



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Elul 5777/Tishrei 5778

September 2017

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## Facing the Moment

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



I AM writing this column less than a week after the terrible events in Charlottesville. In these turbulent times, it is challenging to know what to say in a column that will not be read until a few weeks later — a seeming eternity in the cycle of news. And yet, the problems we are facing as a nation are not new, and some of the answers have been with us for thousands of years.

Back in April, I decided that this Yom Kippur I would address the issue of American slavery, and our failure, as a nation, to properly repent for it and for the other “original sin” of our nation, the genocide of Native Americans. It had become clear to me that we would not be where we are now — with this administration, with the state of our criminal justice system, with the increasing levels of economic inequality and rising tide of anti-immigrant sentiment — if we had been able to properly, as a society, confront the legacy of violence and oppression that was as present at the founding of our nation as the lofty ideals that accompanied those sins. My hope was — and remains — to find some answers in our ancient tradition about what it might look like to confront a collective transgression and thoroughly expiate it.

Along with the need for repentance, I am also aware of another theme implicit (and sometimes explicit) in the varied messages of white, Christian supremacy we have been hearing lately: the sentiment of “not enough.” There is a deep scarcity anxiety motivating those who fear the loss of white majoritarian power in this country. Their sense of power rests on an assumption that minorities, by definition, are “on the bottom,” because there is simply “not enough” — prestige, security, political power, material benefits — to go around. Whoever is “on top” by definition has enough, and in order to have enough, it is essential to stay on top. This, too, is part of the legacy of slavery, and the very conscious pitting of enslaved African people against the poor whites who had once labored — and rebelled — beside them. It is also built into our economic system, in which we are all encouraged, at all moments and in

all ways, to feel that we don't have "enough" — enough speed in our phones, enough gadgets in our homes, enough money to really be secure. It is an anxiety that prods those of us with more than enough to keep accumulating, while more and more people in our

world in which Nazism no longer has any appeal.

In this High Holydays season, as we head into the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of (Re)Turning from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur, we have an opportu-

It is not that hard to punch a Nazi (and might feel quite satisfying in the moment); it is very deep and long-term work to create a world in which Nazism no longer has any appeal.

nation, and in our world, truly do not have enough to sustain themselves.

I am becoming ever more convinced that lasting social and economic transformation — the kind of transformation that will allow the human race to equitably distribute the vast wealth we have figured out how to create, that will protect our increasingly vulnerable planet, that will finally allow all people to live with some basic level of ease, mental and physical — that this will only be achieved when we have developed the proper spiritual and mental capacity to effect it. Scarcity anxiety cannot be addressed with more stuff or better technology. Real transformation requires legal and political structures that work, but it cannot be legislated.

As we head out to the street, as we work to elect a functional government, as we organize for justice and fairness, we also need to be consciously and intensely building up our spiritual capacity: the capacity to know what is "enough," to not be ensnared by anger and hate, to build the kinds of movements and communities that will have the power to effect real and lasting change. It is not that hard to punch a Nazi (and might feel quite satisfying in the moment); it is very deep and long-term work to create a

nity to work on our own spiritual capacity and spiritual resilience. Do I have the capacity to sit with difficult feelings when they arise, without becoming reactive or shutting down my mind and heart to avoid them? Can I stay vigilant in the face of oppression, while never forgetting the humanity of those with whom I deeply disagree? How do we heal the internalized wounds that have affected so many of us — wounds of anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, hatred of queer folks? How do we discern what is really "enough," and learn generosity at the level that this moment demands? How do we foster a transformative hope and not give in to cynicism or despair? These to me are spiritual questions, they are religious questions. I look forward to contemplating all of this with you when we gather for the High Holydays, and to continuing our work together in the new year. L'shanah tovah tikateivu, may we all be written into the book of life, of love and justice, of promise for all humanity.

## Rabbinic Liaison

The **Rabbinic Liaison Committee** exists to ensure 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](mailto:cbsrome@comcast.net).

## 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.

## Board

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Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

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## Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org). Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address.

**Volunteer Staff:** John Holohan (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

# Shabbat & Holidays

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE & OPEN HOUSE

Friday evening, September 8

6:00pm candle lighting & potluck dinner,  
6:45pm service

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We are also welcoming all those who might be interested in Dorshei Tzedek and our children's education program for the coming year, so bring a friend! The service is for anyone, but especially oriented to families with kids aged 3-9. We'll begin with candle lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15 people; drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45pm, and we'll end with an Oneg Shabbat at 7:30pm.

## BAR MITZVAH OF ELIA HAILI STEINBERG

Saturday, September 2

Please join us on September 2 as our son, **Elia Haili Steinberg**, celebrates his Bar Mitzvah. Elia is a rising eighth grader at Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) where he plays basketball and soccer and enjoys sharing his keen sense of humor with his teachers and classmates. The community is invited to join us for kiddush lunch in Fellowship Hall at the Second Church after the service.

—Marc Steinberg & Linda Hsu

## AUFRUF OF SUE WEIL & SANDY GOODMAN

Shabbat morning, September 16

During the Torah service at 11am, we will give a special blessing to Sandy and Sue. The wedding is on October 8.



## THE DAYS OF AWE

### SELICHOT: PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Saturday evening, September 16, 8:00-10:00pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

With Selichot, we begin our journey into the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of Turning. This year, we are joining with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah to feed our bodies as well as our souls as we prepare for the new year. We will learn about the Sephardic custom of the Rosh Hashanah "seder," and make some of the traditional Sephardic foods associated with beginning the new year on an auspicious note. The evening starts with havdallah at 8:00pm, followed by cooking, learning and eating! We will close with songs and reflection to guide us into the High Holydays season.

### ROSH HASHANAH & YOM KIPPUR

Gann Academy, 333 Forest Street, Waltham, MA

We welcome our members and the larger Jewish community to our High Holydays services, held at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA.

**Erev Rosh Hashanah** — Wednesday evening, September 20, at 8:00pm

**First Day of Rosh Hashanah** — Thursday, September 21, 9:30am to 1:00pm

**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah** — Friday, September 22, 10:00am to 12:30pm

**Shabbat Shuvah** — Saturday, September 23 (Held at 60 Highland Street, Newton)

**Erev Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre** — Friday evening, September 29, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Yom Kippur** — Saturday, September 30, 9:30am to 2:15pm

For a full schedule of services and children's programming, or to register to attend, please go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/high-holydays>.

While we do not want finances to be an obstacle to anyone's participation, we do rely on contributions from our guests, as well as fees for childcare, to cover the considerable expense involved in our High Holydays programming. All non-members who pre-register for services will have a name tag awaiting! And as we have done for the past two years, there will be live-streaming of all of the services available through our website, for anyone unable to make it to services in person.

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 112. 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).

# Community

## EXPLORING MY ROOTS IN GERMANY THIS SUMMER

by Erica Streit-Kaplan

This summer, James, Anna, Eleanor and I traveled to Paris to enjoy museums and croissants, and visit close relatives who live there. We hoped it would be a fun and eye-opening trip for our 9- and 12-year-old children who had never left the country, and it was! But in the process of planning, I started thinking about doing something I'd never considered before — going to Germany. Through my work at Hebrew College, I'd heard about the group of Boston rabbis who visited Germany last summer and

say that we were met with warmth, interest and even honor. We were guided around the towns and Jewish cemeteries, and could see how Germans are coping with the past and remembering Jewish life in Germany.

I met lovely people, some of whom I now count as friends. One of my favorite moments was meeting an eccentric 79-year-old named Winfried, a German who works to preserve Jewish history in his town. He greeted me warmly as “Frau Streit,” presented me with many books, and exclaimed “You're just as German as I am!”

One new friend named Ilse — the same as my Oma — arranged a dinner party for us.

an interest in German. But the idea that they could visit Germany, study there and explore their roots...that was something I'd never considered. The door is open and my children are welcomed; our whole family is welcomed.... That feeling is going to stay with me for a long, long time.

## A YEAR FAR AFIELD

by Ora Gladstone

After a long delay in the approval of funding by our oh-so-dysfunctional government, (and if all now goes as planned) my husband Mitchell and I are expecting to be on a flight to Monrovia, Liberia this September. For the coming “academic” year Mitchell will be teaching master-level nurses how to conceive of setting up curriculum and teaching their own courses so that they can go on and train other nurses throughout the country. After decades of civil war and the worst of the 2012-14 Ebola epidemic, the country is working to rebuild all aspects of its infrastructure. At one point, there were only a total of 51 doctors in the entire country. As the education system was also devastated for decades, I will be placed in an educational setting in which I am hoping to make use of my work as a music teacher and/or music therapist (though it is as likely that I will be in a classroom setting in a local school). If you happen to be coming to Liberia (or even Sierra Leone, Ghana or the Ivory Coast...) stop by to say hello - we may have some good stories to tell.

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the community.

had a very moving experience, and I was reminded that it was only a three-hour train ride from Paris.

The back story: My Oma and Opa (German for grandparents) grew up in small towns near Frankfurt and met in a Jewish youth group. In the mid-1930s, as anti-Jewish sentiments rose and their social and economic opportunities became extremely limited, my grandparents were able to make it to the United States. My Opa Kurt was one of 6 children. In a way that always seemed ripped from a novel, two of his siblings escaped to Israel, his two older sisters (and their families) were killed in the Holocaust, and two — he and his sister Ruth — made it to America.

So, after a wonderful week in France, I said goodbye to my family and got on a speedy train. I was lucky to meet up with my dear cousin Rachel, Ruth's granddaughter. We embarked on this journey with trepidation and excitement, not knowing what we'd experience and how we'd feel. I'm happy to

She invited a mixed group from two parts of her life — Socialist activists and practicing Lutherans. It was Friday night and we wanted to do a brief Shabbat service. We lit her candles — the huge, decorative kind — and said Shabbat blessings just miles from our ancestral family home. It was deeply moving, as we wondered aloud when the last time was that Shabbat prayers were said there.

I would say that it felt like a good time to be Jewish in Germany...which makes it that much more painful to face how many “bad times” there were to be Jewish in Germany. I felt welcomed and wanted — instead of vulnerable, unwanted, and hated as my relatives were just 80 years earlier.

Before we left her party, Ilse hugged me goodbye and offered that when my children are older they can come for a student exchange program. She has many connections and would be happy to set it up. My children are learning Spanish, with a little French and Hebrew — who knows if they'd have

## CDT SUKKOT POTLUCKS — HOSTS NEEDED!

Our CDT community potluck season will open again this year with Sukkot dinners— with optimistic hopes for better weather than last year. We would like to offer dinners throughout the week of Sukkot (Wednesday Oct 4 through Tuesday October 10) but to do so, we need your help and your feedback! Most importantly, we need to figure out if we have enough Sukkah space to go around. So please let me know.

If you're a family that typically builds a sukkah (or plans to this year), please email



me ASAP to volunteer to host a potluck for other CDT families any night from October 4-10.

Once we get a good count, we'll see if we have enough space. If it turns out we don't have enough room, we will come up with a plan B.

If you do not build a sukkah but would like to host a community potluck later in the year, email **Debby Saltzman**, new community potluck coordinator ([debbysaltzman@gmail.com](mailto:debbysaltzman@gmail.com)). If you'd like to attend one of the potlucks, sign-ups will open online in late September, in the Members Section of the CDT website.

### MAZEL TOV

To **Sherry Katz** and **Mark Farber** on the marriage of their son, Jacob Aaron Katz Farber, to Courtney Voss on July 15th, in Pittsburgh, where Jacob is pursuing an engineering PhD and Courtney is a social worker.

To **Rabbi Toba**, who became President of the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis this past June. You can read a Keshet interview with Rabbi Toba (the first LGBT president of the MBR) at [www.myjewishlearning.com/keshet/an-interview-with-rabbi-toba-spitzer](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/keshet/an-interview-with-rabbi-toba-spitzer).

To **Susana and Jaime Wurzel** on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Simon, in July!

To the entire **Shulak-Rome family**, and to **Elana Rome Cutler** and **David Cutler**, on Elana and Dave's wedding this August!

To **Sandy Sedacca** and her family, on becoming an adult Bat Torah!

To **Lucy Engels** and her family, on becoming Bat Mitzvah!

To **Rabbi Shahar** and Darya, who are looking forward to getting married this coming October. We are excited to celebrate their aufruf on shabbat morning, Oct. 28th.

### YAHREIT

This month, we remember CDT member **Debbie Sher**, whose 6th yahrzeit falls on September 5; we will be remembering her

at Shabbat morning services, September 2. May her memory always be for a blessing.

### REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **DB Reiff**, **Susan Moser**, **Thea Breite**, **Marvin Brotman**, **Dan Karp**, and **Jaime Wurzel**.

### CONDOLENCES

To **Jodi Sugerman-Brozan**, on the death of her grandmother, Pauline Sugerman. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Sandy Sedacca**, on the death of her brother, Marty Sedacca. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Eric Karp**, on the death of his mother,

**ole Slipowitz** and **Jan Small**. Your help is appreciated!

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Shabbat set-up/clean-up in June, July, and August: **Cindy Marshall (Captain)** & **Kathy Pillsbury**, **Josette Akresh-Gonzales** & **Michael Gonzales**, **Jethro Berkman (Captain)** & **Audrey Marcus-Berkman**, **Marsha** & **Philip Klein**, **Sara** & **Ben Dash**, **Tania Mireles** & **Bill Shorr**, **Hilary Marcus**, **Emily** & **David Shumsky**—In Honor of **Marsha Tobias**, **Rebecca Pomerantz**, **Jennifer Sartori** & **Barry Gilbert**, **Lev Gordon** & **Scott Gordon**, **Alex Sugerman-Brozan**, **Lauren** & **Andrew Stefano**, **Ellie Goldberg**, **Linda (Captain)** & **Peter Katz**, **Karen Engels**, **Carla Naumburg (Captain)**.



Photo: CDT kids playing at Party in the Park, Aug. 2017. Photo by Jen Kaplan.

Freyda Feinberg Karp. May her 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 <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

### TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to the volunteers who helped with labeling, stamping and mailing of our annual High Holydays info/registration packets: **Ellie Goldberg**, **Linda Kramer**, **Eileen Morrison**, **Diana Peretta**, **Car-**

## Reconstructionist News

Save the Date! Plan to Attend!

### RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONVENTION

November 15-18, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

Join with other Reconstructionists to sing, pray, learn, eat and be together. Strengthen our networks and deepen our connections. Celebrate the movement and 50 years of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. More details to follow!

# Learning

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

### EXCITING CHANGES

by Rabbi Shahar Colt

As we return to another school year, I am excited to let you know about some changes that will allow our religious school to be a little greener and more just:

- **Composting!** For the first time, we will be contracting a composting service. All the paper plates we use at snack time, plus any food waste, will now go back to the earth.

- **BYO Water Bottle:** Last year we had a serious conversation on a Tuesday afternoon with the 3rd-6th graders. We learned about the environmental impact of disposable water bottles/plastic cups, and the students thought we should be drinking from water bottles. We staff agree. Please send each student to school with a water bottle! Tuesday students can leave them at FUSN, but we can't leave them on Sundays.

- **Fair Trade Coffee:** Ever since one of our 5th graders noticed that the parents were drinking regular Dunkin' Donuts coffee, rather than fair trade coffee (thanks to the 5th grade study of Jewish experience of slavery in Egypt, and slavery that still happens today) we have felt a little sheepish.



### AVIVA FELDMAN

My name is **Aviva Feldman**. I am a junior at Wellesley College, majoring in Spanish and minoring in Teaching and Learning Studies. I am currently working towards certification to teach grades 1-6. I am originally from Evanston, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. I grew up at the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (JRC), in addition to attending Camp JRF for six years.

At Wellesley, I am involved in Hillel and Chamber Music Society (I play the harp!), in addition to my education work, which takes up a lot of my time. This will be my second year teaching at Dorshei Tzedek, and I am excited to be working with the same amazing students I had the privilege of getting to know last year.



### VERED BROOKS

This is my sixth year teaching at Dorshei Tzedek, and I couldn't be happier to be here. When not at Dorshei, I teach middle school English, and it is amazing how these two different teaching venues inform each other. The joy of teaching at Dorshei is that the curriculum is designed around the children experiencing simultaneously the delight

All the paper plates we use at snack time, plus any food waste, will now go back to the earth.

Starting this year, we will be purchasing Equal Exchange coffee and brewing it ourselves. Parents are invited to join the coffee making rotation (it's super easy). Contact **Lidia** if you're interested: [officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org).

### SCHOOL STAFF

I am excited that we have several wonderful staff returning to our school! We will introduce the teachers in the newsletter over the course of the year, but in the meantime, we are thrilled that Aviva and Vered are returning.

found in deep study and the pleasure of being part of an active Jewish community. Teaching at Dorshei reminds me of these things as well, and provides a wonderful springboard from which to consider my teaching practices. It also lets me bring in other passions, such as gardening, as the third grade stepped up to help the CDT/FUSN Community Garden last year, and will do so again this year.

I currently live in my home town of Arlington, with my husband, two brothers, and a nephew.

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45am-9:40am

October 21, November 18, December 9

Beginning after the holydays, these pre-Shabbat learning sessions are an opportunity to explore the weekly Torah portion in depth, with a variety of traditional and contemporary commentaries. No experience in Torah study necessary! Just bring your questions and the caffeinated beverage of your choice.

### MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15am

60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, helping us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, clarity and compassion. This month, on September 7, **Karen Arnold** will lead a meditation based on the weekly Torah portion. On September 14, Rabbi Toba will lead a session preparing for the work of teshuvah, turning. There is no session on September 21 (it's Rosh Hashanah!). All are welcome, whatever your level of experience

### TURN & RETURN: THE SEASON OF TESHUVAH

With Rabbis Toba Spitzer & Shahar Colt

Sunday morning, September 24,  
10:20am-11:30am

JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

All are invited to learn with **Rabbi Toba** or **Rabbi Shahar** on this Sunday in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as we explore themes of "return" and the work of the Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the "Ten Days of Turning/Repentance." How can we make Yom Kippur a meaningful experience? What exactly are we "turning" or "returning" to? Non-members welcome!

# Tikkun Olam

## TIKKUN OLAM MEETING

Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30pm.

First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN),  
downstairs classroom

Please join us at our next Tikkun Olam meeting where we will be creating a script for the “Isaiah” reading at Yom Kippur. This year the focus will be on immigration/sanctuary/refugees, detailing both what is broken in our world today and what steps we can take to repair and heal, working to create a just and equitable society. All are welcome!

We will also be sharing the latest on our Sanctuary work with St. Paul’s, discussing GBIO’s criminal justice campaign and other related efforts.

## PRISON BOOK PROGRAM



CDT is entering its second year of volunteering with the Prison Book Program (PBP) in Quincy, MA. The PBP receives letters from prisoners incarcerated throughout the country and sends books from its stacks to meet these requests. Volunteer tasks include reading letters and selecting books to match requests, creating invoices, and packaging books. Volunteers can get to the PBP by taking the Red Line to Quincy Center, driving, or carpooling from Newton. We volunteer the first Tuesday of every EVEN month. Please contact **Barbara Shatkin** ([bfshtakin@aol.com](mailto:bfshtakin@aol.com)) if you have questions. Go to Member Sign-Ups if interested in volunteering.

# CDT Events

## CDT FILM CLUB — A MEMBER-ONLY MONTHLY EVENT

Do you like movies? Do you enjoy watching and discussing Jewish films, but don’t always have the chance? The CDT Film Club gathers in members’ homes to watch and discuss moving and thought-provoking Jewish films from around the world. Many of the films have been featured in recent Jewish film festivals.

We start with a potluck dinner at 6pm, followed by the film at 7pm. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you are making a dish with dairy or wheat that can be added later, please keep separate). Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

Contact the co-chairs, **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper**, [film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org), for more information or if you’d like to host a film.

Here’s a list of 2017-18 films. Dates and films subject to change. Updates will be posted in the CDT Newsletter and/or email.

September 23: *Keep Quiet* (2016, 1h 32, Hungarian, English) Location to be determined, A once prominent anti-Semitic politician in Hungary, Csanád Szegedi, undergoes a dramatic change in worldview after learning of his Jewish heritage. —Netflix

November 11: *Past Life*

December 9: *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*

January 6: *The Tenth Man*

February 10: *Fanny’s Journey*

March 10: *Keep Quiet*

April 14: *Arab Labor, Season 1*

May 12: *Menashe*

## CDT/FUSN GARDEN PRODUCE BOUNTY

A dedicated group of volunteers has been tending our “giving garden,” showing up in all sorts of weather to plant, water, harvest, and weed. To date we have donated over 266 pounds of produce to the Newton Food Pantry and Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen in Waltham. The need for fresh organic vegetables is greater than ever — thankfully, the rain has been regular and the rabbits are learning to share.

Some highlights from the past few weeks:

- **Caleb Schwartz** made a beautiful sign for the garden as part of his Bar Mitzvah project.
- A group from the Running Brook Camp came to visit and work in the garden as part of their community service project.
- We are now reporting our harvest results to Ganei Beantown in connection with their work documenting Jewish gardens.

We welcome newcomers — come once or all season. We will be growing and harvesting into October and then we’ll need help to put the garden to bed for the winter. Many hands make light work! Join us! Email **Laya** at [lasword@rcn.com](mailto:lasword@rcn.com) for more info.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

### LimmudBoston Seeks...

This is the time to offer session proposals for the 8th annual, volunteer-driven Limmud-Boston, which will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3 at Temple Reyim in Newton. LimmudBoston is a festival of Jewish learning and entertainment. The Program Team welcomes creative, dynamic proposals for all — beginner to scholar; young to young-at-heart. Please see details at [www.LimmudBoston.org](http://www.LimmudBoston.org). Session proposals due by mid-September.

This is also the time to join the Program Team and other planning groups. See the website, or write [info@LimmudBoston.org](mailto:info@LimmudBoston.org) for details.



# Inclusion Task Force

## NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE

by Susan Nitkin

The CDT Inclusion Committee was started one year ago with the goal of launching some congregational initiatives in concert with the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP) of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). In this column, we will summarize what the committee did last year, and tell you about some exciting new developments.

In August (2016), we developed guidelines for High Holydays Greeters and held a Board training to heighten awareness about welcoming members and guests with disabilities. We led a portion of the November Members' Meeting in which we shared ideas, stories, and a visioning exercise for members to think about what a truly inclusive environment would look like.

In February, during Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), we hosted a discussion at the Religious

School, open to the entire CDT community, in which three panelists spoke about their personal experiences, and shared stories of feeling included or excluded because of a disability.

In April, CDT hosted members of K'Sha'arim at a Friday evening service. And, as a culmination of our year of reflection, one of our young members (**Shira Lobron!**) gave a presentation at the RSIP workshop in May.

Looking forward to this upcoming year, we have wonderful news about accessibility, and some exciting plans:

- With thanks to **Mark Bronstein**, we have two new accessibility features available in the CDT sanctuary: an Assisted Listening System for individuals with hearing impairments, and a portable ramp which will give people who use wheelchairs and scooters access to the bimah. Please email [access@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:access@dorsheitzedek.org) if you anticipate needing these accommodations.

- Some High Holydays services will be audio-livestreamed for those who are unable to travel to services

- A gluten-free table is now a fixture at Kiddush, and congregants are becoming more familiar with the issues. Celiac-friendly gluten-free food for those affected by these issues is available at all large meetings.

- We will collect information so we can begin addressing allergy concerns.

- We will try to ease the burden of food-related issues for children and families with developmental issues.

- We will be looking at how we can promote understanding with respect to mental health issues.

Communication will be a big part of our efforts this year, and this will consist of continuing our regular newsletter articles, developing an inclusion page for the CDT website, and doing a survey to gather information from the community. We have a new email address: please email [access@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:access@dorsheitzedek.org) to reach Susan Nitkin, Inclusion Committee Chair.

# Nediv Lev

## UPDATE FROM NEDIV LEV CHAIR JOHN CARROLL: WE BEAT OUR GOAL!

Thank you to all who contributed to the 5777 Nediv Lev campaign and to the leadership of outgoing Nediv Lev Chair **Mark Paley!** Our goal was \$75,000, and we went above and beyond, with a final total over \$82,000. 157 households (out of about 200) contributed to the Campaign. A special thanks to our anonymous matching gift donor and the 19 donors who gave for the first time in several years to help take full advantage of the matching gift. Yasher koach to all of us for raising these much-needed funds that are so important for supporting the CDT community. As the 5778 Chair of the Nediv Lev campaign, I look forward to another wonderful year and would greatly appreciate having a Co-Chair step forward to help

out (if you are interested, please email me at [jcarroll@mit.edu](mailto:jcarroll@mit.edu)).

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 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

Rose and Lloyd Adler

Suzanne Aigen—*In memory of my loving brother, Rabbi Ron Aigen*

Bryn Austin and Liz Carver

Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein—*In memory of Rosalind Ilene Sperling Feld*

Sandra Gertz—*Mazel tov to Cindy and Dan on the occasion of Elana & Dave's wedding - very best wishes!*

Lauren Gibbs—*In memory of Mara Gibbs and Pat Kook Gibbs*

Gail Goldman

Lael Greenstein and Bryan Fry

Allison and Ezra Hausman—*In honor of Sandy Sedacca becoming Bat Torah*

Linda Hsu and Marc Steinberg

Steffi and Eric Karp



# Chesed

## CHESED AT DORSHEI TZEDEK

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed, the expression of loving kindness, strengthens our ties to one another and to our Dorshei Tzedek community as we share each other's joys and sorrows.

The Chesed Committee gets together four times a year for a great potluck dinner. We discuss our mission (to promote a caring community) and to orient new committee members. We evaluate how things are going and how we can improve the experience of Chesed for both givers and receivers. You are invited to contact us at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to ask about joining or if you have questions:

### VOICES OF CHESED COORDINATORS

Being a Chesed coordinator has proven to me how much you get back when you give a little, what a caring and loving community CDT is, and how much kindness can make a difference during a difficult time, not to mention the great people I've gotten to know through quarterly meetings. —**Chagit Steiner**

Being a member of the Chesed Committee is a great way to connect to other members of the Congregation you may not have had an opportunity to meet, while fortifying relationships within the CDT community. There is no better feeling than delivering a nice meal to a family overwhelmed with the responsibilities to caring for a new child or an ill family member, particularly if you've been in that situation yourself. You know what a blessing it is to create an opportunity for that family to have a home-cooked dinner together and to receive the caring of the greater community. —**Eileen F. Morrison**

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone who provided an act of Chesed in the past year.

The Coordinators for September are **Elaine Landes** and **Amy Westebbe**. Contact them at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek values Chesed (acts of loving-kindness) especially when members have a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness. The Chesed Committee coordinates

tasks such as meals, grocery shopping, and transportation to a medical appointment.

We post Chesed tasks online on the Lot'saHelpingHands (LHH) calendar. We encourage emails or phone calls between the volunteers and recipient families to confirm arrangements.

Sign up for LHH: <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

Forgot your LHH password? <http://tinyurl.com/GetPsWrdLHH>.

If you have a major life cycle event or illness or injury, contact Rabbi Toba Spitzer at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or call **617-965-0330**. 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 her (confidentially) at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330. She does not check email or voicemail on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off). For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is completely confidential.

## Nediv Lev (cont.)

Hazel and Bob Keimowitz—*In loving memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

Barbara Magaliff—*In honor of the Hemley Bronstein family*

Amy Mazur—*In honor of the marriage of Steve Zisk and Linda Kramer; in honor of the tremendous work of Jen Kaplan as President and the best to Lissy Medvedow as she begins her tenure*

Lani and Hal Moss—*In honor of Morah Ali Moss*

Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus

Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato

Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg—*In thanks to Allison and Ezra Hausman for kindly hosting our family for a week, during our visit to Boston this summer*

Elliot Pittel—*In memory of Dorothy Pittel*

Pamela Rosenstein—*In memory of Beatrice Kleiman*

Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis—*In memory of Judy Lieberman*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In memory of Ed Weiner*

### CAMP JRF FUND

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robin Bernstein

Elana Rome Cutler and Dave Cutler—*With thanks to Rabbi Toba for the most amazing wedding ceremony!*

Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg

Jeanne Frieden and Victor Aronow

Annette Jacobs

Linda Kramer and Steve Zisk—*With thanks to Rabbi Toba for our wedding ceremony*

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen—*With thanks to Rabbi Toba for officiating at Olivia & Aron's wedding*

Lisa Schneier

### SCHOOL FUND

2016-17 Nitzanim/Gan parents

### RETREAT FUND

### HOLY BOOKS FUND

### JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

### BUILDING FUND

# CDT Calendar

# September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>						<p>1 Shabbat Morning Service &amp; Bar Mitzvah of Elia Steinberg 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>2</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Tikkun Olam Meeting FUSN: downstairs classroom 7:30pm  CDT Sings Rehearsal 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>7 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p>8 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>9 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>10 Religious School Staff Training 9:00am to 3:00pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm  Leil Selichot Service Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury, MA 8:00pm to 10:00pm</p>
<p>17 Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 7 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Religious School Gr. 3-6 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>20 Erev Rosh Hashanah: Welcoming the New Year 5778 Gann Academy, 333 Forest St. Waltham, MA 8:00pm</p>	<p>21 Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 (5778) Gann Academy, 333 Forest St. Waltham, MA 9:30am to 1:00pm</p>	<p>22 Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 (5778) Gann Academy 333, Forest St. Waltham, MA 10:00am to 12:30pm</p>	<p>23 Shabbat Shuvah Chanting &amp; Meditation Service 9:45am to 12:00pm  CDT Sings Rehearsal 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor) 12:45pm to 2:30pm  CDT Film Club CDT member's home 6:00pm</p>
<p>24 Religious School Gr. 1-7 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm</p>	<p>25 CDT Sings Rehearsal 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor) 7:30pm</p>	<p>26 Religious School Gr. 3-6 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p>29 Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur Gann Academy 333 Forest Street Waltham, MA 6:30pm to 8:30pm</p>	<p>30 Yom Kippur: The Day of Repentance Gann Academy 333 Forest Street Waltham, MA 9:30am to 7:00pm</p>

## KIDDISH ASSIGNMENTS

**SEP 2 SHABBAT** Sanctuary cleanup:  
Karen Wasserman / Melody Komyerov  
Ushers: Betsy Hinden / Karen Wasserman

**SEP 8 EREV SHABBAT** Jan Small (Captain) / Ami Gordon / Sarah Birkeland / Elizabeth Roll

**SEP 9 SHABBAT** Wendy (Captain) & Charles Frankston / Barbara Beck, *in memory of Edith & Irving Beck and Stephen Beck* / Robin Bernstein

**SEP 16 SHABBAT** James Kaplan (Captain) / Dianne Lior / Debbie & John Saltzman

**SEP 16 LEIL SELICHOT** Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury (Captain) / Liz Carver & Bryn Austin

**SEP 23 SHABBAT SHUVAH** Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp (Captain) / Hope Kellman / Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, *in memory of Norman Weinstein*

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. Please remember to sign-in to the site to access the calendar as well as all member-specific information. 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. Thank you!

Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th and 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.



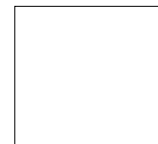
Photos: CDT members playing at Party in the Park, Aug. 2017.  
Photos by Jen Kaplan.





**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## Join us for High Holydays observances!

CDT offers a full and inspiring array of services to our members and the larger community during the Days of Awe.

**Saturday, September 16: Selichot Service**

**Wednesday, September 20: Erev Rosh Hashanah**

**Thursday, September 21: First Day of Rosh Hashanah**

**Friday, September 22: Second Day of Rosh Hashanah**

**Saturday, September 23: Shabbat Shuvah**

**Friday, September 29: Erev Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre**

**Saturday, September 30 : Yom Kippur**



Photo by Vivienne Shein