



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tammuz/Av/Elul 5778 July-August 2018

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
617-965-0330 | www.dorsheitzedek.org | info@dorsheitzedek.org

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

by Lissy Medvedow, CDT President



AS THE LAST column of my first year as CDT President, I want to take this opportunity to thank, acknowledge, and extol the virtues of outgoing leadership and welcome our incoming leaders. First and foremost, gratitude goes to my wonderful husband, **Cliff Cohen**, who has served as VP of Finance and Treasurer for the past three years. Treasurer is a big job in any organization, and at CDT it required learning Rakefet, an antiquated system that, happily, we will no longer be using. Cliff mastered the system and has forecasted budgets, kept our finances on track, and prepared and presented endless budgets to the Executive Committee monthly, to the Board bi-monthly, and at several end-of-year Members Meetings. For members who may have been struggling a bit financially, Cliff has also been the confidential resource for alternative arrangements. As he does with everything, Cliff took the role seriously and, if that weren't enough, he magnanimously agreed to stay one extra year so that he would still be Treasurer when I became President. Thank you, Cliff, for all you've done these past three years.

After the March Members Meeting at the Jewish Community Day School, where I implored everyone to consider stepping up to the VP of Finance/Treasurer role (among

CDT Board and/or the Executive Committee for six years. She has served as Board Member-at-Large, Secretary, First Vice President, President, and now has ended her Executive Committee tenure as Immediate Past President. Jen has been an incredible role model. I've said this before, but it's worth repeating, Jen's generosity knows no bounds. She answers every question, responds to every phone call, and provides continual wisdom, support, and friendship. She served as President during the excruciatingly painful time of Gina



Members of the 2018-2019 CDT Board: Bill Shorr, Rob Greenly, Margo Michaels, Lissy Medvedow, Rochelle Weichman, Laurie Gould, Bob Warren, Jamie Tessler, and Bill Weinreb. Photo by Jen Kaplan.

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other volunteer opportunities), **Ezra Hausman** reached out and took the leap. Thank you, Ezra, for being the hero of the Medvedow/Cohen household.

Jen Kaplan, who really deserved to be thanked first, but I'm not married to her, has been on the

Fried's final days, stepping in and stepping up to be a constant presence at CDT. Jen is smart, thoughtful, methodical, and oh, so nice. She cares deeply about CDT, and in her every action, demonstrates that dedication. I have learned a tremendous amount from Jen and though she may be off the Board, she's not done with me and my pesky emails. Thank you, Jen, for your extraordinary service to this congregation.

Ellen Hemley has been our VP of Leadership for the past two years. Ellen joined the Executive Committee with a specific goal—to encourage leadership by creating a leadership development program. In conjunction with **Rob Greenly**, incoming VP of Leadership (and outgoing Secretary), Ellen achieved her goal. This past year, we offered

continued on next page

a three-part series on leadership development that exceeded everyone's expectations. The workshops were educational and inspirational. We learned about the history of CDT, heard the stories of two past presidents (thank you, **Allison Hausman** and **Cindy Shulak-Rome**), shared thoughts on best leadership qualities, and engaged in meaningful dialogue. Creating content for an entirely new program requires an enormous amount of effort. Thank you, Ellen, for serving on the Executive Committee and for taking on such an important initiative. And since I happen to know that Ellen and Rob have plans for additional workshops next year, thank you, Ellen, for your willingness to continue working on developing a pipeline of leaders for CDT.

Board Members-at-Large **Nancy Gertz**, **Ruth Paris**, and **Steve Zisk** are also stepping down. As we persevere in our efforts to clarify the role of At-Large Board members, Nancy, Ruth, and Steve collectively brought their insights to the conversations. Each of them offered unique contributions to CDT, and their thoughtful, warm, and engaging perspectives have benefitted the Board. Thank you, Nancy, Ruth, and Steve.

I also want to thank three outgoing Off-Board Chairs: **Abby Cohen**, **Meryl Epstein**, and **Sharon Sevransky**. Abby gave so much of herself to the multitude of Tikkun Olam activities, including the powerful Mother's Day Walk for Peace that she has spearheaded for the past many years. This year, 70 CDT members walked, raising more than \$3,000. Meryl brought her talents to the Membership and Welcoming Committee as Co-Chair, working alongside **Benita Danzing**. Sharon helped to re-energize the Children's Education Committee with **Andy Stefano**. Thank you, Abby, Meryl, and Sharon.

Where members step off, others step up. I want to welcome two incoming Off-Board Chairs: **Abby Schwartz** and **Josh**

Komyerov. Abby will be co-chairing our Inclusion Committee with **Susan Nitkin**; Josh will be joining Andy Stefano as co-chair of the Children's Education Committee. Thank you, Abby and Josh.

The theme this year has been stepping up to leadership and, towards that end, we implemented a new nomination process where members were empowered to nominate themselves or others for Board and Executive Committee roles. Thank you to **Nancy Gertz**, **Paul Hattis**, and **Bill Weinreb** for creating the process, and to **Alison Lobron** who served on the Nominations Committee. I'm so appreciative of **Laurie Gould**, **Margo Michaels**, and **Dan Rome** offering to serve as Board Members-at-Large, and **Bob Warren** and **Rochelle Weichman** volunteering for the Executive Committee. Rochelle has accepted the position of Secretary and Bob will be the inaugural VP of Tikkun Olam. Tikkun Olam's myriad social justice initiatives so deeply embody CDT's core values and engage so many members, the Board voted to expand the Executive Committee by adding a VP of Tikkun Olam.

As a community, we are truly fortunate to have leaders who exemplify our core values. To all those stepping off and stepping up, to our remaining Executive Committee members **Rob Greenly** (VP of Leadership), **Bill Shorr** (VP of Education), and **Jamie Tessler** (VP of Membership/Welcoming), remaining Board Members-at-Large **Emily Mathis**, **Jordan Namerow**, and **Bill Weinreb**, and to the many Committee Chairs and teams, your kind hearts, commitment, passion, and generosity of spirit and time imbue our congregation with goodness, spirituality, and the pursuit of justice. Thank you ever so much. I look forward to another great year at CDT.

CDT

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

Staff & Board

Staff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt
Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman
Program Associate: Lidia Prunte
Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin

Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedow
VP Finance: Ezra Hausman
VP Membership: Jamie Tessler
VP Education: Bill Shorr
VP Leadership: Rob Greenly
VP Tikkun Olam: Bob Warren
Secretary: Rochelle Weichman

Board Members-at-Large

Laurie Gould, Emily Mathis, Margo Michaels, Jordan Namerow, Dan Rome, Bill Weinreb

Off-Board Chairs

Chesed: Elaine Landes
Children's Education: Andy Stefano & Josh Kameryov
Inclusion: Susan Nitkin & Abby Schwartz
Nediv Lev: John Carroll
Newsletter: John Holohan
Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome
Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman
Space Liaison: Jen Kaplan
Tikkun Olam: Abby Cohen
Website: Dan Halbert
Welcoming: Benita Danzing

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between Rabbi Toba 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, Liz Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, DB Reiff, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

Shabbat and Holidays

SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICES SCHEDULE

During the months of July and August, we hold two Shabbat mornings services each month, plus one all-ages erev Shabbat service in the month of August (there is no all-ages service in July). Weekly Shabbat morning services resume on September 1.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

July 14, July 28, August 11 and August 25
9:45 am - noon, followed by Kiddush lunch

Shabbat morning services are led by CDT members in July; Rabbi Toba returns in August. Join us for song and silence, prayer and reflection, and Torah study.



ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

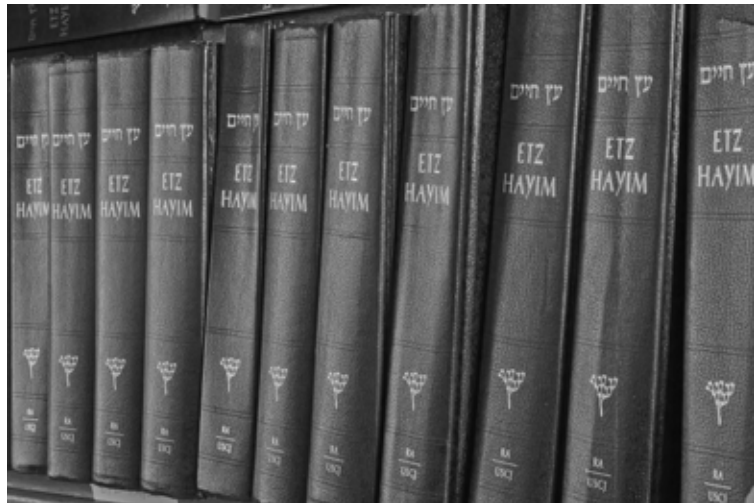
Friday, August 10
6:00 pm, candle lighting and potluck vegetarian dinner; 6:45 pm, service

All are welcome to this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6:00pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner. Please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15–20 people (drinks and dessert are provided). A musical service begins at 6:45pm, followed by dessert at 7:30pm.

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 1, 8:00 - 10:00 pm
60 Highland Street, Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

We enter into the spirit of the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, with this program focusing on the theme of *teshuvah*, “turning/returning.” Beginning with Havdallah, dessert and schmoozing, we will then have a “Moth”-style storytelling program, with CDT members sharing stories of their own moments of “turning” and forgiveness. We’ll close the evening with music of the High Holydays season and time for personal reflection and meditation.



Photos by Vivienne Shein.

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

CDT FILM CLUB

The film club is on hiatus until the fall. See you in October!

For information about the film club or if you'd like to host a film, contact the co-chairs, **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper**, film-club@dorsheitzedek.org.

POTLUCK DINNER WRAP-UP

by **Debby Saltzman**

The 2017/18 CDT community potluck dinners started off in October with seven Sukkot dinners on a beautiful fall weekend, with subsequent dinners in January, March, and May, a total of 26 households hosted almost two hundred CDT guests for Shabbat and Havdalah dinners in Newton, Brookline, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Watertown, Boston, and Brighton.



Sue Weil, Debby Saltzman, John Saltzman, Sandy Goodman, and Marla Cummins shared Shabbat dinner at Sandy and Sue's home in May. Photo by Debby Saltzman.

Some potlucks were kid-friendly; others were adults only. Many dinners featured creative themes to get conversation going: guests shared songs, family stories, favorite plays, and recipes. Excellent conversation ensued as guests shared delicious food with old friends and brand new members. At **Ellen Lubell's** house, dinner companions had a lively conversation about historical figures they'd invite to dinner, and **Sandy Goodman**, who hosted in May, reported that "conversation flowed easily around the table, like old friends getting together, even with people we've never met or don't know well, simply because everyone brings a spirit of openness to their potluck meal and dinner companions."

If you didn't get a chance to attend a potluck dinner this year, there will be more opportunities starting again in the fall, so watch for the announcement that sign-ups are open. Please contact **Debby Saltzman** (debbysaltzman@gmail.com) if you would like to host a potluck dinner at your home, and if you build a sukkah and are willing to host during Sukkot, we will be looking for hosts soon!

PARTY IN THE PARK: SUN, SONG, GAMES, AND FOOD FOR THE BODY AND SOUL!

Sunday, August 19, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

"The Cove" in Auburndale Park, West Pine Street, Newton

Rain location: FUSN, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton: Head Start Room (upstairs)



Come join us for a kosher cook-out with games, music, and lots of fun! This is an opportunity to learn more about CDT and our religious school with Rabbi Shahar Colt, CDT's Director of Congregational Learning. We provide kosher BBQ items (meat and veggie). Please bring a salad/side dish, drink or dessert to share.

If you have questions, please contact Rabbi Shahar at dcl@dorsheitzedek.org



Shira and Gabriel Lobron in a three-legged race (l), and more Party in the Park fun (r). Photos by Shahar Colt and Jen Kaplan.

MEETING IN HOMES

by Audra Karp and Lisa Schneier

The CDT Economic & Class Diversity Study Group is a group of ten CDT members who have been meeting since March 2017 to explore the effects of economic and class diversity in our lives and in the congregation. At last November's Members Meeting, we presented our work, including stories of personal experiences, with economic and class differences. We then asked those present to note on index cards experiences of economic and class diversity at CDT. One theme that emerged from the note cards was members' awareness of and sometimes discomfort with being in others' homes and/or hosting CDT events in their own homes. The feelings ranged from increased awareness of CDT's economic spectrum to significant discomfort. Discomfort was felt throughout the economic range.

After a follow up meeting, many in our study group noted that we could relate to feelings of discomfort and shame that came with hosting or visiting homes, and we decided to explore this further. We considered moving our meetings to each other's homes, but due to the discomfort that caused, we decided to wait and talk honestly about the discomfort first. Feelings of shame and embarrassment came from all ends of the economic spectrum: my home is too small or too big, too dilapidated or too fancy. We began to talk about the assumptions that we reside in and the painfulness of those assumptions: "people will see me this or that way because of my home." "I see others this or that way because of their homes." We also talked about the structures of the society and the economic system that we (and our assumptions) are products of.

Once we were able to talk in this way, we then decided to start to have meetings in each other's homes and continue to explore this experience. When we went to the first home, we were moved to say the *Shehecheyanu* prayer, expressing our gratitude "for allowing us to reach this moment." We learned about the aspects of this person's home that were causing her discomfort and also about those that were most precious to her. We have now been to three homes and, by bringing attention to the experience, we have felt the sacredness of being invited into this dimension of a person's life. We will keep meeting in homes in the coming fall, and hope to bring our learning to the congregation. Stay tuned, also, for other ways that CDT members will be asked, in the coming year, to participate in learning and other efforts around economic/class issues.



CDT Mascot Nola, with CDT President Lissy Medvedow.

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped with kiddush last month: **Becky Cohen, Marni Caputo & Tim Caputo, Michael Brann & Michele Arons, Emily & David Shumsky, Karen Engels, Pamela Rosenstein, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, James Kaplan, Allison Andrews, Stephanie & Nem Hackett, Scott Gordon, Joel Auslander, Rachel Davenport, Jodie Siegel (Captain), Mona Pollack, Linda Kramer, Ilana Joy Streit, Marcia Okun (Captain) & Joshua Lieberman, Rachel Kelemen & Josh Brown, Janet Penn, Betsy Hinden, Nem Hackett, Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent, Benjamin Newman, David Schatz, Peter Shapiro, Mark Paley (Captain), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Deborah Waber (Captain), Elliot Pittel—in memory of Dorothy and Aaron Pittel, Daniel Lesser, Myra Schwartz, David Roll, Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola (Captain), Sarah Hartman, Rob Greenly, Josh Komyerov, Rebecca Cohen, Rebecca O Murchadha, Betsy Hinden (Captain).**

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Shirley Milgrom**.

YAHZRZEIT

This summer we remember CDT member **Debbie Sher**, whose 7th yahrzeit falls on August 25. We will be remembering Debbie at Shabbat morning services that day. 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.

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.)

Tikkun Olam

“VOTE YES” FOR DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR OUR TRANSGENDER NEIGHBORS

by Rachel Kelemen and Joshua Brown

In 2016, Massachusetts passed a landmark state law banning discrimination against transgender people in public spaces, allowing everyone to use public spaces free of discrimination. The law is about ensuring that transgender people have the same basic protections as everyone else and can live their lives with safety and dignity. This law is now under threat.

An anti-LGBT campaign has gotten a referendum to repeal the anti-discrimination law onto the November 2018 ballot. This referendum would legalize discrimination against transgender people in restaurants, hotels, doctor's offices and all other public spaces, making transgender members of our community less safe. We are mobilizing CDT members to fight this regressive ballot measure and preserve equality in our state. This is the first statewide effort opponents of equality have undertaken, and *we want to make sure that Massachusetts stands strong and for equality.*

Why is it so important for all of us, cis or trans, to fight this initiative? Proponents of discrimination against transgender individuals falsely claim as their principal motivation that women and children will be endangered if we continue to allow trans community members to use facilities aligned with their gender identity. These pernicious pretexts exploit public sympathy for victims of sexual violence. We must all stand up and proclaim that transgender people are not a threat and that we will not let oppressive laws be passed in our names. We owe it to our transgender friends, neighbors, and children to make sure that this ballot measure is resoundingly defeated.

Unfortunately, recent polling shows that public opinion on this issue is more closely divided than we would have hoped. A WBUR poll from earlier this summer found that only 52 percent of people were in favor of keeping the current nondiscrimination law. This is too close for comfort. Furthermore, the wording of the ballot question itself is confusing. A “yes” vote means that we will keep the current law (rejecting the ballot measure), while a “no” vote means that the current law protecting transgender people will be repealed (denying their rights to use facilities corresponding to their gender identity in public). In an election where turnout is likely to be low, this confusing and closely contested ballot initiative needs voters to be educated and motivated to vote YES.

This summer we will start coordinating with Freedom for All Massachusetts, Keshet, and other civil rights organizations to phone bank, canvas, campaign, and host fellow volunteers. As November approaches, keep your eyes out for more information on how to become more active in this movement. In the meantime, please visit Freedom for All Massachusetts at www.freedommassachusetts.org and Keshet at www.keshetonline.org, and start talking with your friends and neighbors about how important it is to defeat this referendum.

Finally, remember—vote “Yes” for dignity and respect for all.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DA MAKES

by Barbara Shatkin

On June 13, the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force held a program in CDT's sanctuary that was open to the public and part of the ACLU's “What a Difference a DA Makes” public education campaign. Rev. Rahsaan Hall, Director of the ACLU's DA Campaign, as well as its' Racial Justice Program, shared findings from a recent ACLU-sponsored survey on the public's knowledge



Attorney Rahsaan Hall of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. Photo from ACLUM website.

about DAs and racial disparities in criminal justice. He spoke about the critical role DAs play in advancing reforms in the criminal legal system, and how DAs have a lot of leeway and influence when charging individuals accused of lesser crimes and in decisions to recommend probation, treatment, or diversion programs, and that their decisions can either perpetuate or fight racial bias. Rev Hall emphasized the power that voters have to hold DAs transparent and accountable, and the critical need for community engagement. DA races this year in Middlesex and Suffolk Counties are contested, so it's especially important that voters understand the significance of their vote when going to the polls to vote for their DA and make sure their candidate is running on a platform of reform.

The event was co-sponsored by GBIO, the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton, the ACLU, and more than a dozen other social justice organizations. Over forty people attended, many of whom were already familiar with criminal justice reform issues. Audience members asked numerous questions that further illuminated the need to transform the current criminal legal system.

Learning

Religious School Notes

A Goodbye and a Hello

by Rabbi Shahar Colt, Director of Congregational Learning

This summer we are saying “goodbye” to **Alison Lobron** as our religious school’s Inclusion Coordinator (but don’t worry, she’s not leaving CDT!). After serving as co-director of the religious school in my first year, Alison stepped into the newly created role of Inclusion Coordinator two summers ago. Alison has blazed an incredible path as our first Inclusion Coordinator, working with students and families to make sure that our school can accommodate a range of learning styles and that our classrooms are places where are all of our kids feel welcome and included. She has also worked with our madrichim—our teen aides—to develop their skills as support staff in our classrooms on Sunday mornings, and has created a program for teaching our 4th through 6th graders the skills to chant the prayers of the evening and morning services. We truly cannot thank Alison enough for all she has done as Inclusion Coordinator, both within the school community and beyond.

And although she leaves big shoes to fill, we are excited to welcome **Amira Shulman-Kumin** this summer as our new Inclusion Coordinator!

Amira brings a wealth of experience to the project of inclusion in the CDT Religious School. With a background as an elementary school reading specialist, Amira has worked with students of all ages and with a wide range of special needs. She has collaborated with other teachers in helping those students in inclusion classroom settings, as well as working with students individually. She has worked with parents to identify priority areas and to develop plans for their children’s success, both within her schools and as a private consultant.

Though working in a religious school context will be a new step, Dorshei Tzedek is a familiar community to Amira, as she has



joined our High Holy days services for several years and was raised in a Reconstructionist synagogue. She is also an active member of the Moishe Kavod House community, a young adult Jewish community in the Boston area. At Moishe Kavod, she has been involved with their Farm to Shul team and, more recently, in their accessibility work for young adults with a variety of inclusion needs. We look forward to her sharing

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am
60 Highland Street, First Floor Parlor
(SUMMER MEETING LOCATION)

CDT members and guests are welcome at this weekly meditation session—no background necessary, nor a weekly commitment! If possible, please try to arrive by 8:30 am in order not to disrupt the silence.

insights from her inclusion work at Kavod House with us at CDT.

Amira looks forward to getting to know the CDT community, especially the young people. As a self-identified reading nerd, she is looking forward to thinking about how to best support Hebrew reading instruction, especially for students that are already challenged by reading and writing in English.

Amira lives with her partner, Nathan, and dog, Jackson, in Watertown. In addition to her teaching work, Amira enjoys researching and reading children’s literature, cooking, playing board games, and practicing American Sign Language.

You can meet Amira at our All Ages Shabbat in September, during High Holy day family/youth programs, as well as, of course, at religious school.



2018 RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM CONVENTION

Thursday through Sunday, November 15-18
Philadelphia, PA

Registration subsidies available from Reconstructing Judaism and from CDT

This is the first national Reconstructionist gathering in many years, and we hope to have lots of CDT members there. Highlights include: workshops on themes including social justice, Jewish identity, re-imagining communities, and teaching Reconstructionism; varieties of daily and Shabbat prayer experiences; music, storytelling, yoga, meditation, and much more! To learn more and to register, go to www.reconstructingjudaism.org; if finances are an obstacle, please be in touch with Rabbi Toba.

Nediv Lev

WE DID IT!!

by John Carroll, Nediv Lev Chair

With huge thanks to everyone who participated this year, I am thrilled to report that we blew past our Nediv Lev campaign goal of 76,000, collecting over \$105,000!

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

Susan Silberberg—*in memory of Ross Silberberg*

Marjorie Greenberg—*in honor of Isabel Snyder's graduation from R.I.T.*

Jeff Kichen—*in memory of Alma Kichen*

Diana Fisher Gomberg—*in memory of Lawrence Stephen Fisher*

Ellie Goldberg—*in memory of my mother Theresa Koenigsberg and my mother-in-law Reva Goldberg*

Margo Michaels

Annette Jacobs—*in memory of my grandmother Sofie Loeweherz*

Steven Siegel—*in memory of Sylvia Siegel*

Nancy Gertz—*in memory of Junius "Babe" Gertz, my father*

Michele Arons and Michael Brann—*in honor of Tal Shalom Kobi and her musical contributions to CDT*

Michael White and Craig Sorenson

Alice Markowitz—*in memory of my parents, Selma and Milton Markowitz*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Beth Brooks—*in honor of Jackie and Stan Fleischman*

Haralie Alpert—*in honor of the bar mitzvah of Spencer Goldman*

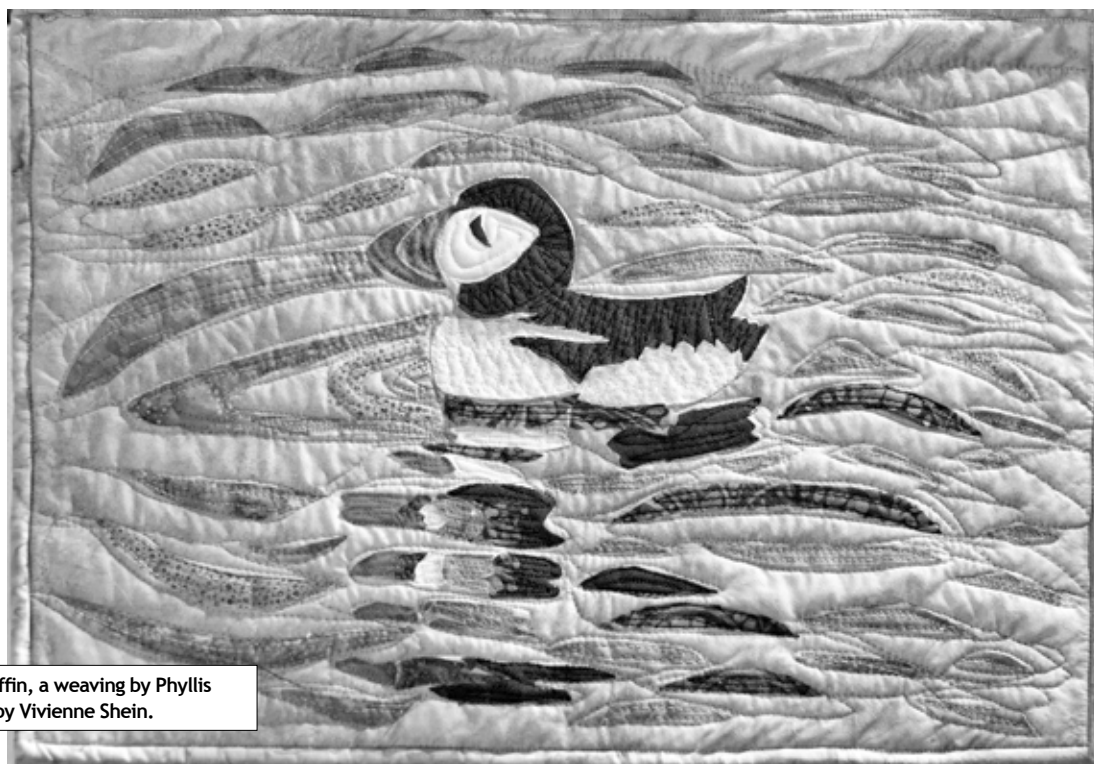
Sharon Shumak and Rabbi Michael Luckens—*in honor of Marion Ross and Louise Enoch, wise leaders of the Wise Aging group*

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND



Summer is here, and you can see this puffin, a weaving by Phyllis Kantor, in our sanctuary gallery. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

On and Off the Bima

ON AND OFF THE BIMA: AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

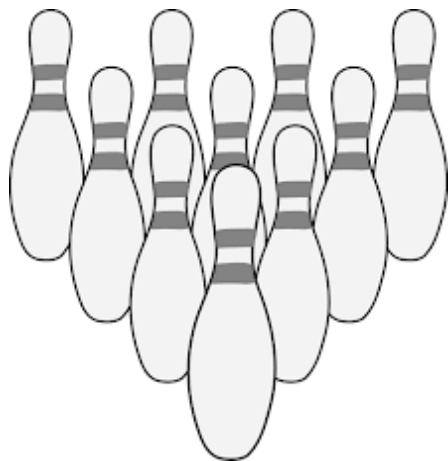
WHY A MINYAN?

by Rabbi Elaine Pollack

The word *minyan*, a noun meaning “count,” represents the value we place on requiring that a group of ten adult Jews is needed to say certain important prayers in community. For example, when CDT has a *shivah minyan*, we do so for a mourner to be able to recite the Kaddish prayer in community. At a recent meeting, the Ritual Committee of CDT pondered the following question: How did minyan come to be defined as ten?



A minyan of Ritual Committee members was present when asked to hazard a response to our own question. The responses ranged from: The Ten Commandments? The Ten of Twelve Scouts in the Torah portion *Shelach L'cha*? The ten righteous people needed for God to agree to save Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction? The ten men at the gate



of the city who judged that Boaz could be a redeeming kinsman for Ruth in the Book of Ruth? The ten plagues in the Passover story? The mathematical concept of “base 10,” which has been around since Roman times? And, finally, a few said, “I’m not sure, but I’d like to know!”

Of course, Rabbi Google had all the sources for our question, so we’ll follow that trail. First we turn to the *Mishnah* (the first “how to” book of Jewish practice). Then, onward to the Babylonian Talmud, a more

than four hundred year conversation of the rabbi-sages that records their decisions about Jewish law, as well as their creative imaginings and explanations of text.

In the Mishnah, we learn about minyan and when we can or cannot say certain blessings. A commentary explains: “This mishnah (*Megillah 4:3*) teaches that the reading of the Torah and the Haftarah may not be performed in the presence of fewer than ten people.” The word “congregation” is used in connection to ten men in the story of the spies who were sent to scout out the land of Israel in the book of Numbers. When they came back and told the people there were giants in the land and that they wouldn’t be able to conquer it, they terrified the whole community. God, in exasperation says, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation?” By linking this passage to others that talk about “congregation” in a more positive sense, the Talmudic rabbis established the principle that ten (originally



only men) constitute a quorum for reading Torah.

Later Jewish commentators expanded on the circumstances in which a minyan is required. Some include times when a “call” requires a congregational response, as does the Call to Prayer (*Barechu*) as well as the blessing said when we go up to honor Torah (*aliyah* blessing). At other times, we find that we are affirming a value in community, as in the *Aleinu*, or the various forms of the Kaddish prayer and the *Kedusha* in the *Amidah*, all sanctifying God’s name and affirming God’s greatness.



Community is a beautiful and magical thing to behold. It is a commitment not just to Jewish values, but to each other. We support each other, console each other, and share the joy of *simchas* together. We strengthen each other, ourselves, and the Jewish people when we choose to participate in communal prayer and events. “Stronger together!”

CDT Calendar

July/August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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.</p>						
						June 30
1	2	3	4	5 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	6	7
8	9	10	11 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	12	13 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm	14
15	16	17	18 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	26	27 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm	28
29	30	31	August 1	2 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	10 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6pm	11 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
12	13	14	15 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	16	17	18
19 Party in the Park Auburndale Park 11:00am-1:00pm	20	21	22	23 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	24	25 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
26	27	28	29	30 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Parlor 8:30-9:15am	31	September 1 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm Leil Selichot Service 8-10pm

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

JUL 14 Shabbat Morning Service: Ellie Goldberg (Captain) / Linda & Peter Katz

JUL 28 Shabbat Morning Service: Lauren (Captain) & Andrew Stefano / Nathan Aronow

AUG 10 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Noah Rumpf (Captain) / Joshua Herzig-Marx / Hali Diecidue

AUG 11 Shabbat Morning Service: Diana Perretta (Captain) / Wendy & Charles Frankston

AUG 25 Shabbat Morning Service: Tessa Goldsmith (Captain) / Barry Ingber—*in memory of Milton Ingber / Laurie Goldman*

SEP 1 Shabbat Morning Service: Wendy Gedanken (Captain) / Elaine Pollack / David Felson / Noam Shore

SEP 1 Selichot Service: Leah Diskin (Captain) / Ora Gladstone

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 & 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.

Chesed

Chesed Kindness

by Ellie Goldberg

Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give. When we participate in acts of Chesed, loving-kindness, we enrich each other and ourselves.

LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) is your connection to Chesed. Join Chesed at CDT on the LHH website. You'll receive requests for meals, rides, or errands and other ways you can offer a gesture of kindness when a member has a major life event such as the arrival of a child, a death in the family, an injury or illness.

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



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

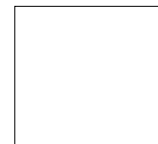
Chesed Coordinators for July are **Susan Nitkin, Ami Gordon and Ellie Goldberg**. The Chesed Coordinators for August are **Annette Jacobs, Lisa Hirsh and Elaine Landes**. If you have requests, suggestions, recipes or questions, please contact chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Rabbi Toba will be out of the office for much of July and on retreat during parts of August; while she is away, please be in touch with **Rabbi Shahar** for any pastoral or rabbinic support: dcl@dorsheitzedek.org. For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is completely confidential. To request help, please contact Rabbi Toba at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

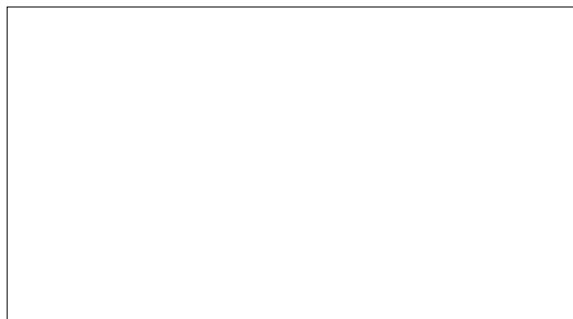


Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Photos by Laya Steinberg.

Summer hands needed for a big fall harvest

The CDT Garden welcomes 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 Steinberg** at lasword@rcn.com for more info.

