



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Cheshvan/Kislev 5778 November 2017

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Turning 21

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



THIS NEW JEWISH year of 5778, I begin my 21st year serving Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Considering that I had never had a job for more than a year and half

before I started this one, that is pretty impressive! The congregation has grown from about 57 households when I arrived to over 200 today. I think the budget was around \$50,000 my first year; today it is more than ten times that number. The CDT community has become far more diverse in terms of types of households, age, income and class, and race and ethnicity. What has remained a constant is the level of dedication and commitment of CDT members, and the thoughtfulness and caring that so many people bring to the life of the community and to one another. I feel like we have truly been partners in trying to figure out what it means to build a covenantal community built on values of justice and love.

Over the past year, I had some really helpful conversations with CDT leadership and my rabbinic liaison, Cindy Shulak-Rome, about how to keep my job sustainable and nourishing in the years to come. For my own sake but also for the sake of the ongoing strength of the community, it's been important to think about "downloading" a lot of the information that's accumulated in my head, and to figure out how to hand over some responsibilities that have lived with me and now need to be shared (or handed over entirely). Happily, our staff has never been as developed and as strong as it is today. With Rabbi Shahar on board as our Director of Congregational Learning, we now have someone not only incredibly well-



Photo by Dan Halbert.

suited to run our children's educational program, but also able to take on oversight of much of our other programming, including holiday celebrations and adult education. Rabbi Shahar and I work closely together, and it is a blessing for me to have a rabbinic partner in this work. We also have an amazing support staff, with Marla Lichtman overseeing all aspects of our administrative life, from dealing with our various rental spaces to handling all the finances to managing membership functions to overseeing publicity - the list goes on and on. And with Lidia Prunte, our Program Associate, now on-board full time, we have someone enthusiastic and

skilled supporting both Rabbi Shahar and Marla in their tasks.

Part of making my job manageable is having this great staff in place, and also working with the CDT Board to make sure our lay leadership is set up in the best way to oversee the life of the congregation. The other part is working on myself to let go of tasks and details that it is in my nature to attend to. And I am working on it! Both I and the CDT leadership agree that my best use to the congregation is doing the things that I most enjoy doing - whether leading services or teaching or working with lay leadership to move forward important initiatives like special needs inclusion, our tikkun olam commitments, the work of the class diversity study group, and becoming a truly anti-racist, multi-racial congregation.

To do that, I need to decrease the volume of email that I have to deal with, and so

continued on next page

INSIDE:

- 3 Shabbat & Holidays
- 4 CDT Events
Community Events
- 5 Community
- 6 Learning
- 7 Tikkun Olam
- 8 Nediv Lev
- 9 Chesed
- 10 Calendar
- 11 Religious School Notes

am handing over some administrative tasks. In addition to Rabbi Shahar taking on oversight of significant chunks of programming, Lidia will now be handling most of the weekly announcements that go out to the congregation - so if you are organizing a CDT event that needs to be sent out to the Announce list or announced on Shabbat, please send it to Lidia, not to me (officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org). The other staff and I will also be letting all the various committees know which staff person is their main liaison, and Lissy has been working hard to finalize a CDT organizational chart, so that every committee knows who on the Executive Committee is their contact for support or information.

This past spring, the CDT Board agreed to let me take one day a week as a "writing day," so that I can hopefully finish the book I have been working on over the past 4 years (the book is on the topic of God and metaphor - for a taste, see my erev Rosh Hashanah talk from this year, at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/writings/voice-water-place>). I am deeply appreciative of this opportunity. My current plan is to take every Wednesday as a writing day, until about 4pm, leaving the late afternoon and evening open for meetings and classes, beginning this month. I will be in the

office and available to meet with people on Tuesdays, Thursday, Wednesdays after 4pm, and on Friday mornings. I am also grateful to be able to pursue commitments that are related to my work at CDT but institutionally outside of it. I am currently serving as President of the Massachusetts

Board of Rabbis, as well as serving as Treasurer of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. I have become active in the local arm of Rev. William Barber's Moral Mondays movement and the call for a new Poor People's Campaign. It's all a bit of a juggling act, but also a great opportunity to be doing meaningful work in many realms at a time when there is so much need in the world.

This month I celebrate my 55th birthday. In some ways I don't feel particularly older than the day I arrived here 20 years ago; in other ways I feel the weight of years of life and work experience. As my body

and my mind slow down a bit, I am trying to be mindful of caring for myself, of taking my own advice when it comes to making time for spiritual practice and self-care. I look forward to another year of learning and activism and spiritual growth with CDT, and thank everyone in this community who has taken on a piece of leadership, in ways great and small, to make this the nurturing and vibrant community that it is.

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Rabbinic Liaison Committee

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.

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

Staff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Director of Congregational Learning: **Rabbi Shahar Colt**

Administrative Director: **Marla Lichtman**

Program Associate: **Lidia Puente**

Inclusion Coordinator: **Alison Lobron**

Executive Committee

President: **Lissy Medvedow**

Immediate Past President: **Jen Kaplan**

VP Finance: **Cliff Cohen**

VP Membership: **Jamie Tessler**

VP Education: **Bill Schorr**

VP Leadership: **Ellen Hemley**

Secretary: **Rob Greenly**

Board Members-at-Large:

Ruth Paris, Nancy Gertz, Bill Weinreb,

Emily Mathis, Jordan Namerow, Steven Zisk,

Bob Warren

Off-Board Chairs

Children's Education: **Andy Stefano & Sharon Sevransky**

Chesed: **Eileen Morrison and Marla Cummins**

Nediv Lev: **John Carroll**

Newsletter: **John Holohan**

Inclusion: **Susan Nitkin**

Ritual: **Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman**

Rabbinic Liaison: **Cindy Shulak-Rome**

Space Liaison: **Ezra Hausman**

Tikkun Olam: **Abby Cohen**

Website: **Dan Halbert**

Welcoming: **Benita Danzing and Meryl Epstein**

Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue.

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

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday evenings, November 3, December 8, January 5

6:00pm candlelighting & potluck dinner,
6:45pm service

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We 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 10-15 people; drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45pm, and we end with an Oneg Shabbat at 7:30pm.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40am,
November 18, December 9, January 6

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

TOT SHABBAT

November 11, December 16, January 13,
February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19,
June 9

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program, for children age 5 and under and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities! Tot Shabbat happens when we have Got Shabbat (November 11!) as part of the morning activities, and on non-Got Shabbat months it runs from 10:45am-noon.

GOT SHABBAT?

Saturday, November 11, 9:45am-noon

Join us for "Got Shabbat?", an opportunity for the whole community to come together and have fun, learn together and find new ways to celebrate Shabbat. We begin together with Rabbi Toba for mornings blessings and songs at 9:45am, followed by a variety of workshops for all ages. Adults and kids are then invited to choose from a panoply of activities as ways to explore the themes of the week's Torah portion, Chayei Sarah, which tells the story of Isaac and Rebecca. There will be a movement program with Shira Moss, visual arts with Tessa Goldsmith, Midrash study with Rabbi Shahar, Tot Shabbat, and more!

CONTEMPLATIVE SHABBAT SERVICE WITH SPECIAL GUEST!

with Rabbi Sheila Weinberg

Shabbat morning, December 16,
9:45am-noon



Back by popular demand, Rabbi Sheila Weinberg will join Rabbi Toba for a chanting and meditation Shabbat morning service, and Sheila will share teachings from her new book,

God Loves the Stranger. The contemplative service begins at 9:45am, followed by learning at 11:15am.

Rabbi Weinberg is a leading teacher of Jewish Mindfulness Meditation in the U.S., and a wonderful teacher and speaker.



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).

CDT Events

CDT MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, November 5

5:30pm Pizza (and alternative) dinner

6:15-8pm Meeting

Child care will be provided

At this this first members meeting of 5778, we will hear from the Economic Diversity study group and begin a conversation about class diversity in our community, and will also explore opportunities for engagement and leadership at CDT. We hope that at least one member of every CDT household can attend! Every CDT household should receive an e-vite; please RSVP and let us know if you'll be coming to the dinner (and if you need a non-pizza alternative).

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, November 11 at the home of Elaine Landes and David Felson.

The Tenth Man (2016, Spanish, 80 min.)

After years of living in New York City, middle-aged Ariel returns to his native Buenos Aires to see his father, who runs a Jewish aid organization. But Ariel quickly finds that reconnecting with his roots and his distant dad won't be easy. —*Netflix*

Potluck at 6:00 pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for 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, ie. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families.

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.

DISTURBING THE PEACE: FILM, DINNER, DISCUSSION

Sunday, November 19 5:00 p.m. film showing, 6:30 p.m. dinner/discussion

Sponsored by CDT's Israel/Palestine Peace Group

60 Highland Street, Room 111

Join us for a screening and discussion of "Disturbing the Peace," the award-winning 2016 documentary about Combatants for Peace, a coalition of Palestinians and Israelis who actively participated in violent conflict in the past, and have now joined together for nonviolent collective opposition to the Occupation. You can learn more about the film, and watch the trailer, at <http://disturbingthepeacefilm.com>. The film screening will begin at 5 pm, with dinner and discussion to follow. If you have already seen the film—though it is worth a second view!—you are welcome to join for dinner and discussion.

JOIN CDT FACES NOW!

CDT Faces is CDT's online photo gallery—the place to go to match names with faces, and to finally figure out who that person is who you see everywhere!

If you haven't already done so, please upload your photo to CDT Faces now! It's super easy—any size photo will do. Just go to the Members section of the CDT website, click on CDT Faces, and follow the instructions. 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! The more people who join, the more useful the resource and the more fun the search!

Jewish Community Events

IN CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY TEMPLE ISRAEL OF NATICK PRESENTS:

NAVA TEHILA IN CONCERT

Sunday, December 10, 2017, 7:00 PM

Nava Tehila is a Jerusalem-based ensemble that plays original and traditional Jewish music. They are dedicated to Jewish renewal and reaching out to Jews of all affiliations and all walks of life in the US, Israel and Europe. Nava Tehila's spiritual leaders compose new music for prayer and train rabbis, cantors and students in the art of musical and innovative prayer. They have produced albums of music for Shabbat and High Holidays prayers.

Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door. Please call the Temple Israel of Natick office at 508-650-3521, x100 to make reservations.

Community

GREETINGS FROM MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Ora Gladstone

Hi CDT family, a quick note from this country that Mitchell and I are volunteering in for the year with Peace Corps related programs and where there are literally no Jewish citizens (there may be a few other Jewish NGOs but we haven't been able to find 'em). So there wasn't much to help make us feel like the holy-est of days was upon us and that other than fasting there was anything meaningful in which to participate... until I remembered that CDT (I think it's Mark Bronstein [and Dan Halbert] that gets the thanks!) started streaming the High Holydays from Gann a few years ago and, voila, though you weren't aware, I was with you all of Yom Kippur morning. It made a real difference. A cool 21st century experience! Next year in Gann.

BOSTON TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH KESHET

Sunday, November 19 at 5:00p.m., exact location TBA

Please join Keshet for Transgender Day of Remembrance (co-sponsored by CDT). We will be marking this day with Jewish ritual and remembrance. Join us for prayers, songs, and readings as we remember and give voice to the transgender people we've lost to violence, and renew our commitment to advocate for transgender rights and inclusion. Following our ritual, we will join the wider Boston community for the Annual Boston Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul at 6:00 p.m.

MAZEL TOV

To **Sandy Goodman** and **Sue Weil**, on their marriage!

To **Rabbi Shahar Colt** and **Darya Mattes**, on their marriage!

To CDT President **Lissy Medvedow**, on winning the Circle of Excellence Award from Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly!

To **Malka Traub Pomerantz** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

YAHREZEIT

We remember **Susannah Zisk**, whose 6th yahrzeit falls on December 3. We will be remembering Susannah at Shabbat morning services on December 2. May her memory be for a blessing.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

CONDOLENCES

To **Norm** and **Vivienne Shein**, on the death of Norm's brother, Joe Shein. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Marla Lichtman**, on the death of her mother, Roslyn Lichtman. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Linda Kramer**, on the death of her father, Richard Kramer. May his memory be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **Sheryl Koenigsberg** and **Webster Pilcher**, and their children **Sasha** (4) and **Micah** (2). Thank you to CDT member **Jen Levine-Fried** for the referral!

Welcome to **Rachel Kelemen** and **Joshua Brown**. Rachel and Josh found out about

TODAH RABAH

Hamon Todot (many, many thanks!) to everyone who helped create our beautiful High Holydays services:

To all those who helped with planning and logistical support: **Laurie Goldman**, **Marion Ross**, **Matilda Bruckner**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, **Dianne Lior**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Dan Rome**, **Debbie Waber**, **Ezra Hausman** and **Chayim Herzig-Marx**. And to the many volunteers who helped with set-up and registration.

To **Mark Bronstein** for the sound system and the assisted listening devices, to **Mark** and **Dan Halbert** for the livestreaming, and Dan for all of the web-based support.

To our wonderful staff, **Marla Lichtman**, **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, **Alison Lobron**, and **Lidia Prunte**, and to Wendy Buglio and her helpers.

To our *chazzanim* (cantors): **Karen Arnold**, **Michael Feldstein**, **Doug Hersh**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Dan Rome**, **Bill Shorr**, **Marc Steinberg**, **Maya Garg** & **Abby Caputo**.

To all of our Torah & haftarah leyners: **Mark Bronstein**, **Debbie Waber**, **Zanny Weinreb**, **Audra Karp**, **Ed Bruckner**, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, **Karen Arnold**, **David Lobron**, **Noah Goldman**, **Sue Lanser**, **Amalia Lieberman**, **Louise Enoch**, **Steffi Karp**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, and **Susan Moser**. And to **Louise Enoch** and **Denise Yurkofsky** for organizing the "Isaiah's fast" readings.

To **Karen Arnold** and **Sue Lanser** and all of the members of CDT Sings, for the beautiful music: **Michele Arons**, **Dave Felson**, **Doug Hersh**, **Judy Hersh**, **Sue Lanser**, **Marcia Okun**, **Ruth Paris**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Mona Pollack**, **Rebecca Pomerantz**, **Jo Radner**, **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, **Carole Slipowitz**, **Bob Warren**, **Sam Zisk**, and to **Mark Rosenberg** for his drumming!

continued on page 8

Learning

HIGH HOLYDAYS TALKS -

both Rabbi Toba's and Rabbi Shahar's teachings from the High Holydays are now available (in both written and audio format) on the CDT website - go to <https://dorsheitzedek.org/divrei-torah>).

WHO ARE WE? JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD RECONSTRUCTED

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, November 8, 15 and 29, 7:30-9pm

Jewish identity, both individual and collective, is hard to define. Across the centuries and around the globe, there have been a vast variety of Jewish cultures and practices. Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, is credited with formulating the concept of "Jewish peoplehood," but does this notion hold any meaning for us today? Are we a "community of faith"? A "nation"? Something else entirely? Together we will explore some possible metaphors for understanding Jewish identity and community, and share our own experiences of being part of "the Jewish people."



CHANUKAH FOR GROWN-UPS

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Sunday, December 10, 10:45am-noon

JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

The ever-evolving Festival of Lights has had many meanings over the centuries, from ancient origins in pagan solstice festivals to spiritual celebration of light to affirmation of Jewish power. How might Chanukah speak to us today, in a world – and at a time of year – when a bit of light and hope is much needed?

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15am

60 Highland Street, Library

(Note: Mindful Mornings will not be meeting on Thanksgiving, November 23)

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. Karen Arnold leads the first Thursday of each month, Rabbi Toba the second Thursday, and other sessions are led by Carole Slipowitz and Laya Steinberg. All are welcome, whatever your level of experience (or lack thereof!).

Inclusion Committee

Questions and Answers about Inclusion

by Susan Nitkin

access@dorsheitzedek.org

This month we are launching a new effort to answer questions that folks might have about inclusion. In future newsletter articles we will try to include at least one question/answer along with our other announcements, so if you have any questions that you would like us to include, please direct them to access@dorsheitzedek.org, or to my personal email address. Hope you find this interesting and helpful!

What is a fidget tool, and how is that different from a toy? Many people fidget

- some examples of fidgeting are doodling, wiggling a pen back-and-forth, or tapping your foot. For some people, fidgeting is particularly helpful, even necessary, in terms of focusing and relieving anxiety. A fidget tool can address one's need for movement and keep hands busy without causing disruption. Even though it might look like a toy, it is used as a tool to provide sensory input and help the individual remain emotionally and physically regulated. We have fidget tools available for children (or adults!) who may need one in the CDT sanctuary, on a shelf next to the prayer books.

Why is there a separate gluten-free table at Kiddush? Gluten is a protein found in

wheat (and its varieties, and in numerous products), rye, barley, triticale, and some oats. Many people eat gluten-free food because of food preferences or for health reasons such as gluten-intolerance. Some people have celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that is triggered by exposure to even trace amounts of gluten, and occasionally people have a wheat allergy. Since some people in our congregation (and probably some guests) have celiac disease, we have a separate table in order to make sure the gluten-free foods do not become cross-contaminated with bagel crumbs, etc. That way they can participate in Kiddush with everyone else, without fear of becoming ill.

Thanks for reading!

Tikkun Olam

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

Alan Epstein

GBIO continues its pursuit of passage of its four platform issues. In the last two weeks, a bill was introduced in the Senate that contains all four of these issues, although not as comprehensively as we would like. In particular, there are some minor changes to the Mandatory Minimum drug sentences (with a new one added for Fentanyl and other opioids!)--not the full repeal we were looking for.

After deep discussion, GBIO decided that supporting the bill was better than having no bill, and joined a press conference last week in favor with reservations.

The Senate bill will likely pass in a floor vote on Oct 26.

A House bill is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks. We will continue our phone campaign to urge legislators to pass the strongest Criminal Justice Reform bill possible. The House and Senate bills will likely be sent to a conference committee to reconcile their differences before Thanksgiving. A final vote on the final bill is hoped for by January.

Anyone interested in getting further involved in this fight for criminal justice reform can contact **Alan** (ade26g@gmail.com).

MULTIRACIAL YOUTH RESOURCES ON CDT WEBSITE

Lauren Gibbs

The Understanding Race section of the CDT website contains a list of Jewish-themed books for young people that incorporate people of color. These offerings from the Jewish Multiracial Network include picture books, books for young readers, and books for teens.

The picture books are mostly of Torah stories and Jewish Holidays, including Shabbat, with people of color incorporated in the pictures. Of these books, *Maccabee Jamboree* by Cheri Holland is the most inclusive and interesting. Other short books that stand out for this age group are *What Makes Someone a Jew* by Lauren Seidman which depicts many Jews of color amongst the people expressing their Jewish values, and *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester, in which this African-American Jew says everyone has their own story – his being a Jewish story – but their bones look the same as other people's under their skin.

In the category of easy reader and middle-grade books, there are Jewish stories (such as Joseph, Moses, Esther and Solomon) in which some or all of the participants are of color, like *King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba* by Blu Greenberg and Linda Tarry. There are stories in which multiracial Jews learn about other ways of being Jewish

(*Jalapeno Bagels* by Natasha Wing), stories in which Jews and non-Jews share religious experiences with each other (*Elijah's Angel* by Michael Rosen and *Mrs. Katz and Tush* by Patricia Polacco), and stories in which people learn about each other's traditions (*Northern Lights: a Hanukkah Story* by Diana Cohen Conway). There are also stories in which multiracial Jews learn about their Jewish heritage (*Abuelita's Secret Matzahs* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and *Always an Olivia* by Carolivia Herron), stories of Israeli-Muslim friendship (such as *Snow in Jerusalem* by Deborah da Costa), and stories in which African-Americans take on Torah stories to learn to deal with their own liberation struggles (*Harriet and the Promised Land* by Jacob Lawrence and *Let My People Go* by Patricia and Frederick McKissack).

For middle-grade readers and teenagers, the stories are more complex. *The Storyteller's Beads* by Jane Kurtz tells of the flight of an Ethiopian Jewish young woman and her Ethiopian Christian friend towards Israel – like Naomi and Ruth. *Zack* by William Bell is of a Jewish multiracial young man whose grandfather hates white people. *Black Mirror* by Nancy Werlin tells of a Jewish Asian young woman whose brother is said to have committed suicide. There is also a lullaby album of Ashkenazi, Yiddish, Sephardi and Mizrahi songs and a video of the story of Joseph (depicting his family with some color) going to and being in Egypt.

Reconstructionist News

RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONVENTION

November 15-18, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

Put it on your calendar for next year! 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.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST LEARNING NETWORKS

The RRC is currently running a number of online courses. Register for these networks at www.jewishrecon.org/networks. If you cannot join these live meetings, you can view videos of the presentations and access other resources on their Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canyouhearmenowRLN/>).

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 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 generosity of contributors:

Lauren Gibbs—*In memory of Mara*
Renee and Barry Goldman—*In honor of our grandson, Noah B. Goldman, and his outstanding reading of the 5th aliyah on Yom Kippur*
Steffi and Eric Karp
Alexis and Gabriel Landes
Sivan Nasoff
Edna Pressler—*In honor of Ellen Lubell's birthday and her zeal for justice*
Helen Steinberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ellie Baron and Kate DeBethune—*With gratitude to Rabbi Toba*
Sandy Goodman and Sue Weil—*In gratitude to Rabbi Toba, for all she's done to help us with our 10/8 wedding ceremony.*
Eric Karp—*With gratitude after the loss of my beloved mother*
Cheryl & Jeff Sacks—*With thanks to Rabbi Toba*

SCHOOL FUND

GENERAL FUND

CAMP JRF FUND

Sivan Nasoff

RETREAT FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

Community (continued)

continued from page 5

To our Shofar blowers: **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Ezra Hausman**, **Josh Lieberman**, and **Karen Wasserman**.

To **Terry Traub**, for his beautiful fiddle accompaniment on erev Rosh Hashanah, and to **Kate DeBethune**, for her powerful cello rendition of Kol Nidre.

To **Deb Albenberg** and **Jamie Tessler**, for leading the Yom Kippur afternoon Nature Walks.

To **Lissy Medvedow** and **Rob Greenly** for sharing their stories.

To the High Holydays Children's Programming committee: **Valerie Graf**

and **Lauren Stefano**; and our wonderful service leaders: **Vered Brooks**, **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, **Karen Engels**, **Esther Kohn**, **Alison Lobron** and **Tal Shalom-Kobi**.

Todah Rabah to **Tal Shalom-Kobi**, **Terry Traub**, and the **Bimah Band** – **Tamar Arons-Brann**, **Anna Kaplan**, **Ayla Kobi**, **Shira Lobron**, **Shalev Moser**, and **Malka Pomerantz** for the wonderful music on Simchat Torah!

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped with kiddush in September and October:

Jan Small (Captain), **Ami Gordon**, **Sarah Birkeland**, **Elizabeth Roll**, **Wendy** (Captain) & **Charles Frankston**, **Barbara Beck**—*in memory of Edith & Irving Beck*

and **Stephen Beck**, **Robin Bernstein**, **James Kaplan** (Captain), **Dianne Lior**, **Debbie & John Saltzman**, **Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury** (Captain), **Liz Carver & Bryn Austin**, **Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp** (Captain), **Hope Kellman**, **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein**—*in memory of Norman Weinstein*, **David Shumsky**, **Kevin Hsu-Weinstein**, **Tony Broh**, **Debbie Isenberg**, **Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes**, **Nathan Aronow**, **Judy Hersh** (captain), **Elizabeth Ferrenz & Jenny Siegel**, **Stacie Garnett-Cook**, **Karen & Jeffrey Arnold**, **Barbara Huggins**, **Tania Mireles**, **Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider**, **Janelle Winston** (captain).

Chesed

THE TASTE OF CHESED

by Ellie Goldberg

The Chesed Committee has posted favorite recipes and suggestions for meals and food baskets at <http://tinyurl.com/CDT-Recipes>.

The recipes are labeled (GF) Gluten Free, (V) Vegetarian, (V+) Vegan and (NF) Nut Free, for example:

(V) **Easy Mexican Black Bean Salad** (Elaine Landes)

(GF) (V+) (NF) **Summer Pea Soup**

(Benita Danzig)

(V+) **Greek Lentil Soup**

(Jackie Fleischman)

(V) **Gilda's Sesame Noodles**

(Chagit Steiner)

(GF) **Five Spice Chicken** (Eileen Morrison)

A Chesed food basket can be an alternative to home cooking especially because clearly labeled store bought items help folks avoid gluten, nuts, dairy and other allergenic ingredients.

We hope that the CDT community will contribute favorite recipes and food sources, favorite Gluten Free or Nut Free items, and suggestions for websites so we can all learn from each other. Forward your contributions to the Chesed Committee at chesed@dorsheitzedek.com.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community.

The Chesed coordinators for November are **Eileen Morrison** and **Marla Cummins**. Contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.



CHESED

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 LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar. We encourage emails or phone calls between the volunteers and recipient families to confirm arrangements.

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

IF YOU HAVE A MAJOR LIFE CYCLE EVENT OR ILLNESS OR INJURY, CONTACT RABBI TOBA SPITZER AT 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. 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 ADMINISTERED SOLELY BY THE RABBI AND IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

CDT Calendar

November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	3 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6:00 pm	4 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
5 Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm Parenting Through a Jewish Lens 10:15am to 11:45am Members Meeting Dinner 5:30pm Meeting 6:15pm	6	7 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	8 Who are We? Jewish Peoplehood Reconstructed 7:30pm to 9:00pm	9 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	10	11 Got Shabbat? (Including Tot Shabbat) 8:45am to 9:40am
12 Religious School Staff Meeting 9:30am to 12:00pm	13	14 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	15 Who are We? Jewish Peoplehood Reconstructed 7:30pm to 9:00pm	16 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	17	18 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
19 Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - 7 9:30am to 12:00pm Parenting Through a Jewish Lens 10:15am to 11:45am Disturbing the Peace: Film, Dinner, Discussion 5:00pm	20	21 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	22	23	24	25 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
26	27	28 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	29 Who are We? Jewish Peoplehood Reconstructed 7:30pm to 9:00pm	30 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	December 1	2

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. 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.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Erev Shabbat, November 3 : Jonathan Gordon, CAPTAIN / Dan Halbert / Tal Shalom-Kobi / David Greenberg

Shabbat, November 4: Diane Yates / Susan Bernstein, CAPTAIN / Ellen Pashall / Reva Kasman

Members Meeting, November 5: Denise & Mark Yurkofsky / Sami O'Reilly, CAPTAIN & Robert Imperato

Shabbat, November 11: Amy Brodesky, CAPTAIN & Rex Flynn / Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal / Allison Hausman & Ezra Hausman / Tom Brown

Shabbat, November 18: Beth & Jeff Green, in memory of Eitan Green / Jane Schwartz & Tracey Rogers, CAPTAIN

Shabbat, November 25: Marjorie Salvodon, CAPTAIN & Mark Schafer / Robert Greenly

Shabbat, December 2: Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen / Lisa Goodman, CAPTAIN / Beth Brooks

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.

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Religious School Notes

by Rabbi Shahar Colt

SCHOOL STAFF

Our teaching staff this year is a fabulous team of 7 new and 6 returning teachers. You can find their bios on the Dorshei website at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/religious-school-teachers-0>. Here are profiles of one of our new teachers and a returning teacher.

DEVORA ROHR

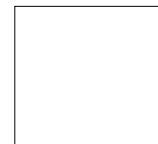
Devora loves exploring the joy and wonder of Jewish tradition and community with our youngest students and their families through traditional and innovative liturgy, song, stories, games, art and more. Raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia, she attended Jewish day schools and summer camps. After graduating from Mount Holyoke College, Devora served with City Year Boston in a K-8 school in Roxbury, worked in various area synagogues, and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Jewish Education at Hebrew College. Devora and her wife Stephanie live in Newton with their inquisitive and extroverted child, Yona Aliza.

ALI MOSS

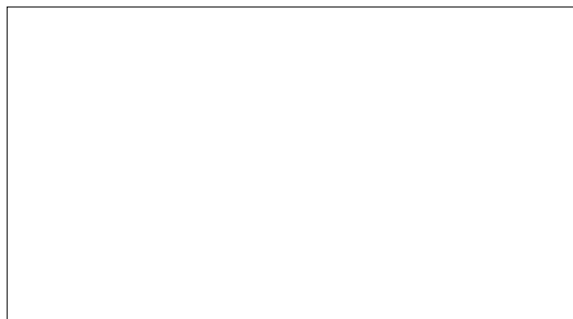
Happy to be returning for my third year on the CDT Religious school staff. My passion for Jewish life and learning has motivated me to move my teaching career from the public school sector as a Spanish teacher to working in an early childhood center. I grew up outside of Philadelphia, graduated from McDaniel College in Maryland, and moved to Boston to pursue and receive my Masters in Education (MAT) at Simmons College. My strong Jewish identity was formed in the small Reconstructionist congregation in which I grew up, then cemented during the five years I spent working at Camp JRF. I love the Boston area and the community here. I also love chocolate, I am a coffee snob, enjoy watching movies and theater, and will spend time curled up in front of any Jodi Piccoult book! Looking forward to another great year in Kitah Bet.



Many of the families of Kitah Hey gathered to bring in the week with pizza, babka, and havdallah. Photo by Jen Levine-Fried.



Address correction requested



CDT Potlucks- Sukkot Style!!

CDT families experienced the joys of eating in a sukkah, dining with friends and celebrating the end of the harvest as a community!

