

SCAN HERE to register to join us for
the High Holydays!



Visit this page for the Yizkor scroll
and Lulav/Etrog forms, service
and program details, accessibility
information, COVID policies, and more!