



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Adar 1/Adar 2 5779

March 2019

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

Photo by Allison Hausman

Hearing Voices

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



FOR THE PAST few years, I have been writing and teaching about new ways of thinking about God that get beyond the “Big Old Guy in the Sky.” I have discovered “new” metaphors that are actually quite old, found in some of our most ancient Jewish texts. Our ancestors related to the realm of the sacred with a

beautiful palette of non-human metaphors, including everything from Water to Place to Stone to Cloud and more.

One of the more intriguing Biblical metaphors for God is the Hebrew word *kol*. “Kol” can mean “voice” or “sound” more generally. When they arrived at Mt. Sinai, the Torah tells us that the Israelites experienced many *kolot*: the voices of Moses and of God, the sounds of the ram’s horn and of thunder. Over and over again, the Israelites are told to “listen to God’s voice,” which means receiving instruction for holy living. This phenomenon of experiencing the Divine through sound goes beyond what we hear with our ears. My friend and colleague Rabbi Darby Leigh, who is profoundly deaf, says that he would translate *kol* as “vibration,” and connects it to contemporary physics and string theory. Rabbi Darby says that “we are saturated by these vibrational waves...God is the Vibration that saturates the universe.”

If we think of God as Voice, then it makes sense that a central Jewish practice is to recite, twice a day, the *Shema*—an instruction from the Torah to listen: “Listen, Israel; Adonai your God Adonai is One.” According to a famous Hasidic teaching, the Voice from Sinai is still speaking to us, if we can learn to hear it. We are called to listen to Being Itself, to experience the godly vibrations that saturate the universe.

At the end of January, a group of 25 CDT congregants gathered with a trainer from the organization Resetting the Table (RTT) to practice listening. This workshop was the result of over a year of preparation, spearheaded by a small group including me, **Rabbi Shahar, Elaine Landes** and **Louise Enoch**. The four of us had attended programs with RTT as part of an initiative funded by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston. RTT was founded by Rabbi Melissa Weintraub about a decade ago, to help American Jewish communities have productive conversations about a topic—



Israel—that is often the third rail of Jewish communal life. With some consultation with Rabbi Weintraub, **Louise, Elaine, Rabbi Shahar** and I decided to invite a diverse group of CDT members for an RTT training, as a step in helping us foster the tools we need to create a culture where our diversity of views on Israel/Palestine does not fracture our community.

There is sometimes a misperception at CDT that everyone in the community holds similar views on a range of issues. This assumption sometimes leads people to make offhand remarks that are hurtful to those who do not, in fact, hold those views. This happens more often than we might like to think when it comes to Israel. As someone who has in the past felt silenced due to my own views on this topic, I would never want anyone at CDT—whether they identify as left, right or center—to experience that same sense of silencing. To this end, I was thrilled that we received a grant from CJP to bring RTT to our community.

Their methodology is simple yet not easy. It rests on the assumption that when we feel truly heard, the barriers we put up—our defensiveness, combativeness, inability to hear another point of view—tend to fall away. What can then emerge is real conversation.

This sacred work of listening and talking across difference is happening in other ways at the congregation. For nearly two years now, a dozen CDT members from a variety of class backgrounds and

income levels have been exploring topics relating to economic and class diversity. Delving into topics generally considered taboo in our culture, the group has been learning and thinking together about how to create a culture here at CDT where we can address the deep economic injustices that shape our society, while also making clear that there is no shame in individuals having lots of money or having little. And our Israel-Palestine Peace working group recently hosted its second “Jewish Perspectives on BDS” program for CDT members, creating a safe space to learn and talk about an issue that is profoundly divisive within the Jewish community. And

“Their methodology is simple yet not easy. It rests on the assumption that when we feel truly heard, the barriers we put up—our defensiveness, combativeness, inability to hear another point of view—tend to fall away. What can then emerge is real conversation.”

there will be more opportunities in coming weeks and months to expand our sacred conversations—stay tuned for another event with RTT that will be open to the entire congregation, and for discussion groups on issues of class and economic diversity that will be facilitated by members of the original group.

One way to understand the central claim of the *Shema*—that YHVH, Being Itself, the Source of Life and Liberation, is One—is to understand YHVH as That which binds together the wildly disparate elements of reality. “Oneness” does not mean “sameness”—it means connection within diversity. It is this that we are instructed to “listen” for—the sound of the Divine Voice reverberating in each of our hearts and minds. May we learn to listen well, and may our own words be reflections of the Voice which speaks through us all.



Photo by Viv Shein from a 2017 Members meeting.

Rabbinic Liaison

Rabbinic Liaisons: While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with **Rabbi Toba** or **Rabbi Shahar**, there are other avenues through which to bring concerns. The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between **Rabbi Toba** and the congregation. 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 csrome@comcast.net. **Rabbi Toba**, as **Rabbi Shahar's** supervisor, is the person to whom to bring any concerns relating to **Rabbi Shahar** and her work for the congregation.

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 Prunte
 Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin

Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedov
 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:

Bill Weinreb, Jordan Namerow, Laurie Gould, Dan Rome & Margo Michaels

Off-Board Chairs:

Children's Education: Andy Stefano & Josh Komyerov
 Chessed: 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

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.

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

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Friday evening, March 1, April 5

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 to share; drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45pm, and we end with Oneg Shabbat dessert at 7:30pm.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

Saturday mornings, March 9, April 6, May 11
8:45-9:45am

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experi-

ence necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

WELCOMING EZRA ROBERTS

Saturday March 2, during Shabbat morning services

We will welcome baby Ezra, son of **Alli** and **Max Roberts**, during the Torah service at Shabbat morning services on March 2nd. Mazel Tov!

GOT SHABBAT?

Saturday morning, March 16, 9:45am-Noon

All are welcome for this celebration of Shabbat for all ages! We begin at 9:45am with morning songs and blessings, the most musical part of the service. Then at 10:15am, adults and kids are invited to choose from an array of possibilities, including: Purim-themed workshops such as Tot Shabbat,

Drama, and Yoga with Alix Zamansky. Our special “guest” teacher will be our very own **Susie Tanchel**, Bible scholar and teacher extraordinaire, exploring Leviticus, her favorite book of the Torah, which we begin reading this morning!

BAR MITZVAH OF SIDNEY HACKETT

Saturday, March 30, 9:45am

We invite the CDT community to join us as our son, **Sidney Hackett**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Sid is a seventh grader at Watertown Middle School. Some of his favorite activities are playing the bassoon in the school band and clarinet in the school jazz band, performing at Watertown Children’s Theatre, and watching sports—major league, minor league, college—it’s all good. With a side interest in the team logos! Following the service we hope you’ll join us for a festive kiddush lunch.

CDT PURIM CELEBRATION!

Wednesday evening, March 20, 7pm-9pm

1326 Washington Street, West Newton (First Unitarian Universalist Society)

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s...a flying hamantaschen! Get your costume ready, your gragger wound up, and your dancing shoes on, and come on down to the CDT Purim extravaganza! This is all-ages program includes:

- ***Purim davening** with the fabulous **Rav Tiffany, rabbi for the new millenium!**
- ***Costume parade** (prizes for kids and adults in costume— come as you wanna be!)
- ***Megillah reading** (give a shout when you hear You-Know-Who’s name!)
- ***The Purim Spiel** (the fate of the universe hangs in the balance)
- ***Purim dance party**, and **hamantaschen galore!**

And a few things to bring to the party, if you’d like:

Mishloach Manot – One Purim tradition is the exchange of sweets and other goodies with friends and neighbors. **Bring a mishloach manot plate to the Purim party** (plates can include hamantaschen, other sweets, fruit, what you’d like!) and take a different one home. **A little cash or a checkbook**, for the annual tradition of raising money for a good cause as a Purim mitzvah!

KLEZMER KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, March 29,
8:00pm-10:00pm

The Klezmer Kabbalat Service was created by Amy Lieberman and Cantor Becky Khitrik in 2014 as an outgrowth of their love for Klezmer music. “Since Klezmer is primarily an instrumental genre and we love to sing, we were interested in creating a Kabbalat Shabbat Service that was built on the Kabbalat Shabbat liturgy, but for choir and congregational voices, using the melodies of the Klezmer world and a Klezmer band to accompany our singing.” The result of that work was the Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat Service. They have brought this service to communities across

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

the Boston area, finding ways to integrate it with the community's context. This service is an opportunity to experience the flow of the shabbat music in a truly unique way— all are invited!

What is “Klezmer Shabbat”? **Rabbi Shahar Colt** writes: “One Shabbat last year, **Darya** (my partner) and I decided to visit our nearest synagogue on a Friday night. We had heard that there was going to be a special klezmer Shabbat program, but we couldn't quite figure out what that meant. Was it a concert in place of a service? Was it klezmer music accompaniment to the service? How would it compare to other Kabbalat Shabbat prayer services, and would we feel like we had really participated in a satisfying way?

“The experience of the Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat was definitely different and amazing. The creators are Jewish musicians with intimate knowledge of both the Kabbalat Shabbat liturgy and variations of Jewish musical traditions that have brought the words to life. With a live band and full chorus, it covered familiar tunes, some more participatory, some more performative, as well as music that was totally new to us. By the end it felt like we had been treated to something special, and I am so glad that we are bringing this musical experience of Kabbalat Shabbat to the Dorshei Tzedek community.”

MAZEL TOV

To **Ellie Goldberg** on the marriage of her daughter Reva Goldberg to Tim Metzger (pictured below). The marriage took place on December 7 in Brooklyn, NY.



Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat

Yahrzeit

This month we remember beloved CDT rebbetzin **Gina Fried**, whose 3rd yearzeit falls this year on March 3, and **Marion Weinberg**, whose yearzeit falls on March 11. We will be remembering Gina and Marion at Shabbat morning services on March 9. May Gina's and Marion's memories be for a blessing.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Lissy Medvedow, Carol Sklar, and Shirley Milgrom**.

CONDOLENCES

To **Nancy Gertz**, and to **Stefan and Julian**, on the death of Nancy's mother, Sandra Gertz. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Josh Lieberman, Marcia Okun, and Amalia, Michal, and Aryeh**, on the death of Josh's father, Alan Lieberman. May his memory be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

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

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member **Ari Appel**! Thanks to **Idit Klein** and **Jordan Namerow** for referring Ari.

A warm welcome to new member **Barbara Harris**! Thanks to **Carole Slipowitz, Ellie Goldberg, Ellen Lubell, and Joann Share** for the referral.

A warm welcome to new member **Joann Green Breuer**!

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped with kiddush last month:

Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Janice Cole, Lauren Gibbs (Captain), *in memory of Mara Gibbs and Pat Kook Gibbs*, **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Elana Rome Cutler, Sandy Goodman** (Captain) & **Sue Weil, Susan Nitkin** (Captain) & **Jeff Marcus, Abby Schwartz, Annette Jacobs, Madeline Steinberg**, *in memory of Anne Glazer & Mitch Feuer*, *in memory of Glenda Feuer*, **Andrew Garnett-Cook, Cliff Cohen** (Captain), **Vivienne & Norman Shein, Deborah McEwan, Corinne Lofchie** (Captain), **Jeff Kichen, Laya Steinberg**, *in memory of Victor Steinberg*, & **Bruce Miller, Elizabeth Roll** (Captain) & **Dave Roll, Liz Reisberg, Jenn Gupstill**.

Many thanks also, to **Ellie Goldberg** and **Judy Havens** for helping with composting at Shabbat Shira.

SANCTUARY NOTE

Sandy Goodman
CDT Sanctuary Volunteer Coordinator
Thank you to these CDT members who served as sanctuary companions with our Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative in February: **Annette Jacobs, Abby Cohen, Amy Mazur, Bonnie Tenneriello, Carole Slipowitz, Stacey Chacker, Cindy Marshall, Corinne Lofchie, Danielle Klainberg, Diana Fisher Gombert, Allison Andrews, Elaine Landes, Sue Weil, Sandy Sedacca, Judith Havens,**

Community & Events

Lidia Prunte, Lisa Hirsh, Marcia Okun, Miriam Bronstein, Ramona Pollack, Pamela Rosenstein, Sarah Hartman, Tatjana Meschede. Generating reports through the online scheduling platform (Sign-up Genius) may not be entirely accurate, so forgive me if I missed your name.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday March 16 at the home of Elaine Landes and David Felson. 6pm Potluck; Movie starts at 7pm, followed by discussion.

A Green Chariot (2005, 48 min, Hebrew, Russian)

Sasha's greatest wish is to become an Israeli. He has become religious, changed

his name to Yair and speaks only in Hebrew. He has completely cut himself off from his Russian past. But when Yair receives a package from his aunt in the Ukraine, his world is shaken. Something inside challenges everything Yair believes about himself and the person he has tried to become. —Amazon

Potluck at 6:00 pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. If you're coming to the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (in consideration of members with dietary constraints, if you are making a dish with dairy or wheat that can be added later, ie. salad

with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families. 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. Future films and dates (subject to change):

April 13: The Insult

May 11: In Search of Israeli Cuisine

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

Tikkun Olam

HELPING THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

by **Stacey Chacker**

At Shabbat services on Saturday, February 9th, we read about the building of the Mishkan, a holy space or sanctuary, and honored CDT members who volunteer as part of the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative (NSSC) and the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN) - - and there are many! Countless CDT members are serving as companions at St. Paul's, as volunteers with BIJAN - answering the hotline, raising money for bond, providing accompaniment to court or to a medical appointment, housing our immigrant neighbors coming out of detention, attending Jericho Walks, and in many other ways.

The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Grimshaw of the Parish of St. Paul, where NSSC is housed, joined us as a guest on February 9th, and inspired us with her words. She spoke of her appreciation for CDT and the other congregations which joined to make up NSSC, and to support the family who has been in sanctuary now for over a year. "I expected that our small endeavor was part of the larger movement to change the inequity and injustice of the national immigra-

tion system. But I have come to understand this work to be so much holier than that.", Rev. Gretchen shared, "It is about changing the paradigm of life together in a world that is uneven and unforgiving for those who ride on the margins, and more than enough good fortune for we who do not. And it is about our willingness to do that work without any fanfare; under the radar." To read Rev. Gretchen's entire talk, see *The Gifts We Bring*, posted on February 9th at <https://grimrev.com/>.

Why are we inspired to do this work? That was a question that **Sandy Goodman** asked at a gathering of CDT NSSC volunteers after the service. For some, it was related to what Rabbi Toba shared during the service, "in 1940, there were thousands of Jewish Communists at the Mexico/US border, trying to get into the US". Similarly, a few volunteers talked about churches or families who hid Jews during WWII, and how this is now our moral imperative. **Danielle Klainberg**, CDT representative on the NSSC Core Committee, pointed out that we are helping two children to stay with their mother, and just as importantly, offering hope to their family, friends and broader community, with our joint actions. We all agreed that this is a concrete (and fairly easy) way to help out! To become a companion with NSSC, email Sandy Goodman, sandragon4@gmail.com.

Helping the broader immigrant community is amplified through BIJAN - which helps countless immigrants in detention, and those coming out of detention. In December, **Janet Penn** trained five other CDT members on how to answer the BIJAN hotline (folks calling from detention to get connected to legal, medical or other advice, or just to get connected to talk to a loved one; for the latter, think Lily Tomlin (one ringy dingy), but with a major purpose).

Benyamin Meschede-Krasa, who grew up at CDT, and is now a young adult, has joined Janet and **Lea Tenneriello** (**Bonnie's** mom, in her 90's) as a regular! The hotline runs seven days a week, and always needs more volunteers! Contact Janet to learn about opportunities to be trained - janetpenn559@gmail.com. To receive emails about other ways you can help (e.g. someone needs a ride), sign up at bit.ly/join-BIJAN. And to help support BIJAN, come to a benefit concert on Sunday, March 17th, Noah Aronson and his band, at 4 PM at Temple Emanuel, Newton. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/2WXsddk>.

For more information on how to get involved, or with questions, contact **Stacey Chacker**.

Tikkun Olam

JOIN THE JERICHO WALKS IN BURLINGTON, MA

Every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm (3-2-1) Next walk on Tuesday, March 19

March in Solidarity with those being mistreated by an inhumane immigration system. The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. "The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths."

Walks take place at the ICE offices in Burlington, MA, 1000 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803.

For anyone interested in taking part and carpooling from Newton, or for additional information, feel free to contact **Amy Mazur** at acmazur@comcast.net.

"ISRAEL: JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC" STUDY GROUP

Wednesday, March 6, April 10, 7:30pm

In January, the CDT IPPeace group inaugurated a three-session study group focusing on Israel's dual status as a Jewish and democratic state. While Israel defines itself as both Jewish and democratic, the relationship between the two terms is not straightforward: neither term has a single meaning, and tensions between them are widely acknowledged.

In January, we began our study by familiarizing ourselves with some basic documents. In this second session, on March 6, we will explore key legal, religious, and political arguments for the compatibility of "Jewish" and "democratic" values as principles of governance. Our final session, on April 10, will consider challenges raised by two particular issues: the role of religion in law and policy, and the status and rights of non-Jewish citizens. Our goals for these sessions are to grapple with the complexity of "Jewish and democratic" as a principle of statehood, to be better able to make informed indepen-

dent judgments, and to engage more fruitfully in dialogue about Israel with friends and colleagues.

All members of CDT are welcome to attend and participate on March 6 whether or not you have attended the first session. We will meet in the library at 60 Highland Street. Readings will be available at this link: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1NdNmngpdbziHTOSMOWtnsMb6TkUkk3m_

If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the ippeace steering committee: **Louise Enoch, Elaine Landes, Sue Lanser, Ruth Paris, and Jonathan Rosenthal.**

CDT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

With the generous support of **Carolyn Fine** and **Jerry Friedman**, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the CDT Sustainability Initiative, staffed by our very own **Laya Steinberg**. Expanding upon her great work with the CDT Giving Garden over the past three years, Laya has been presenting sustainability workshops for both kids and adults at CDT about the environmental impact of our food system, and our consumption of single-use plastics. We are launching a new initiative to lessen our use of plastic and disposables at Kiddush lunches and other events with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint and eliminating unnecessary waste in our personal lives and at the congregation. Read on for an article from some of our students about this exciting new venture!

"Imagine having a cup and a plate that you could take anywhere you go. The Sustainability Initiative at CDT is making that a reality with our new "BamBaggies." We are creating sets of bamboo plates, bowls, cups, and utensils, plus metal straws (all made out of renewable resources), in bags made by kids and adults at CDT. Imagine going to Kiddush and not having to throw anything in the garbage at the end of the day! This is good for the earth, because there will be less plastic going into landfills; it doesn't hurt animals; and it is good for trees because it doesn't use paper. If everyone at CDT uses

SAVE THE DATE - 2019 CDT RETREAT

Camp Yavneh, New Hampshire, June 14-16, 2019

Mark your calendars! Our bi-annual retreat is an opportunity to enjoy Shabbat with family, friends, and community; to enjoy the beauty of woods and lake; to learn, do arts and crafts, take a nature hike, sing, try out yoga, share a talent, and much much more! Retreat registration is live – go to the CDT website for info!



Tikkun Olam

BamBaggies, it will have a big impact on the world. We all know children are going to inherit this world someday, so you should keep it in good shape for us!" –*Nate Feinfeld, Nuri Gutman, and Robyn Stefano*

Stay tuned for the March 10 Members Meeting, where the BamBaggies will be available for sale!

BOOK DONATION PROJECT FOR THE PRISON BOOK PROGRAM: AN INSPIRING RESPONSE FROM CDT!

Denise Yurkofsky

As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, 18 members of CDT participated in the Book Donation Project, purchasing 59 books which were specifically chosen to respond to requests by individuals in prison.

The Prison Book Program in Quincy is an organization which receives book donations and letters from individuals in prison requesting books on specific topics. Often, the books donated do not match the requests which come in. For the second time, the organizers of Prison Book Program provided us with letters written

by individuals in prison requesting books on specific topics and 18 members of the congregation either contributed funds to purchase books or selected and purchased books on the topics requested, such as drawing, weight training, software coding, learning a trade, starting a non-profit, and LGBT resources, among others. This was an inspiring response from CDT!

NEXT STEPS FOR GBIO AT CDT

Wednesday March 27, Room 111

Please RSVP to Alan Epstein (ade26g@gmail.com)

On January 23rd the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) staff organizers, Kathleen Patron and Zienab Abdelgany, visited Dorshei Tzedek. Members showed up who had long experience with GBIO as well as members who are new to our community. We heard about the history of CDT's involvement with GBIO, including how our involvement has provided key leadership and involvement in successful campaigns. We also got a sense of the organizers individually and what drew them to this work. It was helpful to see how this large organization is so led by volunteers- these

two women are the primary staff, and they encouraged us to think about what work we want to be involved with, and start doing it.

As it turns out, we don't need much invitation—the CDT community is already deeply involved in many projects! That said, questions remained about how our interests, activities, and relational work relate to the work of GBIO beyond our congregation. Most other GBIO congregations have a core team that takes responsibility for leading GBIO efforts in the congregation as well as liaisons who attend monthly meetings to keep track of what GBIO is up to and act as lines of communication between the broader organization and the congregation. Currently, we have neither. Anyone who is interested in thinking about next steps for GBIO at CDT is invited to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, March 27th**. If you are interested in acting as one of our GBIO liaisons, or have questions or ideas about what a CDT "core team" could look like, we hope you will join this meeting.

Learning

ANNOUNCING CDT 2019 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM!

Second Church, Mondays, March 11, 18, and 25 from 7pm to 9:15pm

Are you interested in knowing more about leadership? How about leadership in a Jewish context like Dorshei Tzedek? Have you wondered about playing a new or expanded leadership role in the incredible CDT community?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please mark your calendar for the next Dorshei Tzedek leadership program: Mondays, March 11, 18, and 25 from 7pm to 9:15 at the Second Church.

This three-session program will explore leadership through the lens of CDT's values, history and structure, and ultimately, through application of leadership practices to issues or projects you care about. If you are interested or want more information, email **Rob Greenly (rob@greenlygroup.com)** or **Ellen Hemley (ehemley@povertylaw.org)** and let them know of your interest.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT LEARNING AT JCDS

The following programs are all happening during religious school hours, for any interested teens and adults, at JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue in Watertown. Please note different times for different programs!

Purim for Grown-Ups

Sunday March 3, 10:45am to noon with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

What does the Purim holiday have to teach us about the masks we wear, assimilation and resistance, and the value of silliness? Come find out in this text study session! No prior knowledge required; sense of humor welcome!

Talking to Children about God

Sundays, March 17 & March 24, 2019, 10:45am-12:00pm with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

In this two-session workshop, **Rabbi Toba** will present about how we teach about God in the CDT religious school, and provide opportunities for adults to explore how they

Learning

relate to the many metaphors for God found in Jewish tradition. For people with kids in their lives, or for your own exploration!

Preparing for Passover

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 11:00am-12:00pm

Stay tuned for more information.

Practicing Hope: A Mussar Class

with Rabbi Shahar Colt and Mimi Micner

Tuesday Evenings: April 2, 9, 16, 30,
7:30-9:00pm

It is easy to look around us and feel despair at all the brokenness in our world. But to keep living, hope is essential. Where does

this hope come from, and what is it really? Mussar is a Jewish framework for developing specific personal qualities. In this class we will study Mussar to explore and practice some Jewish techniques for managing despair and cultivating hope.

Each class will include some learning of Jewish texts as well as conversation, reflection and practice activities to try between sessions.

Mimi Micner is a fifth year Rabbinical Student at Hebrew College in Newton. She has taught mussar in multiple contexts, including at Brown Hillel and Shir Tikva in Winchester. While in rabbinical school she has served as the Advocacy and Campaigns Specialist at Keshet, and was a Fel-

low with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

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!).

On & Off the Bimah *An occasional column from the Ritual Committee*

OPEN INVITATION

by Matilda Bruckner

Once a month, members of Dorshei Tzedek have the opportunity to do a d'var Torah, offering a commentary or leading a discussion on some aspect of the week's Torah portion. For many years as a member of the Ritual Committee, I've been the "d'varista": my job is to find someone to do the d'var Torah for the dates when Rabbi Toba is off. I have accumulated a list of people who are interested in doing a presentation or leading a discussion, but I would love to enlarge that list to include many more members, even those who imagine that it's too difficult or scary a task. At the last Ritual Committee meeting our president **Lissy Medvedow** talked about her own hesitation to do a d'var Torah until persuaded by **Laurie Goldman** that she could relate the discussion to her expertise as a lawyer. After taking on the challenge, she found the experience a powerful and fulfilling one. So how do you go about saying something meaningful about the Torah portion, without having studied the Bible for years, without knowing Hebrew, without months and months of preparation?

The chumash (Five Books of Moses) that we use at our services, the *Etz Chayim*, includes a lot of commentary that can help inspire and inform a d'var Torah. Both **Rabbi Toba** and **Rabbi Shahar** are always ready to lend their support with suggestions for ideas and other resources. The format is generally a 10-15 minute talk followed by discussion, or more simply, a brief introduction with some questions to initiate a discussion. Sometimes two people team up to do a d'var Torah together. There are as many approaches as there are speakers, and there's no obligation to limit the topic to the part

of the Torah portion that we are chanting that week. What catches your eye, what puzzles or engages you, what's happening in your life or in the world: these are all good places to start as you seek a connection between the Torah and you, between Israel's past and our present. Lissy brought her expertise as a lawyer to the text; your own experience—as a scientist, a teacher, a parent, an activist, an artist—will bring a new perspective and new insights to the text. Our members are always grateful and generous listeners who will respond to your gift of Torah with their own questions, comments and perspectives.

Interested in finding out more? Have some questions? Ready to sign up? For more information or to get on the schedule, please email me at bruckner@bc.edu.



Photo by Viv Shein

Chesed



Pictured below: Marla Cummins, Annette Jacobs, DB Reiff, Ellen Pashall, Dianne Lior, Lisa Hirsh, Judy Hersh, Melanie Adler, Fran Malino, Gail Pressberg, Beth Green, Ellie Goldberg, Debby Saltzman, Eileen Morrison, and Elaine Landes. (Susan Nitkin, not pictured.)

MEET YOUR CHESED COMMITTEE 2019

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. The Chesed Committee facilitates gestures of Chesed such as preparing or buying meals, grocery shopping, providing transportation for medical appointments, and visiting members who are ill.

Every month, three coordinators match requests for Chesed with volunteers to provide a meal, a ride or other gesture of practical comfort. We use the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) website to facilitate the match so we encourage all members to sign up for our LHH community, "Chesed at CDT" at <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

Even if you don't respond to a request, when you are signed up for the LotsaHelpingHands community, you see the world of Chesed at work. For more information go to Chesed at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>.

The Chesed Coordinators for March 2019 are **Annette Jacobs**, **Melanie Adler**, and **Ellen Pashall**. Contact them with comments, questions, or recipes at 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 her (confidentially) at 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. 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.

CDT Calendar

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>						
FEB 24	FEB 25	FEB 26	FEB 27	FEB 28	MAR 1	MAR 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p> <p>Purim for Grown-Ups 11:00am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p>		<p>Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA</p>		<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library</p> <p>Study Session on Jewish & Democratic Israel 7:30pm 60 Highland St: Library</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6pm Candle lighting and dinner 6:45pm Service</p> <p>New Wise Aging Meeting 7:00 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service & Naming of Baby Ezra Roberts 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Religious School Nitzan/Gan - Gr. 7 9:30am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p> <p>Members' Meeting 10:00am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p>	<p>Leadership Development Program 7:00pm to 9:15pm 60 Highland St: Room 111</p>	<p>Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA</p>	<p>Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism 7:30 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Room 111</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p> <p>Exploring Exodus 7:00 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Fellowship Hall</p>		<p>Got Shabbat? (Including Tot Shabbat) 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>CDT Sings Rehearsal 12:45pm 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p> <p>CDT Film Club 6:00pm</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p> <p>Talking to Children about God 11:00am to 12:00pm JCDS (see above)</p> <p>NCCS Event 12:00pm St. Pauls, Newton Highlands</p>	<p>Leadership Development Program 7:00pm to 9:15pm 60 Highland St: Room 111</p>	<p>Jericho Walk in Burlington, MA 1:00pm 1000 District Ave, Burlington, MA 01803</p> <p>Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA</p>	<p>Purim Party! 7:00pm to 9:00pm Parish Hall 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p> <p>New Wise Aging Meeting 7:00 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p>	<p>Erev Shabbat Community Potlucks 7:00pm CDT Members' Home</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p> <p>Talking to Children about God 11:00am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p> <p>Preparing for Passover 11:00am to 12:00pm JCDS: 57 Stanley Ave, Watertown, MA</p>	<p>Leadership Development Program 7:00pm to 9:15pm 60 Highland St: Room 111</p> <p>New Wise Aging Meeting 7:00 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p>	<p>Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm to 5:45pm 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA</p> <p>Next Steps for GBIO at CDT 7:30 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room 111</p>	<p>Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism 7:30 to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Room 111</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p> <p>Exploring Exodus 7:15pm to 9:00pm Grant A.M.E., 1906 Washington St, Boston, in Roxbury</p>	<p>Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:00pm to 10:00pm 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Sid Hackett 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
31	APR 1	APR 2	APR 3	APR 4	APR 5	APR 6
<p>Religious School Staff Meeting 9:30am to 12:00pm 60 Highland St: Room 212</p> <p>Board Meeting 4:00pm to 6:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room</p>						

Nediv Lev

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Cliff Cohen—*In memory of Lucille Feinstein and Morris Cohen*

Carolyn Fine—*In memory of Sara Fine*

Lauren Gibbs—*In memory of Mara*

Lisa Hirsh—*In memory of my mother, Selma Hirsh; in memory of my step-mother Eva Hirsh*

Frances Malino—*In memory of Rhoda Malino and Jerome Malino*

Amy Mazur—*In memory of Sandra Gertz, mother of Nancy Gertz & grandmother of Stefan and Julian*

Keith Rand and John D'Amico—*In memory of Nancy Gertz's mother Sandra*

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 home page at 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 online shopping you were planning to do anyway.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

March 2: Lisa Goodwin Robbins (Captain) / Sharon Gorberg—in memory of George L. Gorberg & Sylvia R. Gorberg, & John Holohan/ Alli Gold Roberts

March 9: Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried (Captain) / Thea Breite / Betsy Hinden

March 16 Got Shabbat?: Daniel Lesser / Jodi Rosenbaum Tillinger & Ben Tillinger / Ilana Mainelli / Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman

March 23: Sami O'Reilly & Robert Imperato (Captain) / Allison Peiser / Jen Levine-Fried

March 30 Bar Mitzvah of Sid Hackett:

Sanctuary Cleanup: Sharon Sevransky / Scott Gordon

Kiddush Setup: Alison Lobron / Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent / Roy Edelstein / Amy Dain & Misha Dudnik

Kiddush Cleanup: David Lobron / Laura Schulz / Jonathan Magaziner / Jennifer Nichols / Rebecca Pomerantz / Jordan Schwartz

Ushers: Pamela Rosenstein / Karen Wasserman

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website.

Please remember to sign-in to the site to access the calendar as well as all member-specific information. When notified of your

dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up. Thank you!

Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades, who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.



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



Address correction requested



Strike a pose...at the Purim Celebration!



Wednesday evening, March 20, 7pm-9pm 1326 Washington St, West Newton