



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

## Chesvan/Kislev 5779 November 2018

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

## In Praise of Movements



by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

**TWO NOVEMBER EVENTS** loom as I write this column: the mid-term elections on November 6, and the first Reconstructionist movement-wide convention in a decade, a week later. The first admittedly will have far more impact on the world than the latter, but they are linked in my mind for one important reason: movements matter.

In the realm of politics, change does not happen because of a charismatic candidate or a successful TV ad campaign. Change—of whatever ideological type—happens when a group of people with a vision band together and put all the resources at their disposal into transforming laws and institutions. Rosa Parks was not an unattached individual claiming her rights; she was a trained activist who was part of a growing movement agitating for African-American equality. Same-sex marriage did not become the law of the land because of a natural evolution of human consciousness; LGBTQ people had been organizing and pushing for change since the spark of the Stonewall riots in 1969. On the right-hand side the political dial, a well-organized, well-funded campaign of over 40 years to turn back the gains won by the labor, civil rights, women’s and environmental movements has largely succeeded in reshaping American law and controlling a majority of state governments along with Congress and the presidency. And we are living in a moment when a new tide of organizing to turn the dial in a more progressive direction is beginning to rise.

In the American Jewish world, on a much smaller scale, we sometimes forget that



Rabbi Toba Spitzer, along with other Boston religious and political leaders, led a prayer vigil on the Boston Common on Sunday for those slain in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh the day before.

much of what we take for granted—the full involvement and leadership of female and queer Jews throughout much of the Jewish community; the transformation of liturgy to incorporate modern sensibilities; a more expansive view of ‘who is a Jew’; the inclusion of interfaith families—also did not just “happen.” Both the Reform and Reconstructionist movements have been at the forefront of these changes over the past century. When Mordecai Kaplan, writing in the 1920s and ‘30s, put forward his vision for “reconstructing” American Jewish life, he was not seeking to create a new denomination of Judaism. He simply believed that the force of good ideas would bring about a transformation of American Jewish institutions and ideology. Yet while Kaplan’s ideas were indeed influential,

much of what he advocated remained in the realm of theory, not practice.

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In the 1960s, Kaplan's son-in-law Ira Eisenstein convinced him that the only way to get what were then radical ideas into the Jewish mainstream was to establish a rabbinical seminary—effectively creating a new denomination of American Judaism. And so the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College was established in 1968. Kaplan's individual innovation in calling his daughter to the Torah as a bat mitzvah in 1922 took on institutional and movement form as RRC began admitting women as candidates for ordination in 1969 (the first rabbinical seminary to do so). Our movement went on to be the first to admit and ordain openly gay and lesbian rabbis (beginning in 1984), to affirm same-sex Jewish marriage (in 1992), to elect a queer person (me!) as the head of a denominational rabbinical association in 2007, and most recently, to appoint both a female and a lesbian (Rabbi Deborah Waxman) as the head of the organization that houses our seminary and our congregational arm, Reconstructing Judaism, in 2013.

None of these changes just “happened”; they were the outgrowth of a vision and an ideology, based in Kaplan's teaching that Judaism must evolve to meet the changing realities of actual Jews. They were the result of organizing and effort by rabbis, congregational members, and faculty of the RRC. The reality of being a movement, even if a small one, meant that changes needed to be accepted and embraced not just by the leadership of the movement, but also by the people in the congregations. Our movement pioneered the use of lay-rabbinic

commissions to study issues like inclusion of LGBTQ people in Jewish communal life, developing materials and workshops to help congregations wrestle with potentially challenging and contentious issues.

None of these changes just “happened”; they were the outgrowth of a vision and an ideology

movement, had not decided to ordain queer people by the early 1990s. The value of inclusion that we hold so dearly at Dorshei Tzedek—a value that doesn't mean just “tolerance” of difference, but an embrace of so many different kinds of people in our community—is a stance that has been nurtured by movements of progressive Judaism for many decades. And this month, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, I am thrilled that I will be in attendance in Philadelphia when over 500 Reconstructionists from around the country come together to learn, worship, and celebrate together. What will our movement look like in another 50 years? I have no idea. Maybe new structures and denominations will have arisen to take the place of what exists today. But I have no doubt that all we have built since Kaplan first imagined a new kind of American Judaism will deeply influence all that comes to be.

I write this at a time when denominations are considered passé, as if Jewish life can mysteriously organize and motivate itself, organized around charismatic individuals (and wealthy funders). I have to respectfully but forcefully disagree with this view. Individuals might be symbols of positive change, but they never cause it. I could not have become a rabbi if RRC, followed by the Reform

# 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 Pruenne  
 Inclusion Coordinator: Alison Lobron

## Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedov  
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 VP Education: Bill Shorr  
 VP Leadership: Rob Greenly  
 VP Tikkun Olam: Bob Warren  
 Secretary: Rochelle Weichman

## Board Members-at-Large:

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## Off-Board Chairs

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

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org). Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address.

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

# Shabbat & Holidays

## AYLA KOBI BAT MITZVAH

*Shabbat Morning, November 3*

The Kobi family is delighted to invite our CDT community to join us in celebration when our daughter Ayla Kobi is called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah. We hope many of you will be able to join us for the services, Kiddush lunch, music and dancing from 12:30-2:30pm.

One of Ayla's passions is organizing things. She loves organizing events, clothes, accessories, cabinets, school supplies, etc. – something which affected her choice for a Tikkum Olam project. Working as a Teen leader for Cradles to Crayons, she was able to put this particular talent to use, hosting donation drives, bake sales and volunteering in the giving factory. Thanks you all for your generous support for this great cause!

## TAMAR THAI'S ARONS-BRANN BAT MITZVAH

*Shabbat morning, November 10*

Michele Arons and Michael Brann invite the CDT community to celebrate Tamar Arons-Brann being called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Tamar is a 7th grader at F. A. Day Middle School and enjoys gymnastics, dancing, playing violin and piano, all at the same time (just kidding!). She also loves reading and logic puzzles. She will be chanting from Parashat Toldot. The service will be followed by a kiddush lunch. We hope you can join us!

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

*Friday evening, November 2, December 14, January 4*

*6:00pm candle lighting & 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 6:00pm, 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 dessert at 7:30pm.

## TOT SHABBAT

*November 10, December 8*

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for families with kids age 5 and younger, led by CDT members Tal Shalom-Kobi and Becca Ó Murchadha. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts, and more! Tot Shabbat meets from 10:45am-noon in November and December.

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

*Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40am, November 10th, December 8th, January 12th*

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for an exploration of the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries both traditional and contemporary. No previous experience in Torah study necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.



Ayla Kobi collected donations as a Teen Leader for Cradles to Crayons for her Bat Mitzvah Tikkum Olam project.

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 9:45AM. 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

## YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

*During Shabbat morning services*

*9:45am-noon, Saturday, December 1*

Would you like to get to know other young adults at Dorshei Tzedek?

This year, rabbinical student and CDT teacher Frankie Sandmel will be acting as our young adult coordinator, helping young adults find each other and figure out how they fit into the broader CDT community. There will be a few events over the course of the year, starting with a meet up at Shabbat morning services on Dec. 1st. You can also reach out to Frankie directly to get to know them and talk about what you're interested in: [sara.sandmel@gmail.com](mailto:sara.sandmel@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU TO SANCTUARY VOLUNTEERS

**By Sandy Goodman**

In the summer of 2017, CDT signed a covenant to participate in the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaboration (NSSC), and in January 2018, NSSC welcomed a family into sanctuary. Danielle Klainberg represents CDT on the NSSC Core Committee and Sandy Goodman is our volunteer coordinator.

Volunteer Companions are the heart of our sanctuary work. Companions are present in the host church around-the-clock in case the sanctuary guests request assistance or support and in the event that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shows up.

Companions sign up for volunteer shifts ranging in length from three to 10 hours, including overnights. A smaller cadre of volunteers takes care of the family's weekly laundry. Thank you to the following CDT members who volunteered as companions and/or did laundry between August 1st and October 15th (please forgive us if we left anyone out): **Annette Jacobs, Abby Cohen, Amy Mazur, Ayelet Lipton, Barbara Shatkin, Barry Ingber, Barbara Kassler, Stacey Chacker, Cindy Rivka Marshall, Danielle Klainberg, Elaine Landes, El-**

**len Lubell, Sue Weil, Sandy Sedacca, Jenny Sartori, Lidia Prunte, Marcia Okun, Miriam Bronstein, Ramona Pollock, Pamela Rosenstein, Rachel Pytel, Sandy Goodman, Sarah Hartman, Susan Cammer, Susan Brecht, Corinne Lofchie, Ellie Goldberg, Lisa Hirsh, Paula Spies.**

## ATTENTION NEW WISE AGERS

**By Louise Enoch**

CDT will once again be offering an eight session introduction to Wise Aging, based on the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit*, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal. This program has already "graduated" three cohorts, each of which has found the experience to be moving and meaningful. We want to expand the opportunity to more CDTERS who may want to explore the joys and challenges of this next phase of life. Wise Aging encourages people to push back against the societal limitations set for older people, as well as fortify themselves with spiritual coping skills to face what can be hard about these next years. The group is open to anyone over the age of 60.

If you are interested in possibly joining our next group, please contact me at [lpnoch@rcn.com](mailto:lpnoch@rcn.com) by November 15. If you have any questions, please ask me or find an older member of the congregation who looks like they are living with joy, resilience, and spirit. More than likely they have been in this program and would be happy to answer your questions!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### PRINTING PRESS WORKSHOP - WITH CDT HEBREW LETTERS!

*Sunday evening, 6-8:30pm, December 16*

*Reflex Letter Press, Boston*

Join Rabbi Shahar for a hands-on workshop, learning to use a letter press with antique Hebrew letter blocks. This is an opportunity to make cards and decorative pieces while learning about the significance of the Hebrew letters which we found in the Dorshei school office a few years ago! Space is limited and RSVP required; contact Rabbi Shahar at [dcl@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dcl@dorsheitzedek.org).



Rabbi Toba opened the November Members Meeting with the song "Olam Chesed Yibaneh/I Will Build this World with Love".

# Community

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Elana & David Cutler**, and to **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Dan and Ben Rome**, on the birth and brit milah of **Gabriel Jonah Cutler!**

Mazel tov to **Shira Lobron** and **Lev Gordon**, and their families, on becoming bat mitzvah!

## Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT members **Susannah Zisk**, whose 7th yearzeit falls on November 23, and **Alex Fried**, whose 11th yearzeit falls on November 30. We will be remembering Susannah at Shabbat morning services on November 24, and Alex at Shabbat mornings service on December 8th.

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Andy Cohen, Stan Fleischman** and **Lissy Medvedow**.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to **Mark Farber, Sherry Katz, and Nate** and **Jake Farber**, on the death of Mark's mother, **Phyllis Farber**; may her memory be for a blessing.

## MOURNING AT CDT

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

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members **Diane Shufro** and **Matthew Shuster**.

## TODAH RABAH

A huge thanks to **Tal Shalom-Kobi, Terry Traub** and **John Chambers** for their music on Simchat Torah; to Torah-roller extraordinaire **Bill Shorr**; and to **Dianne Lior, Sue Lanser** and **Elaine Pollack** for chanting the closing and opening verses of the Torah!

*Todah Rabah* to everyone who helped with kiddush last month:

**Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn** (Captain), in memory of Kayla Flynn, **Reva Kasman, Sheree Galpert, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein**, in memory of Norman Weinstein & **Kevin Hsu-Weinstein** (Captain), **Debby Saltzman, Hope Kellman, Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg** (Captain), **Jacqui Bloomberg, David Felson, David Shumsky** (Captain), **Tony Broh, Debbie Isenberg, Rachel & Chad Pytel, Chagit Steiner, Marla Cummins, Becca Gutman** (Captain), **Valerie Graf, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis, Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp, Jennifer Greenberg, Lynda Goldberg & Joseph Bayes** (Captain), **Barbara Huggins Carboni, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Benita Danzing, Lori & Pushkal Garg, Marion Ross** (Captain), in memory of Benjamin and Diana Levenson, & **Robert Ross, Miriam Bronstein**, in memory of Tamar Bronstein, **Amy Mazur**, in memory of her parents, Rhoda & Marvin Mazur, **Robin Bernstein** (Captain), **Barbara Beck**, in memory of Irving & Edith Beck and **Stephen Beck, Jyl Lynn Felman &**

**Lynne S. Brandon, Pamela Reider** (Captain) & **Joel Reider, Carol Sklar**, in honor of the Wise Aging Group, **Jodie Siegel, Sarah Birkeland, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Karen Engels, Jordan Schwartz, Doron Gan, Susan Silberberg, Polly Crozier, Jessica Keimowitz, Josh Komyerov, James Kaplan, Michele Arons & Michael Brann, Sara & Ben Dash, Matt Fried, Stacey Chacker, David Schatz, David Greenberg.**

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

## CDT Events

### CDT FILM CLUB

*In Between* (2016, 96 min., Hebrew, Arabic) Saturday, November 17, at the home of **Elaine Landes** and **David Felson**.

Potluck at 6:00pm, with movie at 7:00pm followed by discussion

A witty and buoyant comedic drama about three independent young Palestinian women living in Tel Aviv struggling to find their way through Arab-Israeli culture, nightlife, and identity.

Potluck at 6:00pm, movie starts at 7:00pm, 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 con-

sideration 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.

We hope you can join us! Contact the co-chairs, **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper**, [film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org), for more information or if you'd like to host a film. Future films and dates (subject to change):  
December 15: Restoration  
January 12: Hannah Arendt  
February 16: Sand Storm  
March 16: A Green Chariot  
April 13: The Insult  
May 11: In Search of Israeli Cuisine

# Religious School Notes

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR CDT TEACHER!

**Rachael Cerrotti** is a documentary photographer, writer and educator. She came to Dorshei in the spring of 2017 to present her project, “Follow My Footprints,” where she traced her grandmother’s refugee story from pre-war Prague through life in Denmark and the United States. As our 7th grade teacher in the fall of 2017, Rachael introduced her grandmother’s story as a deep way for our students to learn about the Holocaust, refugee experience, survival, and storytelling. We nominated her for the Jewish Women’s Archive Twersky Award, which is given to educators raising up historical Jewish women’s voices. We are so pleased that Rachael was recognized as a finalist. You can find more about her and her award winning lesson at <https://jwa.org/twersky/cerrotti-rachael>.

## CELEBRATING SIMCHAT TORAH WITH OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS

A series of conversations last year revealed that we could really use more spaces for families with young children to come together. Our holiday programs were often after bedtime, which prohibited many children (and their parents) from celebrating them. It was time to address this, so (among other things) we added in two new programs for Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Simchat Torah is a holiday where people dance with the Torah scrolls, and at CDT we unwrap the whole Torah around the sanctuary so we can really see what’s in it. We encounter the physical Torah more than on any other day of the year, and we celebrate the fact that we get to read and learn from it all year long. It’s not the only holiday celebrating Torah—on Shavuot we celebrate receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai, and we mark the occasion with an evening of Torah learning—but Simchat Torah is the time when we dance circles around the synagogue because of Torah.

As I observed the Simchat Torah program, led by “Morah Devora” (Devora Rohr, our lead nitzanim/gan teacher) I was re

ally struck by how deeply she was able to capture the spirit of the holiday and share it with some of our youngest members. To get started, the students created their own miniature “Torahs” (writing or drawing what is most important to them on the inside), and they played with Hebrew letter puzzle mats. Then Devora told them a story about what the Torah is. Using simple props—brown cloth representing the desert, small pieces of parchment with Hebrew text, a box, cloth and dowels, she described how the Israelites used to carry around their most precious stories in a box, but that got unwieldy, especially as they added more special stories. Eventually, they sewed their stories together, and created a scroll that they could open up and read to each other. We still today love to read these stories because the stories help us understand the world, and it tells us about who we are. Before our eyes, Devora created a Torah scroll, covering and all. The children were captivated (and so was I).

After the story, the children got to see a real Torah up close, and then we all danced in a circle, with the real Torah, dozens of plush Torahs and the little Torahs the students had made, as Rabbi Toba played some Simchat Torah songs. It felt like we were truly honoring both the physical Torah and all the stories and teachings that make the Torah worth celebrating.



Rabbi Toba, Rabbi Shahar, and Nitzanim/Gan teacher Devora Rohr hosted a fun Simchat Torah program for our youngest members. Here, Rabbi Toba is showing everyone what the inside of the Torah looks like, and how to use a yad to read the words.

# Tikkun Olam

## TIKKUN OLAM MEETING

Tuesday, November 13, 7:30-9pm

60 Highland Street

All are welcome for this upcoming meeting about our new Tikkun Olam structure at CDT, with a chance to give input on how we make decisions about which campaigns and issues to take on, as well as an opportunity to get an update on all of the amazing social justice work happening at CDT. If you have questions, please contact **Bob Warren**, VP of Tikkun Olam, at [rmwarren53@gmail.com](mailto:rmwarren53@gmail.com).

## JEWISH COMMUNITY GOTV CANVASS DAY FOR TRANS RIGHTS

November 4, 2018, 10:00am-3:00pm

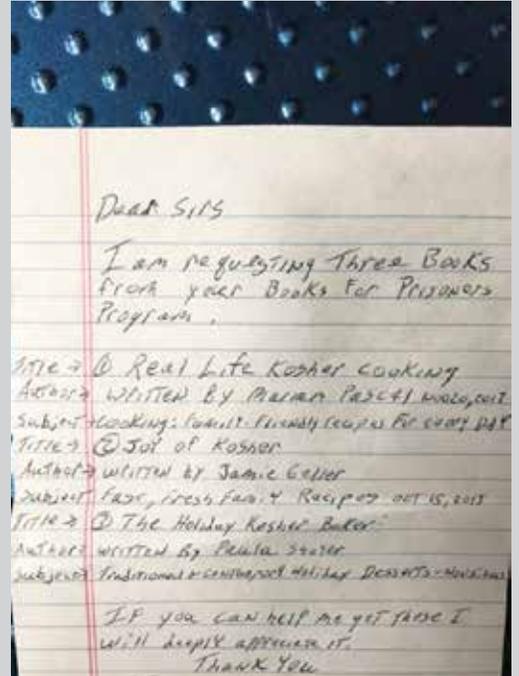
Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington Street, Auburndale

All are welcome to partner with Freedom for All Massachusetts for a day of door-to-door canvassing in Newton in support of protecting the rights of transgender people in Massachusetts. This is an effort to get out the vote (GOTV) on behalf of the "Yes on 3" campaign, in response to a ballot question which seeks to strip away rights passed by the legislature two years ago. Whether you're a veteran canvasser or new to door-knocking, the event is open to all and will include a training on how to be an effective canvasser, including how to share the message of the campaign and respond to frequently asked questions. Find out more by visiting [www.jrcrboston.org/author/jcrc/](http://www.jrcrboston.org/author/jcrc/).

## KOSHER AND JEWISH COOKBOOKS AND HEBREW LANGUAGE BOOKS NEEDED!

The Prison Book Program (PBP), an organization that sends free books each year to thousands of incarcerated people around the country, gets frequent requests for modern Hebrew language books and dictionaries, kosher and Jewish cookbooks, and other Jewish-themed books. If you have any gently used, Jewish-themed paperback books you'd like to donate, please bring them to CDT's Chanukah party on Sunday, December 9th. Your donation will improve people's lives at a time of cuts in educational programs for prisons. If you want a tax receipt for a large number of donated books, please email [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com).

While volunteering in October, Ellen Lubell tried to locate books from the PBP's collection of donated books to meet this prisoner's request.



Light refreshments will be served. Dietary guidelines will be observed.

*This event is co-sponsored by Yes on 3, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the MA Board of Rabbis, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action.*

## Newsletter Help Needed!!

Do you enjoy the newsletter and want to contribute?

Volunteers are urgently needed to help produce our monthly newsletter. No experience needed - we'll train you!

- Editor - compiles content and edits
- Graphic Designer - selects photos and uses Adobe Indesign to create the layout.

Editors and designers rotate so that each person ideally works on only 3-4 issues per year.

Contact John Holohan, newsletter chair, for more information, at [John.Holohan@mathworks.com](mailto:John.Holohan@mathworks.com).

# Learning

## SHABBAT AND SUSTAINABILITY: THE RADICAL PRACTICE OF REST

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and guest teacher  
Laya Steinberg

Remaining classes: Thursday evenings,  
7:30-9:00pm, November 1 & 8

The practice of Shabbat, one of the fundamental pillars of traditional Judaism, can be experienced as oppressively restrictive or radically liberating. What is the meaning of Shabbat, and how do we make it relevant to our lives? How can Shabbat be understood not only as a personal, spiritual experience, but also as a social-political-environmental practice? In this class we will study traditional and modern texts on Shabbat, and explore how we might develop or deepen our own Shabbat practice, as individuals and as a community.

## NEW CLASS! EXPLORING EXODUS

Pre-registration is required

with Rev. Alvan Johnson, Rabbi Toba  
Spitzer and Rabbi Shahar Colt

(for members of Grant A.M.E. Church and  
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek)

Thursday evenings, Jan. 31, Feb. 14 & 28,  
March 14 & 28, April 11

7:15pm-9:00pm, in West Newton and  
Roxbury

The story of the Israelites' Exodus from slavery in Egypt is the "master narrative" of the Jewish people, and has inspired African-American struggles for freedom from slavery through the Civil Rights movement. In this class, we will do a close reading of the Biblical book of Exodus and examine commentaries from the Jewish tradition, Black liberation theology, and contemporary authors. We will learn not only from the text but from one another, as we wrestle together with timeless questions of oppression and resistance, the burdens of lead-

ership and the challenges of becoming free. Registration link can be found on the CDT website, <https://dorsheitzedek.org/adult-education>. Class size will be limited; we ask that participants make a commitment to attend all of the classes.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am

60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, helping us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, clarity and compassion. On the first Thursday of each month, Karen Arnold leads a meditation based on the weekly Torah portion, and Rabbi Toba leads the meditation on the second Thursday of each month. Other group members lead the meditation on other mornings. All are welcome, whatever your level of meditation experience (or lack thereof!).

# Jewish Community Events

## LIMMUSBOSTON CELEBRATES JEWISH CULTURE

Sunday, December 2, 2018, all day

Hold the date for LimmudBoston, the annual festival celebrating Jewish culture, which takes place all day, Sunday, December 2, at Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington

Street, Auburndale. LimmudBoston offers something for everyone: text talks, parenting, panels, social justice, food demos, storytelling, music and more. See the schedule, and register today! [www.LimmudBoston.org](http://www.LimmudBoston.org)

# Chesed

The Chesed (Loving-Kindness) Committee coordinates our congregation's response to a member's life cycle event such as a birth or adoption, illness, or death. By asking for Chesed, you give others an opportunity to do a mitzvah and both giver and receiver build connections that strengthen our community.

Whether a meal, errand or ride, these gestures of practical comfort and caring acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times.

Chesed Coordinators facilitate the match between the recipient and one or two volunteers using the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) website. We encourage all members to sign up for our LHH community, "Chesed at CDT" at <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

See inspirational articles, recipes and resources on the CDT Chesed web page "Chesed (Caring Community)" <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>.



## CHESED QUESTIONS?

[chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org)

November Chesed Coordinators are **Fran Malino** and **Ellie Goldberg**. Contact them at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

RABBI TOBA IS AVAILABLE TO TALK ABOUT ANY SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS OR PERSONAL ISSUES THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO DISCUSS. TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT RABBI TOBA (CONFIDENTIALLY) AT [RABBI@DORSHEITZEDEK.ORG](mailto:RABBI@DORSHEITZEDEK.ORG) OR 617-965-0330. RABBI SHAHAR COLT, OUR DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING, IS ALSO AVAILABLE AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT [DCL@DORSHEITZEDEK.ORG](mailto:DCL@DORSHEITZEDEK.ORG). RABBI TOBA DOES NOT CHECK EMAIL OR VOICEMAIL ON SHABBAT (FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING) OR ON MONDAYS (HER DAY OFF). FOR CONGREGANTS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, HELP IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND. THIS FUND IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

# Nediv Lev

*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.*

*Unfortunately, the list of Nadiv Lev contributors was not available in time for this month's newsletter. The list will be included in December edition. The newsletter staff apologizes for this omission.*

*We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.*

## GENERAL FUND

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

## SCHOOL FUND

## RETREAT FUND

## HOLY BOOKS FUND

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

## BUILDING FUND

## 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 at [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. It's an easy way to support the congregation while doing the on-line shopping you were planning to do anyway!*

# CDT Calendar

# November 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am  Shabbat and Sustainability: The Radical Practice of Rest 7:30pm to 9:00pm	2 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6:00 pm	3 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Ayla Kobi 9:45am to 12:00pm
4 Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm  Parenting Your 'Tween Through a Jewish Lens 7:30pm to 9:00pm	5	6 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	7 Exploring the Bible 2:00pm to 4:00pm	8 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am  Shabbat and Sustainability: The Radical Practice of Rest 7:30pm to 9:00pm	9 CDT Erev Shabbat Community Potluck Dinners 6:00 pm	10 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am  Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Tamar Arons-Brann 9:45am to 12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm
11 Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm	12	13 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm  Tikkun Olam Meeting 7:30pm	14 Exploring the Bible 2:00pm to 4:00pm	15 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	16 Reconstructionist Convention Philadelphia	17 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm  CDT Film Club 6:00pm
18 Parenting Your 'Tween Through a Jewish Lens 7:30pm to 9:00pm	19	20 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	21 Exploring the Bible 2:00pm to 4:00pm	22 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am  Thanksgiving- CDT Office Closed	23	24 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
25	26	27 Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm	28 Exploring the Bible 2:00pm to 4:00pm	29 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am  TO Steering Committee Meeting 7:00pm	30	December 1 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm

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

**NOVEMBER 2, EREV SHABBAT:** Dan Halbert (Captain) / Shirley Milgrom / Webster Pilcher / Janelle Winston

**NOVEMBER 3, SHABBAT:** **Sanctuary Cleanup:** Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner

**Kiddush Setup:** Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan / Karen Engels / Susan Silberberg / Josh Komyerov / Jennifer Greenberg

**Kiddush Cleanup:** Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner / Jeff Goldman / David Greenberg / Rebecca Gutman / Audra Karp  
**Ushers:** Emily & David Shumsky

**NOVEMBER 10, SHABBAT:**

**Sanctuary Cleanup:** Karen Engels / Deborah Albenberg

**Kiddush Setup:** Marni & Tim Caputo / Tal Shalom-Kobi / Susan Kaufman & Laura Schulz / Jennifer Nichols

**Kiddush Cleanup:** Tal Shalom-Kobi / Jerold Gelfand / Jeff Goldman / Karen & Jeffrey Arnold / Audra Karp

**Ushers:** Alison & David Lobron

**NOVEMBER 17, SHABBAT:** Elaine Landes (Captain) & David Felson / Dianne Lior / Frances Malino

**NOVEMBER 24, SHABBAT:** Idit Klein (Captain) / Marjorie Salvodon, in memory of Luce Attignol & Rose Marie Salvodon, & Mark Schafer

**DECEMBER 1, SHABBAT:** Linette Liebling (Captain), in memory of Zelda Liebling / Judy Herzig-Marx & Chayim Herzig-Marx, in memory of Chia Herzig / Ellen Pashall

**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.

# Shabbat & Holidays

## IMAGES OF SUKKOT 2018 AT CDT



Did you know you can access the newsletter at any time online? Learn more at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/newsletters>



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**  
60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



# SAVE THE DATE - 2019 CDT RETREAT

## JUNE 14-16, 2019

### CAMP YAVNEH, NEW HAMPSHIRE



CDT's bi-annual retreat weekend is happening this June! Come celebrate Shabbat, get to know other CDT members, enjoy the lake, fabulous activities and great food – **stay tuned for registration details!**

