



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Nissan/Iyar 5778 April 2018

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
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LAST MONTH, I was thrilled to see nearly 90 CDT members at JCDS during religious school, at our first Members Meeting held during school hours. A rousing success! After an update on so much that is going on at the congregation, we spent the second half of the meeting exploring Reconstructionist Judaism, then and now. I gave an on-one-foot history of the movement; we watched a video (which you can see at www.reconstructingjudaism.org) of Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of our movement, reflecting on the new name chosen for our central organization, now called “Reconstructing Judaism”; and finally, we got an update on

Reconstructing Judaism

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

and create new ways of being Jewish to connect us to the divine and ensure our lives are filled with purpose.

- We view Judaism as the evolving civilization of the Jewish people in an ongoing relationship with God. Our shared culture—rituals, traditions and practices—reflect over 3,000



Seth Rosen, chair of the Board of Reconstructing Judaism, speaking at the CDT members meeting. Photo by Barbara Pittel.

movement doings from Seth Rosen, the Chair of the Board of Reconstructing Judaism.

A very good question at the end of the meeting made me realize that in my sweeping review of our history, I never got around to defining what “Reconstructionist Judaism” actually is. And part of the challenge is that it’s not so much a dogmatic set of beliefs or practices, but an approach. It’s a way of thinking about and doing Judaism—which is why I am appreciative that our leadership had the wisdom to adopt a verb, not a noun, as the new way to name who we are.

But for those who might still be wondering, “But what is Reconstructionist Judaism? What exactly are we ‘reconstructing?’” I wanted to share some words from the movement that give a good sense of what this approach is all about:

“Reconstructionists approach Judaism—and life—with deep consideration of the past and a passion to relate it to the present. In a rapidly changing world, Reconstructionist communities share

years of that evolution, and we continue to share and shape it today.

- We break down the walls that divide us—demonstrating what it means to be Jewish today—standing up for justice and creating a better world for all.
- We experience—and discover—God through our daily acts of ritual, creative expression, and humanity, which lead to individual spiritual fulfillment.

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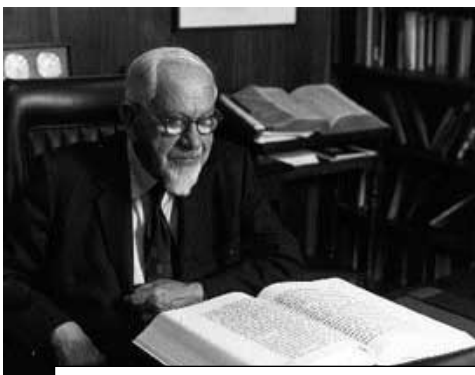
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- We have originated many of the core innovations within American Judaism and lead efforts to make our community even more forward-thinking, inclusive, and relevant.
- We are committed to democratic practice in Jewish life and believe that people hold the right—and obligation—to reconstruct Judaism in order for it to remain relevant in our lives.”

Or, perhaps it is clearer to say what Reconstructionist Judaism is not. It is not “less than Reform” (whatever in the world that means!). It does not mean “do whatever you feel like.” It is not “the movement that doesn’t believe in God.” All of those statements are misperceptions I’ve run across in my years as a Reconstructionist rabbi. I would say that our movement aspires to a maximalist Judaism that is not based in Jewish law, per se, but in a desire to bring a profoundly meaningful and impactful Judaism into the lives of our members and into the world around us. So it’s not “do whatever you feel like” (although of course in reality all Jews in the contemporary world do what they feel like, as Jewish law isn’t enforceable by anyone); rather, we are each invited to take on the opportunity and obligation to make Jewish practice and ethical obligations real in our own lives.

It is a movement that realizes—building on the insight of our founder, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan—that Judaism is not, and has never been, a fixed set of beliefs or practices; it has changed and evolved over time. To keep Judaism evolving in positive and powerful

ways, we need to be attentive to who Jews are and what the Jewish people need in this moment. We need to constantly be updating



Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism. Public domain.

our understanding of who actually makes up our Jewish communities, and what we mean when we talk about “Torah” or “God.” Judaism is the product of the Jewish people, which means it is dynamic, complicated and never reducible to just one way of doing anything.

We have always been, and will probably always remain, a small movement. But Reconstructionist ideas, beginning with Kaplan’s, have had profound effects on the American Jewish community, and I expect that these effects will continue. I hope that many of us will be able to attend the Reconstructionist convention this coming November in Philadelphia, where we will meet with other members of Reconstructionist congregations from around the country and the world. Stay tuned for more information about registration, coming soon!

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Staff & Board

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Rabbinic Liaison Committee

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.

Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to 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, DB Reiff, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

Shabbat and Holidays

SHABBAT PASSOVER SERVICES

Saturday, March 31 & April 7, 9:45 am-noon

We will celebrate the Passover holiday together at Shabbat morning services, March 31, with the singing of Hallel and a special Torah reading. We will mark the 8th day of Passover on Shabbat morning, April 7, with Hallel and with a Yizkor service, remembering loved ones who have passed away.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Fridays, April 13, May 4, June 8

6:00 pm, candle lighting and potluck dinner;

6:45 pm, service

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6:00 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 6:45 pm, and we end with Oneg Shabbat dessert at 7:30 pm.

On April 13, we will welcome guests from K'sharim, a program for adults with developmental disabilities. We have loved having K'sharim guests for many years now; all are welcome to come celebrate Shabbat with them!

On May 4, Kitah Dalet (our 4th grade class) will be co-leading the evening service with Rabbi Toba.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, April 14, May 5, June 16, 8:45-9:40 am

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.

CHANTING & MEDITATION SERVICE

Saturday, April 21, 9:45 am-noon

All are welcome to join **Karen Arnold** for a contemplative morning service, combining song with guided and silent meditation, from 9:45-11:10am. From 11:15am-noon, **Rabbi Shahar** will lead Torah study. Come for all or for part of the morning; it's a wonderful opportunity to truly experience a restful, meditative Shabbat.

BAR MITZVAH OF SPENCER GOLDMAN

Saturday, April 28, 9:45-noon

Please join us as our son, **Spencer**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Spencer is a seventh grader at Brown Middle School in Newton. For his Tikkun Olam project, he has been volunteering with Newton Athletes Unlimited at their Challenger baseball and soccer programs, serving children with disabilities. Please join us downstairs for a Kiddush lunch after the service (and perhaps a game of ping pong). —*Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman*

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, April 21, 10:45-11:45 am-noon

Families with children aged 2-5 are invited to this fun Shabbat program featuring music, art, story and more! Tell your friends; all are welcome.

SAVE THE DATES!

Shabbat Unplugged—May 4-5

Havdallah on the Water—May 12

Shavuot, An Evening of Learning in memory of **Gina Fried z"l**—Saturday, May 19, 8pm-midnight, and **Shavuot Morning Hike**—Sunday, May 20. Stay tuned for more details!

Purim 5778



(Top to bottom): Michael Brann, Michele Arons, and Nate Aronow in the Purim Spiel; Roller Derby terrors Rabbi Toba, Rabbi Shahar, Yael Rhodes (5th grade teacher), Lidia Prunte, and Anna McCown; Susan Moser and Susie Tanchel. Photos by Rebecca Pomerantz.

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 rooms 109-110. 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 & Events

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with kiddush in February and March: **Shirley Milgrom** (Captain), **Janet Boguslaw**, **Rebecca Herst**, **Sue Kaufman**, **JoAnn** (Captain) & **Michael Feldstein**, **Lisa Hirsh** & **DB Reiff**, **Helaine** (Captain) & **John Carroll**, **Debbie Waber**, **Fran Malino**, **Sherry Katz** (Captain) & **Mark Farber**, **Cheryl** & **Jeff Sacks**, **Tatjana Meschede** & **Daniel Krasa**, **Alli Gold Roberts** (Captain) & **Max Fischlowitz Roberts**, **Diane Yates**, **Pamela** & **Steven Katz**, **Danielle Klainberg** & **Mark Rosenberg**, **Alissa** (Captain) & **Gerry Leonard**, **Barbara Shatkin**, **Chad Pytel**, **Josh Komyerov**, **David Lobron**, **Allison Peiser** (Captain), **Madeline Steinberg**—*in memory of Anne Glazer* & **Mitch Feuer**—*in memory of Glenda Feuer*, **Laurie Gould**—*in memory of Robert Gould*.

A huge Todah Rabah to everyone who made our Purim celebration so wonderful! To our Megillah Readers: **Miriam Bronstein**, **Reva Kasman**, **David Lobron** and **Andrew “Ringo” Sofer**; to **Nathan Aronow**, for the sound system and music; to musicians **Tal Shalom-Kobi** & **Hayim Kobi**; to Spiel Author **James Kaplan**, and Spiel dramaturg/coordinator/director **Sheree Galpert**; and to the merry band of Spielers: **Audra Karp**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Doug Hersh**, **Josh Brown**, **Nuri Gutman**, **Ayla** & **Lia Kobi**, **Ila Karp Albenberg**, **Anna** & **Eleanor Kaplan**, **Esty Dudnik** and **Shalev** & **Shirel Moser**.

NEW ART EXHIBIT IN THE CDT SANCTUARY!

With huge thanks to **Rochelle Weichman** for lending us her paintings for these past few months, and with new thanks to **Phyllis Kantor**, whose



Challah cover.
Photo by Vivienne Shein

beautiful weavings and wall-hangings are now on display in our “gallery” in the sanctuary. Phyllis’ woven Judaica pieces are beautiful; be sure to come check them out!

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.)

CDT FILM CLUB

New date! Saturday, April 21

6:00 pm, potluck;

7:00 pm, movie followed by group discussion

The home of Stan and Jackie Fleischman

Menashe (2017, 1h 22min, Yiddish and English)

When Menashe’s wife dies, tradition in his Hasidic Jewish community dictates that he must not raise his young son alone. Instead, he’s obligated to give the boy up to an uncle for adoption—a custom Menashe is unwilling to accept.

Potluck at 6:00 pm; movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion. 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, e.g., 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.

DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

2018 Official Schedule

DATE	TIME	FIELD	LOCATION	VISITING TEAM	HOME TEAM
Sun 04/08/2018				Bye	
Sun 04/15/2018	10:00 AM	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Beth Shalom 2-Needham	@Dorshei Tzedek
Sun 04/22/2018	10:00 AM	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Or Atid - Wayland	@ Dorshei Tzedek
Sun 04/29/2018	10:00 AM	Hamilton Field 36 Pine Grove Ave	Newton	Dorshei Tzedek	@ Reyim – Newton
Sun 05/06/2018	10:00 AM	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Beth Elohim 1 – Acton	@ Dorshei Tzedek
Sun 05/13/2018	8:00 AM	Memorial Elementary School #1-107 Elliot St	Natick	Dorshei Tzedek	@ ShirTikva 2 - Wayland
Sun 05/20/2018	10:00 AM	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Shalom - Newton	@ Dorshei Tzedek
Sun 05/27/2018	10:00 AM	Concord Ave Field 365 Concord Ave	Belmont	Dorshei Tzedek	@ Beth El-Shalom/Emeth-Belmont/Burlington
Sun 06/03/2018	10:00 AM	Rashi School 4800-8000 Great Meadow Rd (45 West St)	Dedham	Dorshei Tzedek	@ Beth Elohim-5 Wellesley

Tikkun Olam

AN EVENING WITH THE MATAHARI WOMEN WORKERS CENTER

*Sunday, April 8, 5:30-7:30pm
60 Highland Street, Room 111*

Come meet some amazing women who work with Matahari, a Boston organization that organizes domestic workers. The organizers will share stories about their lives as immigrants and domestic workers—and how their involvement with Matahari has changed their lives as they have become leaders in the organization. The evening will begin with a light dinner, followed by a panel discussion from 6:15-7:30pm.

If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP to **Linda Kramer** at lindalex@earthlink.net so we know how much food to have!

MOTHERS DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 13

Please join the CDT Team in The 22nd Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace, sponsored by The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

This year's theme is: "Dignity and Compassion for All."

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. Every year families from across the state and region walk together toward peace. Join us on Mother's Day to demand dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder.

The Mother's Day Walk is also the Peace Institute's most important fundraising event. Thee Institute encourages people to invest in community-based solutions to a complex problem. In 2018, the Institute's goal is to raise \$400,000 for their critical programs and services.

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace started in 1996 so mothers of murdered children could receive support and love from their neighbors. Twenty-two years later, the Mother's Day Walk continues to be a powerful way to honor our loved ones who have been murdered and embrace our partners in peacemaking.

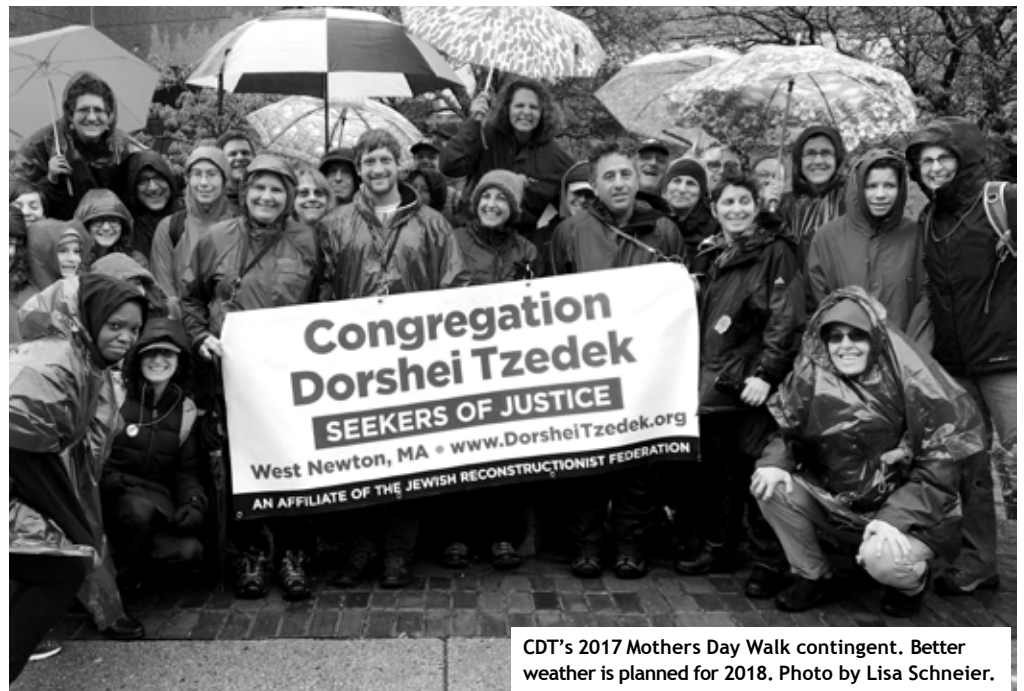
All walkers must register. This year, registration is \$10 per walker; however no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Registration fees go to help the Institute reach the goal of \$400,000 to sustain their programs and services.

To register, go to <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/> and make sure to register as part of CDT. Just select the team name in the drop down menu at the bottom of the registration form. You will have the option to "Credit this event registration to this team or individual." Anyone who selects a team from the drop down menu will be credited on the social fundraising page as a supporter.

SPRING CLEANING

by Barbara Shatkin

CDT's Criminal Justice Task Force will be sponsoring another book drive for the Prison Book Program in Quincy. Please look through your bookshelves for gently used paperback books you're ready to part with. A large collection box will be located near the staircase and coat stand on the main floor of the Second Church the last two weeks of May. You can find guidelines regarding the kinds of books that are most needed by googling: donate books/prison book program. A link to this list will also be sent to the CDT listserve in early May.



CDT's 2017 Mothers Day Walk contingent. Better weather is planned for 2018. Photo by Lisa Schneier.

We hope for a large turnout this year from CDT, including students in the CDT religious school and families. It is a wonderful way to start off Mother's Day!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Abby Cohen** at abby.cohen@verizon.net.

Learning

MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

CDT members and guests are welcome at this weekly meditation session—no background necessary, nor a weekly commitment! **Rabbi Toba** leads the session on the second Thursday of each month, and CDT members **Karen Arnold**, **Laya Steinberg**, and **Carole Slipowitz** lead the other sessions. If possible, please try to arrive by 8:30 am in order not to disrupt the silence.

AVIVA ZORNBERG READING GROUP: THE BEGINNING OF DESIRE: REFLECTIONS ON GENESIS

with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Tuesdays, April 10 & 24, May 1 & 15, 7:30-9:00 pm
60 Highland Street, Library

We will continue our exploration of Aviva Zornberg’s first book, *The Beginning of Desire*. Zornberg’s book offers an intellectually stimulating and personally uplifting exploration of Genesis, breathing new life into the stories of Adam and Eve; Noah; Abraham and Sarah; Isaac; Jacob and Esau, and Rachel and Joseph. Zornberg brings biblical, midrashic, and literary sources together, weaving them into a seamless tapestry and illuminating the tensions that grip human beings as they search for and encounter God.

Since Zornberg’s writing is dense and deep, we will focus on one Torah portion each month, spending two meetings on each chapter of her book. In April, due to the snow day in March, we will continue to focus on the third chapter on *Lech Lecha*, exploring Abraham and Sarah in the Torah and Midrash. No pre-reading is required, but please be in touch with Rabbi Shahar if you are interested in joining the group (for one night or several!): dcl@dorsheitzedek.org.

COMBATANTS FOR PEACE

Thursday, April 26, 8-9:30 pm
Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Co-sponsored by Dorshei Tzedek, Workmen’s Circle, and Congregation Nehar Shalom

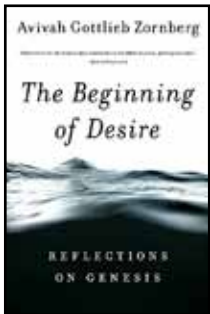
In 2006, Israeli and Palestinian former combatants, people who had taken an active role in the conflict, laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace. The egalitarian, bi-national, grassroots movement was founded on the belief that the cycle of violence can only be broken when Israelis and Palestinians join forces. Combatants for Peace is the only organization worldwide in which former fighters on both sides of an active conflict have laid down their weapons, choosing to work together for peace and justice. They have been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Come hear two representatives of the Combatants, Israeli and Palestinian, tell their personal stories of transformation from violence to nonviolence, and share the work that they are doing to end the occupation and bring peace to their homeland. They will also be screening a short clip of their award winning documentary, *Disturbing the Peace*.

JEWISH LIFE IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN: AN INTRODUCTION

with Dr. Fran Malino, Sophia Moses Robison Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Wellesley College

Monday, April 9, 7:30-9:00 pm
60 Highland Street, Sanctuary

Jewish history in Spain began in the Roman period, reached its “golden age” under the Umayyad Caliphs in Andalusia, and continued until the expulsion of 1492. CDT’s own **Fran Malino** will give an introduction to the great sweep of Spanish Jewish history under both Islam and Christianity. Note: this class is rescheduled from March.



Statue of Maimonides in Cordoba, Spain. Photo by Barry Ingber.



KNOW A FAMILY THAT MIGHT LIKE CDT? INVITE THEM TO THE CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Sunday, April 29, 9:30-11:30 am
JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown

We invite prospective families to get to know our Sunday morning Jewish learning community. Join us at 9:30am for *z'man rishon*, where everyone comes together for a weekly assembly. When the students go to class, there will be time to meet with the School Director and hear about the outline of the program. After that, a parent volunteer will take you on a tour of the school so that you can see the learning in action. Childcare will be provided upon request. To sign up, please contact our Director of Congregational Learning, **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, dcl@dorsheitzedek.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Religious School Notes

by Rabbi Shahar Colt,
Director of Congregational Learning

The following teaching was shared by Rabbi Shahar at the March 2018 Members Meeting:

Last year, as I was reading through the Reconstructionist Haggadah, a few lines of commentary caught my eye. Mordecai Kaplan, the founding thinker of Reconstructionist Judaism, wrote in his journal that, “The Seder is essentially a lesson in education... it is intended to point to the spirit in which a people must learn to educate its young.” He continued to outline three principles about education and Judaism that can be taken from the ritual of the Passover Seder:

1. Education can and should constitute a religious experience.
2. The parental responsibility for the education of the child should be prior to that of the state.
3. The most important training which any education should afford should be a training in freedom (April 14, 1943).

I find these principles complex, profound and agitational—and I shared them at the Members Meeting as an invitation for all of us to consider what kind of Jewish learning we want and need for ourselves and our community.

The first statement is the most straightforward—the Seder is a religious ritual AND it is clearly intended as a teaching moment. The symbols of the Seder—matzah,



Lior Namerow-Klein (l) and Micah Pilcher (r) practiced their training in freedom at the March for Our Lives on March 24. Photos by John Tlumacki, Boston Globe, and Sheryl Koenigsberg.

INVITATION TO CLASS SIYYUMIM!

At the end of the year, our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes each lead a shabbat service that they have been studying over the course of the year.

Come support them in their leadership, hear their beautiful voices leading prayer, and learn from their teachings, which will be included in the services:

Kita Dalet—Erev Shabbat, Friday, May 4
Kita Vav—Shabbat Morning, May 5
Kita Hey—Shabbat Morning, May 19

maror, charoset, an egg—are intended to provoke the questions that get us started retelling the story of the Exodus. As both a religious practice and a teaching moment, the Seder is intended to touch our souls, and Kaplan challenges us to set similar goals in the rest of our contexts for teaching and learning. Real learning happens when our souls are engaged. Our CDT school programs aim to highlight the spiritual components of our learning through participation in *ma'ariv* (evening) and *shacharit* (morning) services—we’re not just learning about the prayers. I also aim to support the teachers in seeing their work as part of their *avodah*—their Jewish spiritual service to the community—with the assumption that this approach helps them experience teaching and learning as part of their Jewish practice.

Kaplan’s second principle highlights that this fundamental Jewish ritual happens at home. The primary influence in a child’s education is the family. It also goes farther, though, by contrasting the role of family to the role of the “state.” I take from this an invitation for each family to consider seriously their own values—what do you want your children to grow up with?—whether or not it is supported in the broader world. And how can our community’s school best reflect the values that our families hold? In our school, we not only offer “Parenting through a Jewish Lens” classes, but also learning for parents’ continuing education, as well as learning in connection to their children’s classes. A few years ago, CDT thought deeply about articulating our communal values—are we living up to them?

Finally, Kaplan’s third principle claims the root of what Jewish education should be about— the value of freedom. As we retell and relive the Exodus story, we should find that holiness is in this process of liberation. I scanned the CDT school curriculum, and freedom definitely comes up in various classes—but I appreciate the challenge of thinking about all of education focusing in this direction. As you approach your Seders this year, I invite you to consider what freedom means to you, where we have it and where we’re still stuck—and how we as a community can take the value of freedom more seriously.

Nediv Lev

NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN OFF TO A GREAT START

by John Carroll

Each year CDT members contribute “from the heart” to the Nediv Lev campaign, the only fundraiser of the year. Our Nediv Lev target is \$76,500, which is about 13% of this year’s CDT budget. These funds help support the school, as well as activities and programs that help us come together as an inclusive and caring community to respond to our local, national and global challenges.

Thanks to contributions from CDT Leadership (Board and off-Board Chairs and Co-chairs and Past Presidents) and those who chose to contribute early in response to changes in the tax laws, Nediv Lev has already collected over \$35,000, or about 45% of the goal! Letters went out to the entire congregation in March. We encourage you to contribute whatever is meaningful to you by using the pledge form and envelope enclosed in the mailing, using the form at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/members/nediv-lev-online-pledge-form> or looking under “Giving” on the CDT website. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for improving the Nediv Lev campaign, please contact the CDT Nediv Lev Chair, **John Carroll** (jcarroll@mit.edu).

Support CDT Through Amazon.com

Buy your books, electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time!

CDT is an Amazon Associate. When you click on the Amazon link on the bottom of the CDT homepage (www.dorsheitzedek.org), a small portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. It’s an easy way to support the congregation while doing the online shopping you were planning to do anyway!

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Miriam Bronstein—*in memory of my mother Tamar Bronstein, Tamar bat Rivka v/haRav Shmuel*

Feinfeld Family—*in honor of David Shumsky winning the Lincoln Laboratory Administrative Excellence Award*

Nancy Gertz

Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb

Lisa Goodwin-Robbins

Sharon Gorberg—*in memory of George L. Gorberg, my beloved father*

Laurie Gould—*in memory of Robert Gould*

Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein

Annette Jacobs—*in memory of Dora Jacobs; in memory of Siegmund Levarie*

Jen Kaplan and Susie Tanchel—*in memory of Rabbi Dan Kaplan, Jen’s father*

Jessica Keimowitz—*in memory of Robert Keimowitz*

Idit Klein and Jordan Namerow—*in memory of Gina Fried*

Linette Liebling—*in honor of Lissy Medvedow and her amazing leadership!*

Frances Malino—*in memory of Rhoda Malino*

Shirley Milgrom—*in memory of my beloved mother, Esther Milgrom*

Gertrude Nemeth and Rachel Nemeth Cohen—*in memory of Leonard Nemeth*

Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus

Ruth Paris and Rob Saper

Elaine Pollack—*in memory of Jack Friedlander*

Deborah Waber—*in memory of my father, Isadore Waber*

Robert M. Warren—*in memory of Evelyn and Thomas Wilcox, parents of Meg Wilcox*

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sharon Shumak and Rabbi Michael Luckens—*in memory of Gina on her second yahrzeit*

Nessa Spitzer—*in memory of Gina Fried, on her second yahrzeit*

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

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. The Camp Havaya Fund helps CDT members send their children to Reconstructionist summer camp.

Chesed

Learning GriefSpeak

by Ellie Goldberg

Our community 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. One goal of the Chesed community is to help people overcome reluctance or inhibitions about reaching out to each other.

We share resources that we hope will encourage gestures of kindness and healing connections that mean so much, especially when a person has a loss or serious illness.

A new book I highly recommend is *Modern Loss, Candid Conversations About Grief: Beginners Welcome.*, by Rebecca Soffer and Gabrielle Birkner, founders of the website <http://www.modernloss.com>. Over 40 contributors share their experiences with loss and grieving. The drawings and cartoons are as wise and wonderful as the stories, including *A Brief Guide to GriefSpeak* and *The Dos and Don'ts of Building Your Crew*.

There are additional Chesed resources at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>.

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

The Chesed Coordinators for April are **Dianne Lior, Ellen Pashall** and **DB Reiff**. If you need to contact them with a Chesed request, or for suggestions, recipes or questions, please email chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.



Photo by Ellie Goldberg.

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, please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** (confidentially) 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 completely confidential.

MAZEL TOV

To **Maayan Magaziner** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

To **Izzy Feinfeld** and his family, on becoming bar mitzvah!

To **Elaine Landes** and **David Felson**, on the *brit bat* of Zoe Reva Landes!

CONDOLENCES

To **Marla** and **Gabby Cummins**, on the death of Marla's father, Herbert Cummins. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Eric Karp**, and to **Steffi, Josh, Dan** and **Adam Karp**, on the death of Eric's father, William Karp, may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Melanie Adler**, and to **Andy Cohen, Avi, Gabe**, and **Eli**, on the death of Melanie's father, Lloyd Adler. May his memory be for a blessing.

YAHARZEIT

This month we remember **Jill Volk**, a founding member of CDT, whose 11th yahrzeit falls this year on April 26. We will be remembering Jill at Shabbat morning services, April 28. May her memory always be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

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

CDT Calendar

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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.						March 31 Shabbat Morning Service (Pesach)) 9:45am-12pm
April 1	2	3 Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm Leadership Development Program 60 Highland Street, Sanctuary 7:30-9:15pm	4 Executive Board Meeting Home of Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen 7:30-9pm	5 Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	6	7 Pesach 8th Day Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
8 Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 7 JCDS 9:30am-12pm Open Skate Practice Chez Vous Roller Rink 3:30pm Board Meeting 60 Highland Street, Living Rm 4-6pm Matahari Women Workers Event 60 Highland Street, Room 111 5:30-7:30pm	9 Jewish Life in Medieval Spain with Dr. Fran Malino 60 Highland Street, Sanctuary 7:30-9pm	10 Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm Zornberg Reading Group 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9pm	11 CEC Meeting 60 Highland Street, Room 111 7:30pm	12 Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	13 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6pm	14 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm CDT Sings Rehearsal Living Room 12:45-2:30pm
15 CDT Softball Forte Park, Newton 10am	16	17	18	19 Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	20	21 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12pm, Room 111 CDT Film Club: Menashe Member's Home Potluck at 6pm, Movie/Discussion at 7pm
22 CDT Softball Forte Park, Newton 10am	23	24 Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm Leadership Development Program 60 Highland Street, Sanctuary 7:30-9:15pm Zornberg Reading Group 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9pm	25	26 Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	27	28 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Spencer Goldman 9:45am-12pm
29 Religious School (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am-12pm Religious School Open House JCDS 9:30-11am CDT Softball Hamilton Field, Newton 10am	30 May 1	May 1 Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm Zornberg Reading Group 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9pm	2 Executive Board Meeting Location TBA 7:30-9pm	3 Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	4 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck & Kitah Dalet Siyyum 6pm	5 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

APR 7 Shabbat Morning Service: Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome (captain) / Marion Ross / Doug Hersh

APR 13 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Karen Leitner (captain) / Hali Diecidue / Deborah McEwan / George Howard

APR 14 Shabbat Morning Service: Laya Steinberg—*in memory of Victor Steinberg* & Bruce Miller (captain) / Carolyn Fine Friedman—*in memory of Sara Fine* & Jeremiah Friedman—*in memory of Mark and Pepi Friedman*

APR 21 Shabbat Morning Service: Elaine Pollack (captain) / Phyllis Glazerman / Jackie Fleischman & Stan Fleischman

APR 28 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Spencer Goldman: Sanctuary Cleanup: Stephanie Hackett / Linda Hsu; Ushers: Marc Steinberg / Michael Brann & Michele Arons

MAY 3 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Noah Rumpf / Mike McEwan / Margo Michaels / Rachel Pytel (captain)

MAY 5 Shabbat Morning Service: Sharon Gorberg (captain) & John Holohan / Diane Becker / David Nathan

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. Thank you!

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.

Reconstructionist News

2018 RECONSTRUCTIONIST LEARNING NETWORKS

Reconstructionist Learning Networks connect leaders and members of affiliated Reconstructionist communities with RRC faculty, leading authors, social justice activists and Reconstructing Judaism staff. Network participants meet online to explore the issues that matter most to their community through case studies, texts, and real-life challenges.



Networks are free for members and staff of affiliated communities, RRA members, RENA members, and direct contributors. New networks starting in April include:

- How to lead the morning (shacharit) service
- How can Reconstructionist communities market their best selves?
- Developing your community across generations

For more details, contact Shosh Lovett-Graff or call 215-576-0800, ext. 124, or go to <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/networks>.



A large contingent of CDters attended the NE Jewish Labor Committee seder on March 25, where Rabbi Toba was honored. Photo by Bill Shorr.



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

Time's Up Wendy's!



Rabbi Toba with colleagues and staff from *T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*, in NYC at the Coalition for Immokalee Workers' "Time's Up Wendy's March."

The workers were ending a 5-day fast and called on the chairman of Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program, to protect farm-workers in the tomato fields of Florida.

For more than two decades, the CIW—a group of poor, immigrant farm workers—have utilized powerful tools of nonviolent protest to change the labor practices of massive fast food and grocery corporations.