Holding Our Own Through Tough Times

by Jen Kaplan, President

THIS PAST MONTH has been painful for so many of us with the recent death of Gina Fried, beloved wife of our Rabbi Toba. 53 years is a relatively short time to be on this earth, yet the impact that Gina made on friends, family, colleagues, and her students is astonishing. She was able to touch so many lives. She truly gave of herself in her kindness, authenticity, and outreach, letting others know that they mattered and were valued.

They say that you know who your real friends are when times are tough. The times have been tough lately, and this community has come together in such a beautiful and touching way. CDT members signed up very quickly for shifts throughout the night for shmirah (“guarding” the body after death and before the funeral); even those who did not know Gina well still wanted to honor her in this way. People have emailed me asking what they could do to help, have answered the call to help, and have responded with graciousness. I am so grateful for this community.

The ritual committee, ably led by Laurie Goldman and Marion Ross, has pulled together lay leaders, leyners and d’var Torah givers to provide meaningful services. Sha’har Colt, our Director of Congregational Learning, has spent additional time with...
By showing up, lending our support, our love, our care, and our friendship, we are creating a strong community that can weather any storm.

The human kindness and outpouring of love for Rabbi Toba and for one another, amidst our own pain, has been tremendous. People have shown up—to services, to the funeral, to shiva. It’s not necessarily about doing anything specific (although many of us are more comfortable with doing something) but just being present, even when it’s uncomfortable. I spoke to a person in our shul who told me this was the first shiva she had attended since the death of her son. Up to this point it had been just too painful for her to attend other shiva minyanim, but now she was ready to push herself to go and be present—to show up. This was an act of courage and love.

In Pirke Avot 1:2 (Ethics of the Fathers), Shimon HaTzaddik said: On three things the world stands. On Torah, On service [of God], And on acts of human kindness.

Howard Witkin writes at aish.com, “Our Mishnah is zeroing in on a fundamental truth about our place in the cosmos. We are not alone, and life is not ours alone. We live in a world where we are compelled to act, react and interact with others. We have three primary relationships in life. We have to learn to live with ourselves, with God, and with others.”

Our community, leading Shabbat services, and providing leadership and pastoral support. Both Religious School Director, Alison Lobron, and Shahar have provided a forum for the parents and an opportunity for the children to talk about the loss of Gina. Our Chessed committee has done an outstanding job in making sure that Rabbi Toba’s needs, as well as those of others in the community, are all being met.

Rabbinic Liaison Committee: The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to insure the maintenance of a good working relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison Committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at cbsrome@comcast.net.

In Pesach, one of the most observed Jewish holidays, is coming up at the end of the month. One of its themes is the importance of our shared responsibility to others. This year, may we celebrate and understand our Divine deliverance from the slavery of Egypt as a catalyst to feel empathy for the experience of others and to work for a more just world. May this holiday propel us to be concerned and engaged with the rights of the stranger and those who continue to be oppressed. This is a wonderful way for us to continue Gina’s holy work.

By showing up, lending our support, our love, our care, and our friendship, we are creating a strong community that can weather any storm. I feel blessed to be a part of this community and hope that you do too.

After a mild New England winter, spring is coming—another sign that new life continues, in all its forms.
Shabbat & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE
Fridays, April 1, May 6, June 10
6:00 pm Candle-lighting & potluck dinner
6:45 pm service

Join us for this monthly fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We’ll begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people; challah, drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45 pm, and we’ll end with an Oneg Shabbat (dessert) at 7:30 pm. Services are geared towards children ages 3-8, but all are welcome!

TOT SHABBAT
Saturday, April 9
Shabbat morning, 10:45 am–noon
Monthly Shabbat program, led by CDT members, musicians and educators, Susan Moser and Tal Shalom-Kobi, for children under age 5 and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with song, stories, and crafts.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY
with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Saturdays, April 16, May 14
8:45 am, Library

Each month before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore parshat hashavua, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both traditional and contemporary. No prior experience necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

CHANTING AND MEDITATION SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, April 2
9:45 am – noon

At this contemplative Shabbat morning service, we will use both sacred chant and guided and silent meditation to enter into the peace and joy of Shabbat. Beginning at 11:15 am, there will be Torah study. The service will be co-led by Rabbi Toba and Karen Arnold.

PESACH/PASSOVER

PESACH LEARNING WORKSHOP
with Rabbi Toba and Shahar Colt
JCDS in Watertown
Sunday, April 10, 10:30am–noon

Pesach/Passover, the “time of our freedom,” begins on Friday evening, April 22. To prepare for the holiday, CDT adults are invited to a special Pesach Learning Workshop. Both religious school parents and all others who are interested are invited for a morning of learning about Passover traditions and teachings, with “take aways” for your seder! Child care is available for kids not in the religious school.

SEDER MATCHMAKING
On Passover, it’s a mitzvah to attend a seder, and a mitzvah to invite guests to your seder, so do a mitzvah! If you have a space or two at your seder table for a CDT member who needs a place to go, or if you need a seder to attend, please contact our seder matchmaking team, headed by Melanie Adler, no later than April 10 (madler@edc.org). Please note that they will make an effort to accommodate special requests (allergies, child aversion, fear of horseradish, etc.) but your flexibility is appreciated!

PASSOVER SERVICES
Saturdays, April 23 & 30
9:45 am - noon

This year, the first day of Passover falls on Shabbat (first seder is Friday evening, April 22). We will celebrate the holiday with the singing of Hallel and the study of the Song of Songs, traditionally associated with Passover. We will close the week of Passover on April 30 with an 8th day service that includes a special Torah reading, singing of Hallel, and a Yizkor service to remember our loved ones who have passed away.

ON AND OFF THE BIMAH...
WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN
by Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman, Ritual Committee Co-chairs

Do you ever wonder....
• who gets to chant Torah and how do they learn to do so?
• what time should I arrive at services?
• why do we lift the Torah at the end of the Torah service?
• what is the meaning of the Hebrew text on our Ark and Torah table?

For interesting reading on these and other service related topics, visit “On and Off the Bimah” in our “Prayer and More” section on the Dorshei Tzedek website: http://dorsheitzedek.org/and-bimah.

If you have other questions about services or would like to suggest a topic to be addressed in this column, please send them to Ritual Committee co-chairs, Laurie Goldman (Laurie.Goldman@Tufts.edu) or Marion Ross (Marikal50@hotmail.com).

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held weekly, starting at 9:45 am. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 111. For the comfort and health of our members and guests, we ask everyone attending our services to avoid wearing fragrances (perfume, cologne, hair and body sprays).
Events

CDT HIKES—FIRST HIKE OF SPRING!
Saturday, April 16
Noanet Woodlands (105 Dedham Street, Dover, MA)
Meet at CDT parking lot at 1 pm for carpool; Hike begins at 1:30 pm

Please join “CDT Hikes” on April 16 in the Noanet Woodlands. We will meet at the CDT parking lot promptly after kiddush at 1 pm for carpooling. Kiddush is optional, but bagels are a known source of quick carbs that can be handy on the trail (they can also be a good source of bread crumbs if you have a poor sense of direction!). If you don’t want to carpool, meet us at the Caryl Park parking lot at 1:30 PM (105 Dedham Street, Dover, MA). Parking may be tight and you can’t park on the main road. Dogs are allowed. As always, wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers and bring a water bottle.

And, as always, no RSVP is necessary—just show up! In case of bad weather, we post to the CDT listserv by 10 am if we are going to cancel.

Questions? Contact Diana (dfgomberg@gmail.com), Richard (richardgomberg@gmail.com), Marc (marc@metaphasia.com), or Stuart (SLS@snyderlegal.com).

CDT FILM CLUB
Saturday, April 16

Hitler’s Children (2011, 80 min; German, English, Hebrew)
The descendants of Adolf Hitler’s inner circle—including Hermann Goering, Heinrich Himmler and Amon Goeth—come to terms with their infamous surnames and the role their families played in the Holocaust. Feel free to attend any part of the evening. If you’re coming to the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (in consideration of members with dietary constraints, if you are making a dish with dairy or wheat that can be added later, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families. We hope you can join us! Contact the co-chairs, Stan Fleischman and Emily Sper, film-club@dorsheitzedek.org, for more information or if you’d like to host a film.

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH CDT!
Rabbi Toba is leading our second congregational trip to Israel (including a visit to the West Bank) this summer, July 7-16. For more information about the trip, please visit our website, http://dorsheitzedek.org/israel-trip-2016, or contact Rabbi Toba at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

Reconstructionist News

NO’AR HADASH NORTH AMERICAN TEEN KALLAH IN PHILADELPHIA FOR 8TH-12TH GRADERS
April 8-10

The weekend of April 8-10, 8th through 12th graders from across North America will have the opportunity to attend the exciting No’ar Hadash North American Teen Kallah, held this year in Philadelphia, PA. We’ll be staying in the heart of Philadelphia, walking distance from incredible landmarks like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Teens will explore the city, taste the many flavors of Reading Terminal Market, celebrate Shabbat near Rittenhouse Square, and eat at Han Dynasty, one of the top 50 Chinese Restaurants in America! For more information, contact Brianna Spatz (bspatz@rrc.edu).


REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP JRF NOW

Still catching your breath after the recent snow? Think warm thoughts and register your kids now for a joyful, creative, and inclusive Reconstructionist summer experience. Campers swim, play sports, sing and explore the arts, all while forming lasting friendships and forging their own Jewish identities. Camp JRF is proud to host kids from over 35 Reconstructionist congregations. Register now for Summer 2016 at http://campjrf.org/parents/application. Experience Camp JRF with their new promo video: http://campjrf.org/video.

TIVNU: BUILDING JUSTICE

JEWISH GAP YEAR PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE U.S.

The Tivnu Gap Year is a national program of nine months of hands-on Jewish social justice engagement, based in Portland, Oregon. Participants live together, create community, discover the Pacific Northwest, and explore connections between Jewish life and social justice with their heads, hands, and hearts. $1,000 off for the first three Reconstructionist-affiliated participants! Additional need-based tuition assistance available at this time. For more info: www.Tivnu.org or www.facebook.com/TivnuBuildingJustice.
JOIN CDT FACES NOW!

So that our staff and members know who we all are, we are asking every adult CDT member to post a photo in our “members-only” section. Please post human pictures (as opposed to flowers or animals) since the purpose of the site is to help us match names with faces. Not sure how to do it? Detailed instructions for uploading photos are on the CDT website in the Members Only section (http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/member-photos). You can also contact Dan Halbert (halbert@halwitz.org) for tech support, or just send him your photo and he’ll be happy to upload it for you.

Thanks for your participation!

MAZEL TOV

To CDT Administrative Director Marla Lichtman, who celebrated 10 years of tireless service to our congregation on March 27.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to:

To Rabbi Toba, and to Zoe and Zach Miller, on the loss of their beloved spouse and mother, Gina Fried; may her memory be for a blessing.

To Miriam Bronstein and family, on the death of her mother, Tamar Bronstein; may her memory be for a blessing.

To Linda Schiller and family, on the death of her mother, Inez Krohn; may her memory be for a blessing.

To Peter Shapiro and Theo and Luke, on the death of their mother and grandmother, Joan Shapiro; may her memory be for a blessing.

YAHREI'T

This month, we remember beloved CDT teacher Lesley Chapman, whose 7th yahrzeit falls on April 21. We will be remembering Lesley during Shabbat morning services on April 23. May her memory be for a blessing.

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with kiddush/holiday programs in February and March, and at the Members Meeting:

Mark Farber and Sherry Katz, Cheryl and Jeffrey Sacks, Haralie Alpert—in memory of Francis and Sylvia Greenberg, Ellen White—in memory of John and Paul White, Jennifer Greenberg, David Shumsky, Laura and Joel Katz, John Holohan and Sharon Gorberg—in memory of George and Sylvia Gorberg, Ezra Hausman, Diane Becker, Noah Rumpf, Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan, Jennifer Nichols and Jerold Gelfand, Barbara Blumenthal and Barry Ehrlich

Dramatic Torah Interpretation: Cindy Rivka Marshall

Service Leading: Shahar Colt, Laurie Goldman, Esther Kohn, Audrey Marcus-Berkman, Ben Newman, Allison Peiser, Elaine Pollack, Marc Steinberg, and Henry Wasserman

Divrei Torah: Rachel Davenport, Esther Kohn, Debbie Weber, Henry Wasserman (and to Matilda Bruckner for coordinating)

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the community. (See page 2 for details.)
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE EFFORTS

Save the Date! On the evening of April 6, Ali Abu Awwad and Rav Hanan Schlesinger of Roots will be speaking at Temple Shalom in Newton. To learn more about their work, see http://friendsofroots.net/index.html, and read this recent article: “Can an unlikely alliance of Jewish settlers and Palestinians help bring peace to Israel?” http://www.nationalobserver.com/2016/02/16/news/behind-wall-nonviolent-movement-explosive-land.

A THIRD WAY: SETTLERS AND PALESTINIANS AS NEIGHBORS

Monday, April 11, 7:30 pm
Temple Sinai (50 Sewall Avenue, Brookline)

CDT is co-sponsoring this film, a 90 minute story that follows Rabbi Menachem Froman (the Israeli who pioneered much of the work that Roots is now continuing), as well as substantial scenes with Ali Abu Awwad and several others. It shows both settlers and Palestinians “on the ground” in the West Bank, doing their courageous activism over a period of about the last seven years. Discussion with the filmmaker, Harvey Stein, will follow the film. The event is free and open to the public. Other co-sponsors include Temple Sinai, J Street, and Encounter.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The CDT Criminal Justice Reform Committee is organizing a volunteer session at the Prison Book Program (PBP) in Quincy, MA the evening of Tuesday, May 3, from 6:30 to 9 pm. The PBP supplies individuals and groups of prisoners with quality reading material. Volunteers will be given an overview of the PBP and training in the volunteer work, which involves filling prisoners’ book requests and packaging the books. Travel by T is recommended, as PBP is located right across the street from the “Quincy Center” stop on the Red Line, in the basement of the United First Parish Church. If interested in volunteering on May 3, please contact Barbara Shatkin (bfshatkin@aol.com).

THE GBIO DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

by Amy Mazur

Dorshei Tzedek was well-represented at the recent GBIO Delegates Assembly Meeting in March. Shahar Colt, Alan Epstein, Paul Hattis, Elizabeth Ferrenz, Lauren Gibbs, Amy Mazur, Erica Streit-Kaplan, and Bob Warren traveled to Roxbury Presbyterian Church to engage with Massachusetts Senate President Stan Rosenberg on the topics of gun violence prevention, criminal justice reform, and health care affordability. Each issue was discussed and President Rosenberg was asked to: keep pressure on to build the base and power for gun violence prevention; promote the state’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative and support legislation related to reducing incarceration rates; and support a bill to give the Health Policy Commission the “oomph” it needs to bring health care costs under control. Our very own Paul Hattis represented the GBIO Health Care Team and spoke of how we all have to work together to reduce costs.

President Rosenberg committed to facilitating all these initiatives, and in his response, also mentioned the recent efforts on the part of the State House to be more transparent and responsive to all citizens of Massachusetts. He also spoke about the focus on criminal justice reform and income inequality, emphasizing the need for shared prosperity for all. Recent legislative initiatives included the passing of the earned income tax credit, and the increase in minimum wage (expected to increase another dollar next year).

The words that drew the strongest reaction from President Rosenberg had to do with approaching the opioid crisis from a social justice perspective. “When people of color were affected by the opioid issue, it was a crime; when white people were affected, it became a disease.” Rosenberg went on to say that when fundamental needs of individuals are not met, possibility is undermined, and it is our responsibility as residents, people of faith, and as voters to raise up and provide opportunities for all.

The GBIO Spring Action will take place on May 24, and CDT has pledged to have 20 congregants in attendance. We can do it and you can be a part of the GBIO experience, so save the date!
Jewish Community Events

5TH ANNUAL BOSTON JEWISH FOOD CONFERENCE
Sunday, April 3, noon-7:00 pm
Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton Centre
Once again, CDT is co-sponsoring this annual springtime event! Organized by Ganei Beantown: Beantown Jewish Gardens, the BJFC fosters new dynamics and connections within the Jewish community by utilizing food and agriculture to discuss the intersections of justice, sustainability, and culture against a background of Jewish traditions and contemporary life. The day includes multiple workshops (in the kitchen and classroom) and culminates in a community shuk (marketplace), featuring dinner prepared by conference participants, Do-It-Yourself activities, kosher food sales, advocacy opportunities, tabling by community organizations and a silent auction.

FROM HOLOCAUST TO NEW LIFE: HOW WILL WE REMEMBER?
COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH
Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Sunday, May 1 10:30 am
Fanueil Hall, Boston
The commemoration convenes the Greater Boston community to honor local survivors of the Holocaust and pay tribute to those who perished. Each year the program features Holocaust survivor testimony so their story can be passed on to future generations. The program will highlight the unique lives survivors built after they escaped the unimaginable horror of the Holocaust and will feature student reflections about how we keep the memory alive.

CAFÉ ACHSHAV
Sunday, April 10, 7:15-9:15 pm
Temple Israel of Natick
Experience the joy of Klezmer music while noshing on irresistible desserts and schmoozing with good friends and family. Who knows, maybe there will be a bisl dancing? Adult admission purchased in advance is $25.00 per person; $30.00 at the door. Admission for youth ages 5-17 is $15.00. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, and we are grateful for the support of all sponsors. Please contact Temple Israel of Natick (office@tiofnatick.org) or 508-650-3521 to purchase admission or learn more about sponsorships.

JEWISH ARTS COLLABORATIVE’S INAUGURAL SEASON
With everything from the Odessa Havana Project’s fusion of salsa, jazz, and klezmer, to some creative kreplach at Beyond Bubbie’s Kitchen, from Shakespeare’s Shylock to a Sholem Aleichem puppet show, there is something fun for everyone in the inaugural Spring season of the Jewish Arts Collaborative (the new organization combining the Boston Jewish Music Festival and New Center for Arts and Culture). Learn more at www.jartsboston.org.

ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA: A PUBLIC CONFERENCE
Sunday, April 3 - Olin-Sang Auditorium
Monday, April 4 - Sherman Hall, Hassenfeld Conference Center
Brandeis University
Keynote speaker Ethan Bronner, senior editor at Bloomberg News and former Jerusalem bureau chief at The New York Times, will deliver the inaugural Ilan Troen Lecture on Contemporary Israel Affairs. The program includes a roundtable discussion with leading journalists and panels on “The Changing Landscape of the Media,” “Israeli Media and Portrayal of the Conflict,” and “Coverage of Israel by Jewish Newspapers.”

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL AND HIS ROLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES OF THE 1960S
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Mandel Reading Room, Mandel Center for the Humanities, Brandeis University
For more information, please see http://www.brandeis.edu/israelcenter/newsevents/spring2016.html.

Membership

CDT MEN’S SOFTBALL LEAGUE
by Elliot Pittel, Team Captain
The CDT Softball Season kicks off our 10th anniversary season with two exciting games in April. The Tzedekmen open on the road against Temple Reyim in Newton Lower Falls on April 10. Our home opener is the following week, April 17, when Temple Israel-2 from Natick makes a visit to Forte Field. Both games start at 10 am.

David Shumsky, Elliot Pittel, James Kaplan and David Lobron, part of the men’s chessed skit.
David: “To get more men involved, we need to make chessed more competitive.”
Elliot: “I didn’t know chessed was co-ed.”

dorsheitzedek.org | Congregation Dorshei Tzedek 7
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 and is administered solely by the rabbi. 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 important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides scholarships for teachers in The Dorshei Tzedek Religious School to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers; this fund allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

**GENERAL FUND**

Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen

Sarah Birkeland and Roy Edelstein

Kate DeBethune

Sunny and Meier Feld—In honor of Marjorie Nan Feld becoming a full professor at Babson College

Nancy Gertz—In honor of Cindy-Shulak Rome’s specialness

Sandy Goodman—In memory of Rachel Jeanne Lehr

Sharon Gorberg—In memory of my beloved father George L. Gorberg

Martha and Elliot Helfand—In memory of Gina Fried

Steffi and Eric Karp

Jennifer Levine-Fried and Matthew Fried

Jody Mazur and David Banyai—In celebration and in memory of Gina Michelle Fried, such a light

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen—In memory of Lucille Feinstein

Gertrude Nemeth and Rachel Nemeth Cohen—In memory of Leonard I. Cohen

Marilyn and Neil Port—In memory of beloved wife and mother, Gina Fried

Sharon Sevranovsky—In memory of Helen Sevranovsky

Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan

Deborah Waber—In honor of good friends

.setTimeout

**CAMP JRF FUND**

**RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Ellie Goldberg—In memory of Gina Fried

**SCHOOL FUND**

**RETREAT FUND**

**HOLY BOOKS FUND**

**JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Ellie Axe—In memory of Gina. Sending love and prayers to Toba, Zachary and Zoe.

Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein—In loving memory of Gina Fried

Elisa Goldberg and Stephen Weinberg—In memory of Gina Fried

Allison and Ezra Hausman—In memory of Gina Fried

Judy Hersh—In memory of Gina Fried

Rabbi Adam Lavitt and Alex Weisman—In memory of Gina Fried

Michael Luckens and Sharon Schumack—In memory of Gina Fried

Marion Ross—In memory of Gina Fried

Rev. Mark Seifried—In memory of Gina Fried

Eve and Ken Shulak—In memory of Gina Fried

Sheila Weinberg and Maynard Seidman—In memory of Gina Fried, beloved wife of Rabbi Toba Spitzer. May her memory be a blessing.

**BUILDING FUND**

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Chesed

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone who did acts of Chesed last month.

Chesed (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value. The Chesed Committee is dedicated to creating a caring community. We coordinate volunteers who provide a meal or other acts of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event such as a new baby, illness, or death in the family. We post Chesed tasks online on the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar.

If you have a major life cycle event or illness or injury, please email President Jen Kaplan (jenkap12@gmail.com).

The Chesed Coordinators for April and May are Debby Saltzman and Eileen Morrison. Please contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Sign up for LotsaHelpingHands at http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH
Forgot your LHH password? Go to http://tinyurl.com/GetPsWrdLHH

REFUAH SH’LEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Ruby Cohen.

Learning

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am
60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, and to help us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, and compassion. On the first Thursday of each month, Karen Arnold will lead a meditation based on the weekly Torah portion. On the second Thursday of each month, Rabbi Toba Spitzer will incorporate chant (the singing of simple Hebrew phrases from liturgical and biblical texts) as well as mindfulness meditation. At other sessions, Carole Slipowitz and other CDT members will facilitate the meditation. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not.

No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you’re able! For more information, please contact mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org. All are welcome.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

with Dr. Sanford Goldfless

Meets Weekly September through May at Participants’ Homes (Cost: $15 per session. Fee can be reduced based on what you feel comfortable with).

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the Tanach or Torah, Prophets and Writings) by reading it in English and discussing large parts of it together. We often look at the biblical text from a historical perspective, and we always pay attention to the literary features of the text that are essential for conveying its meaning. We also converse about the course of Jewish history. The class is interactive, low key and open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends. For more information contact Stan Fleischman at: stanfma@gmail.com.

YAHRIZeT

MOURNING AT CDT


EXPLORing The BiBLe

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Sam Williams, who directs a statewide youth violence reduction initiative and teaches at Wheelock College, spoke on the bimah on March 26 about his experience with incarceration and afterward. He then joined CDT members for lunch.
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Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton.
KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Erev Shabbat, April 1: Mark Yurkofsky/Phoebe Cushman/Theresa St. John-Siegel/Todd Carmody

Shabbat, April 2: Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein/Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus

Shabbat, April 9: Diana Perretta (in memory of my husband and parents) / Peter Shapiro / Richard Cohen / Fran Malino

Shabbat, April 16: Barbara (in memory of Edith Bushman) & Elliot Pittel / Stephanie & Nem Hackett

Shabbat & Passover, April 23: Ruth Paris/Miriam Bronstein

Shabbat & Passover, April 30: Gail Pressberg/Lisa Chedekel & Isabel Morais/Mar\-
cia Okun

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members’ calendar on our website. 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 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades, who generally help out with B’nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B’nei Mitzvah dates.

No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Religious School Notes

INCLUSION AT CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: EXCITING PLANS FOR 5777 SCHOOL YEAR

By Alison Lobron, Interim Religious School Director

Inclusion, in the broadest sense of the word, is at the core of our Dorshei Tzedek community. Besides being an important value to our synagogue community as a whole, inclusion is also a critical piece of our Religious School.

There are 65 students enrolled in our Religious School. Of these, at least twelve have documented special needs and receive support services in their regular school settings. After taking a close look at our student population, and our current resources, we determined that this area needs specific attention.

There is a lot of energy in the wider Jewish community right now around addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities. We are fortunate to live in a time and place where there are resources, in the form of both consulting and grants, available to help with this work.

We submitted two grants this winter: to Gateways: Access to Jewish Education and to the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project. Gateways does amazing work around providing access to Jewish education to students with disabilities. They run their own Religious School and Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring program. In addition, the Gateways staff consists of very experienced educators who provide consulting and staff development to most of the Jewish preschools, day schools, and supplementary schools in our area.

The Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP) is a new partnership between the Ruderman Family Foundation and Combined Jewish Philanthropy. RSIP provides support and access to a very active network of synagogues in promoting inclusion in all aspects of synagogue life.

I’m delighted to report that we have received funding from both organizations! This funding will be channeled into the Religious School in order to create a new position titled Inclusion Coordinator. The goals for this new position are as follows:

1. Create the infrastructure needed for inclusion—specifically around parent-school communication
2. Broaden staff development to include classroom/behavior management, as well as differentiated instruction
3. Provide the support needed by all students to participate in Jewish ritual life in a way that is meaningful for them—specifically class “Siyyumim” (celebrations of learning) and Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation
4. Work with school leadership to make whole-school programs accessible to all learners

It is our hope that with the creation of this new position, we will continue our efforts to strengthen our Religious School program for all our students.

If you have questions, concerns or feedback about the CDT Religious School and would like to connect with the parent-run Children’s Education Committee, feel free to email CEC@dorsheitzedek.org or reach out to any of us individually: Erica Streit-Kaplan (Chair), Andy Stefano, Audra Karp, Becca Gutman, Emily Shumsky & Tania Mireles.
Purim 2016