



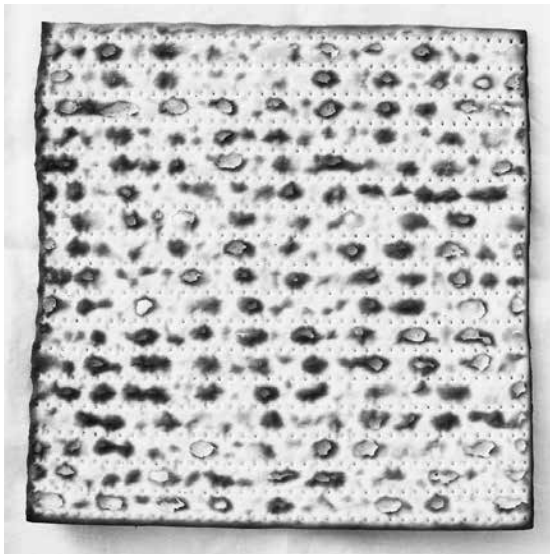
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Adar II/Nissan 5779

April 2019

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
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Dorshei Tzedek and Grant AME: Joint Exodus study, moving towards liberation

by Rabbi Shahar Colt



THIS SPRING, SIXTEEN members of Dorshei Tzedek joined a class with members from Grant A.M.E. church in Boston, to study the Exodus story together with Rabbi Toba, myself, and Grant's pastor, Rev. Alvan Johnson. Grant A.M.E. is a mostly African American church, and Rev. Johnson brings a liberation theology perspective grounded in the African American Christian experience, while Rabbi Toba and I are bringing Jewish approaches to the Bible story and rabbinic midrash.

We all entered this process with excitement and curiosity—how would learning this foundational story (the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt) with people from a different religious tradition and cultural context deepen our understanding of the story's meaning? Especially for the Jews, how will this class shape our experience of Passover, the spring celebration of freedom?

The central ritual of the seder is the retelling the story. This impulse to tell the story comes from the Torah itself. As Biblical scholar Aviva Zornberg writes in the introduction to her book on Exodus, "several times the Torah itself emphasizes the importance of telling the story to one's children and grandchildren. At certain moments, this imperative to narrate the Exodus becomes the very purpose of the historical event: it happened so that you may tell it." She argues that we are transformed, we are somehow changed and liberated in

the process of participating in recalling and telling this story. It is in the telling of the story of our people's liberation from Egypt that we become part of it, and feel ourselves liberated in our own lives.

Zornberg's words dovetail with the rabbinic concept that each person is supposed to see themselves as if they had gone forth from Egypt. In the seder we say, "we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, now we are free." But in recent years I have wondered about this. The truth is, most of us are very far removed from lived experiences of slavery. Many of us, with the help of a range of haggadah supplements put out by a range of Jewish social justice organizations, use the seder as a way of re-dedicating ourselves to the cause of freedom. Often the set up implies that we are working for others' freedom, while celebrating and giving thanks for our own freedom. I've been left wondering, how am I free, or not? How exactly should I be thinking about my freedom this year?

As the Exodus class has progressed, I have wondered what it means for our two communities to speak of freedom together. As Jews in Boston today, most of us don't have personal experience with slavery, so what does it mean to understand ourselves in *mitzrayim*, the narrow places, needing our own freeing in various ways? And what does it mean to say "we were slaves," when others in our Jewish community and beyond are descended from people enslaved in our country in relatively recent memory? The words of our tradition

prompt us towards empathy with anyone struggling for freedom today, suggesting that the pain of slavery and the power of the redemption in the Exodus narrative is personal to us. But as the Exodus class is demonstrating, this narrative is personal, and has very specific meanings, also to other people with different orientations to it.

As the class is progressing, we are beginning to get to know each other, feeling out who we are across our differences, feeling out what we have to learn from each other and what it actually means to build relationships. I can't say where these relationships will lead. However, I do trust that by getting to know each other better we can develop a fuller picture of what liberation means to us in different ways, what liberation is needed in our communities. If I believe, and I do, that I can't really be free while others are oppressed, then I need to actually know something about the lived experience of freedom and oppression of others in the community. Opening and dedicating ourselves to these relationships is the critical first step. The class is still mid-process, and I look forward to discovering where it takes us.

The traditional pre-Passover greeting is *Chag kasher v'sameach*, "wishing everyone a happy, kosher Passover holiday. A "Kosher Passover" need not refer only to how well we prepare our kitchens for the holiday, but also how we prepare ourselves as people. To be kosher—i.e., fit and appropriate—for Passover could mean that we are doing the work of re-dedicating ourselves to the cause of freedom and preparing ourselves to experience liberation. As we each approach our seder tables this year, I wish for everyone to feel some movement towards liberation as we bring our diverse experiences to the telling of the Exodus story, through sharing, questioning and listening.

Reconstructionist News

EVOLVE: GROUNDBREAKING JEWISH CONVERSATIONS

Wednesday, April 3: Judaism, Gender and Gender Identity

Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations announces the launch of three new buckets for Winter-Spring 2019. Convening powerful storytellers, rabbis, thinkers, and organizers, explore the essays, share your comments and join us for an upcoming web conversation! The topic on April 3 is gender and gender identity.

Everyone is invited to register to participate in the web conversations that will focus on these exciting subjects and enable you to interact with the author. To find out more and register, visit this website: <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/news/evolving>

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 chsrome@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.

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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, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evening, April 5, May 3, June 7

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 an Oneg Shabbat dessert at 7:30pm.

On April 5, we will be welcoming guests from K'sharim, a program for adults with developmental disabilities. We have loved having K'sharim guests for many years now; all are welcome to come celebrate Shabbat with them!

On May 3, Kitah Dalet (our 4th graders) will be co-leading the evening service with Rabbi Toba.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40am, April 6, May 11, June 1

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

TOT SHABBAT

April 27, May 11, and June 1, 10:45am-Noon

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

SHABBAT PASSOVER SERVICES

April 20 & 27, 9:45am-Noon

We will celebrate the Passover holiday together at Shabbat morning services April

20th with the singing of Hallel and a special Torah reading, and mark the 8th day of Passover on Shabbat morning, April 27, with both Hallel and a Yizkor service, remembering loved ones who have passed away.

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH/ HOLOCAUST & RESISTANCE REMEMBRANCE DAY PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30pm-9pm

As we gather to remember the six million who perished and the many who resisted the Nazis, CDT member **Jaime Wurzel** will share stories of his parents' experiences during the Holocaust. Children of Hasidic families, his father fought with partisans during the war and his mother survived Auschwitz. After the war they immigrated to Bolivia. Please feel free to invite guests; the program will be appropriate for older children (11 and above).

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).

Nediv Lev

NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN OFF TO A GREAT START

Each year CDT members contribute "from the heart" to the Nediv Lev campaign, the only fundraiser of the year. Our Nediv Lev target is \$85,000 which is about 15% of this year's CDT budget. These funds help support the school, and activities and programs that help us come together as an inclusive and caring community to respond to our local, national and global challenges. Thanks to contributions from CDT Leadership (Board and off-Board Chairs, Co-chairs and Past Presidents) and those who contributed early, Nediv Lev has already collected over \$41,000, or about 48% of the goal!

Letters went out to the entire congregation at the end of March; we encourage you to contribute whatever is meaningful to you.

Starting this year, we encourage members to donate online: you should have received an email with instructions to set up your account on our new ShulCloud website, and a link for donations. You can also go to the dorsheitzedek.org website, log in, and find Nediv Lev under the "Giving" tab. Of course, if it is easier for you, we still appreciate paper checks! If you have any questions or comments, or suggestions for improving the Nediv Lev campaign, please contact the Nediv Lev Co-Chairs, **John Carroll** (jcarroll@mit.edu) and **Debbie Waber** (dpwaber@gmail.com).

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 oper-

ating 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

Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen—*In memory of Mel's dad, Lloyd Adler*

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Community

CAN YOU HELP WITH CDT CHILDCARE ON SATURDAYS, 10AM TO 12:15PM?

If you are able to fill in some gaps in our childcare schedule, or would like more information, please email **Sami O'Reilly** at samioreilly@gmail.com as soon as possible. 14-18 year olds earn \$27 and 18+ earn \$40 per shift. We need help for dates as early as April 6. Thanks!

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: LOGISTICS

Meeting and program set-up: If you are holding an event or meeting at CDT and would like help with setup or assembling supplies, please email requests to **Program Associate Lidia Prunte** (officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org) at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Thank you for understanding the need for advance notice!

Storing congregant items & item donations: Due to space constraints in the Second Church, CDT is not able to store items belonging to congregants. If you'd like to leave an item for another member to pick up, items can be kept for short periods of time (a few days) in the church's lost and found basket, next to the coat rack, by the Mass Pike entrance. And of course, you may always arrange to meet each other in the building to do your exchanges.

And while we really do appreciate the thought, if you have anything to donate to CDT, please ask **Administrative Director Marla Lichtman** or **Program Associate Lidia Prunte** if they are needed, before dropping anything off. Thank you!

CELEBRATING MARLA LICHTMAN!

Saturday evening, May 4, 8:00-9:30pm

60 Highland Street, Fellowship Hall

After 13 years of dedicated service to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, our beloved **Marla Lichtman** is retiring and moving on to new adventures. We will be celebrating Marla with Havdallah, delicious desserts, tributes, and more! All CDT members

are invited, watch your email for an E-vite soon!

MEMBERSHIP MISHIGAS

Sheryl Koenigsburg

Have you noticed some members of the Welcoming Committee sporting nifty buttons? Read on for their origin story.

In preparation for the High Holidays last summer, our committee discussed how many of us have had "that feeling" of arriving at a new congregation (or at one where you haven't been as often as it seems everyone else has). It can be intimidating. And if it's intimidating, people don't come back.

In particular, some of the specific feedback we discussed was:

- I didn't know which table I could sit at for Kiddush.
- The liturgy was different, and I found it hard to follow along.
- Who do you ask when you have that question like "Where's the restroom?", "Is this food for everyone?", "Do women wear tallises here?", and "Where are the kippot?"

We had the idea to wear buttons along with our name tags to identify ourselves as members of the Welcoming Committee, but with a twist. We figured that if we included some text that spoke to some of these apprehensions, we might get more people to engage with us and thus feel more included. So we designed the following buttons to do just that.

If YOU have an idea for a clever button, or just like the idea of wearing one yourself, just let us know. We welcome you to join us.

MAZEL TOV

To **Judy Hersh**, on the birth of her grandson, Michael Malik Rosa, who was born February 18th to Judy's son Dan and his wife Diana!

Yahrzeit

This month we remember **Lesley Chapman**, a beloved teacher at CDT for many years, on the occasion of her 10th yahr-



zeit. We will be remembering Lesley at Shabbat/Passover morning services on April 20th.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Carol Sklar** and **Lisa Hirsch**.

CONDOLENCES

To **Lynda and Joe Goldberg**, and to **Phyllis and Al Glazerman**, on the death of Lynda's father and Phyllis' brother, Arthur Goldberg, may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Abby Cohen, Stuart Snyder**, and **Isabel & Celia Snyder**, on the death of Abby's mother, Gerry Cohen, 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>.

TODAH RABAH

Today Rabah to everyone who helped with kiddush last month:

Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg (Captain), Susan Bernstein, Lisa Goodman, Pamela (Captain), Joseph, David, & Elan Katz, Helaine & John Carroll, Cheryl (Captain) & Jeffrey Sacks, Sherry Katz & Mark Farber, Noam Shore, Haralie Alpert, in memory of Sylvia and Frances Greenberg, Ellen White (Captain), Joan Autio, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins (Captain), Sharon Gorberg, in memory

of George L. Gorberg and Sylvia R. Gorberg, & John Holohan, Alli Gold Roberts, Betsy Hinden, Thea Breite, Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried, Elizabeth Ferrenz & Jenny Siegel, Ben Newman & Sarah Hartman (Captain)

A huge Today Rabah to all who made possible our new “Bambaggies” initiative: Laya Steinberg, Ellie Goldberg, Dianne Lior, Barbara Pittel, and Steffi Karp, with the amazing support of Lidia Prunte and input from Kitot Gimel through Vav, the 3rd through 6th grade classes at our religious school!

Many, many thanks to all who made our Purim celebration so wonderful: Our Megillah readers Laurie Goldman and Nina Dudnik,

and Megillah story-teller extraordinaire Jo Radner; to the BIJAN spelers who let us do the mitzvah of giving tzedakah to a worthy cause - Dani Krassa, Benyamin Meschede-Krassa, Janet Penn & Shai Lipton; and of course to the entire Purim Spiel crew: Spiel Author James “Avenger” Kaplan, and Spiel Director Sheree “Marvel” Galpert, choreographer Anna “Flash” Kaplan, and the merry band of Speliers: Doug Hersh, Andrew Sofer, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Nuriel Guttman, Ayla Kobi, Eleanor Kaplan, Audra, Ila & Evelyn Karp, Shai Lipton, Shirel Moser, Rachel & Eva Pytel, and Esther & Havi Rosi-Kessler - and to amazing musicians Nathan Aronow and Tal Shalom-Kobi! Rav Tiffany says, “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

Nediv Lev (continued)

Miriam Bronstein—*In memory of Tamar Bronstein*

Helaine and John Carroll—*In honor of the thoughtfulness of our members*

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow—*In memory of my parents Myra and Daniel Danzing*

Meryl Epstein and Trish Nuzzola

JoAnn Feldstein—*In memory of Cecile Cohen*

Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts—*In honor of Ezra Robert’s baby naming; in honor of Gabriel Cutler’s baby naming; in honor of the marriage of Reva Goldberg & Tim Metzger*

Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb

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

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan—*In honor of our daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca Holohan*

Laurie Gould—*In memory of Robert Gould*

Rob Greenly—*In honor of Congregation members who are putting themselves out there to practice their leadership skills at Dorshei Tzedek*

Allison and Ezra Hausman

Annette Jacobs—*In memory of my grandparents, Benny & Dora Jacobs; in memory of my uncle, Siegmund Leuarie; in memory of my friend, Trudee Parenteau*

Jen Kaplan—*In memory of my grandparents*

Steffi and Eric Karp

Linda and Peter Katz

Jessica Keimowitz—*In memory of Robert I. Keimowitz*

Elaine Landes and David Felson

Linette Liebling—*In honor of Lissy Medvedow’s leadership*

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen

Margo Michaels

Tania Mireles and Bill Shorr

Jordan Namerow and Idit Klein

Gertrude Nemeth and Rachel Nemeth Cohen—*In memory of Leonard I. Nemeth*

Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus

Amy Pollack-Howard and George Howard—*In honor of Marla Lichtman for all her years of help and service!*

Elaine Pollack—*In honor of Lissy Medvedow for her leadership and dedication*

Marion and Robert Ross

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks—*In memory of Abby Cohen’s mother; in memory of Nancy Gertz’s mother*

Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis

Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider—*In memory of Mickey Schoenberg and Raphael Reider*

Sandra Sedacca and Sherwood Ives—*In honor of Marla Lichtman*

Sharon Shumak and Rabbi Michael Luckens—*In loving memory of Gina Fried*

Lauren and Andrew Stefano

Lauren Stefano—*In honor of Sharon Sevransky, with thanks for the ballet tickets*

Jamie Tessler—*In Memory Of Theodore “Ted” Tessler and Eleanor Licht Tessler*

Deborah Waber

Bob Warren—*In memory of Laurence Warren, my father*

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

SCHOOL FUND

RETREAT FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

SUPPORT CDT THROUGH AMAZON

When you click on the Amazon link on the bottom of the CDT homepage, a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek.

CDT Events

SAVE THE DATE! NEXT ROUND OF COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNERS

Weekend of May 10-11

Debby Saltzman

Mark your calendars now for the next round of CDT Community Potluck Dinners scheduled for the weekend of May 10-11. If you've never been to a Community Potluck they are a great way to meet new members and reconnect with old friends. Dinners will be held in Newton, JP, Watertown and various other locales. If you'd like to volunteer to host, or if you have any questions, contact **Debby Saltzman** (debbysaltzman@gmail.com). Look for signups to open at the end of April.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, April 13 at the home of JoAnn and Michael Feldstein

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

The Insult (2017, 113 min, Arabic)

After an emotional exchange between a Lebanese Christian and a Palestinian refugee escalates, the men end up in a court case that gets national attention. —IMDb

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 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. Please RSVP.

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.

Next film (subject to change):

May 11: *In Sea*

CDT RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

June 14-16, 2019

Camp Yavneh, Northwood, New Hampshire

Registration is now open for our bi-annual retreat! Grab this 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! Go to the Members Sign-up page on the CDT website, <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/signups>.

An Endorsement from Emma G

The inimitable CDT Retreat Committee has once again scored a major coup: Ms. Emma Goldman, anarchist, political operative, and all-around firebrand, has agreed to speak with us about her life, her philosophy, and her views on 21st-century America.

We met up with her recently on the steps of the State House, where she had just finished a speech protesting the lack of an anarchist curriculum in Massachusetts' public schools.

Retreat Committee (RC): Ms. Goldman, thank you so much for agreeing to speak with us today. It couldn't have been easy finding time in your schedule for yet another interview. We have to ask you though, what's a good anarchist like you doing at the State House, the seat of the government of Massachusetts?

Emma Goldman (EG): Sometimes we need to rub elbows with the enemy to bring about change. A small price to pay to achieve total freedom from The Man, wouldn't you say? Now, what did you want to talk to me about today? Not free love, I hope - that one never did work out quite the way I expected it to, but maybe -

RC: Actually, Ms. Goldman, we were hoping you could talk a little about the power of community-building.

EG: Community-building? What kind of namby-pamby.....Say, wait a minute, you people aren't Jews, are you?

RC: Actually, we are Jews, part of a community of people who find meaning and value in coming together to study, to eat, to pray.....

EG: Pray! You mean in the 21st century you people are still praying? Oy vey! Oh well, I guess I could frame it as a free speech issue. Anyway, what does this have to do with me?

RC: Well, Ms. Goldman, another important activity that we're involved in is tik-kun olam, or repairing the world. As you've probably noticed, our world today needs an awful lot of repair, and we've been doing so much work that we're tired and need to rest, you know, get better acquainted with each other, play capture the flag...

EG: Capture the flag! Now you're talking! That one's right up my alley. But listen: there's one thing you need to remember: you never can tell who your friends REALLY are until you've spent a few nights in jail with them.

RC: I doubt we'll be going to jail any time soon, but...

EG: All right, so just go camping or something, that should do the trick.

RC: Camping! What a great idea! Say, it just so happens we're planning a retreat for June 14-16, which isn't exactly camping but it is at a camp...

EG: Perfect! You liberals wouldn't last a night in jail anyway. So off you go, get your fellow travelers to sign up for this retreat thing. I must be off immediately to deliver my next anarchist diatribe.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE CDT RETREAT! Go to the Members Sign-up page on the CDT website, <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/signups>.

DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

Elliot Pittel, Head coach

The CDT Men's Softball Team opens our 13th season in the Men's Synagogue Softball League on Sunday April 7 at 10:00 AM. This year the team returns everyone from last year's team.



There are 10 games scheduled for the 2019 season that start in April and go through June. The 2019 season looks to be a challenging season with games against some very strong opponents. The Tzedekmen will be competing in the Single A division and hope to return to the playoffs after finishing out of the playoffs for the past couple of years. The team welcomes fans to the games, both home and away. Getting to the field early is the best time to get an autograph from your favorite Tzedekman. Here's the schedule for April. The complete schedule can be found on the members calendar, on Toba's weekly emails, and on the team's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam/>

Date/Time	Location	Opponent
Sunday 4/7/19 10am	Forte Park, 235 California St	Temple Emunah (1)
Sunday 4/14/19 10am	Forte Park, 235 California St	Temple Shalom
Sunday 4/21/19 Pesach--no game		
Sunday 4/28/19 10am	Memorial Elementary School #2 107 Eliot St, Wayland, MA	Temple Shir Tikvah (2)

Tikkun Olam

THERE IS NO PLANET B

Laya Steinberg

At the March members meeting, **Laya Steinberg** and the CDT Sustainability group, along with kids from the religious school, launched an initiative to reduce our plastic and paper waste at kiddush by selling meal kits. Titled “BamBaggies” by the students, these kits consist of: Bamboo plates, bowls, cups, and cutlery in bags sewn by kid and adult volunteers. The launch was enthusiastically received; 20 sample kits were sold on the spot with many more to be ordered online. We’re hopeful the habit of bringing your own dishes will become second nature, and might even extend beyond the confines of CDT. You might eventually find yourself using the kit in other circumstances, at meetings, picnics, or any place where a plastic plate might be the norm. How cool to whip out your kit and show those around you that you care about our planet and the next generations that will inherit it. CDT member **Doron Gan** reports, “I brought my BamBaggie to the last Got Shabbat. It was awesome to spoon up delicious food into my colorful bowl and seltzer into a solid cup. I liked the feel of using real solid dishes instead of the flimsy disposable ones. Afterwards I gave everything a quick rinse and back in the bag. It was great! Best thing, No garbage!”

Read on for more information about this initiative and how to order! The Sustainability group welcomes more participants. Get in touch with **Laya Steinberg** (lasword@rcn.com) if you’d like to join us.

THAT’S A LOT OF PLASTIC!

Jenna Schwartz, Hannah Crozier, and Tali Edelstein (Kitah Vav)

Each year, more than 1.4 BILLION pounds of trash end up in the ocean, most of which is plastic. Even if you think you’ve been good to the earth this year, you probably contributed to the billions of pounds of plastic in the ocean.

One way we’ve contributed at CDT is by using plastic cups, utensils, and disposable plates at Kiddush. We need to fix this! As a school, we are trying to reduce the amount

of plastic we use by using reusable plates, cups, and utensils. We are offering kits of bamboo-ware that you can buy to bring to Kiddish that consist of a bowl, a plate, a cup, utensils and a metal straw, which is optional. They are called “Bam Baggies.” Bam Baggie kits come in a handmade drawstring bag made by the students at CDT. We are doing this because it will reduce the amount of plastic waste in landfills and oceans.

These kits can be used not only for Kiddush, but for Hebrew school and other events. “How does this work?” you might ask. You can bring your Bam Baggie to your event, and use it instead of paper and plastic ware. Afterwards, you can wash your bamboo ware (by hand) and re-use it over and over again!

We hope that you will buy a Bam Baggie, and help us save the environment! An order form is available at this link: <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/form/reusable-kiddush-kits>. Let’s help end ocean pollution together!

STUDENTS STRIKE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Tali Edelstein (11) & Jenna Schwartz (12)

On March 15th, we skipped school to participate in the Students Strike for Climate Action with a few friends. Students worldwide are striking their schools to show that climate matters and to try to get the government to take action on it. Strikes happened in over 120 countries, and over 2,000 cities. We participated in the strike to show the Massachusetts government that we care about climate change and if we don’t act now, we won’t be able to solve this problem. Instead of attending school, a great deal of students came together to rally in front of the state house in Boston. The part we participated in was made up of an array of speakers who talked about why action on climate change is so important. There was



lots of singing and chanting, and even a live band!

We felt that we needed to participate in this strike because our futures, our children’s futures, their children’s futures, and so on will be greatly affected by the choices our generation makes about climate in the next few years. If we don’t act, the generations to come won’t be able to live good lives. If given the opportunity to participate in another one of these strikes, we would gladly do so. We encourage you to do what you can to help end climate change.

NEXT PRISON BOOK PROGRAM EVENT

Tuesday, April 2

Our next CDT volunteer night at the Prison Book Program, located in Quincy, MA, is Tuesday, April 2. If interested, add your name to the PBP sign-up. Questions? Email **Barbara Shatkin** (bfshatkin@aol.com).

JOIN THE JERICHO WALKS IN BURLINGTON, MA

Every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm (3-2-1)

Next walk on Tuesday, April 16

March in Solidarity with those being mistreated by an inhuman immigration system. The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. 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.

SAVE THE DATE: MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 12, 8am program, march begins 8:30am

For over a decade, CDT has been participating in this greater Boston community event and fundraiser for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (you can read more about it at www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org). The Peace Institute invites everyone to "Join us on Mother's Day to demand dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder" and to create a community of compassion and peace. CDT Group organizer **Abby Cohen** will be setting up our team

page (details below). Keep your eyes out for the registration link!

START: Town Field Park, Fields Corner
1520 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02122
Program – 8:00am
Walk launches – 8:30am

MIDWAY Point, Where CDT School will join the walk!

Madison Park High School
75 Malcolm X Blvd, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120
Day of Registration at Madison: 7:00 am
Program at Madison: 9:00 am

Estimated launch from Madison with walkers coming from Town Field: 9:45am

UNDERSTANDING RACE BOOK DISCUSSION

May 18, 1:00 - 2:30pm, following Shabbat lunch

CDT's Understanding Race group is hosting a book discussion of Robin Diangelo's new best-selling book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism*. We'll meet from 1:00–2:30 on Saturday, May 18, following Shabbat lunch. Please join us whether you've read the whole book or just part of it.

Chesed

CHESED: CALLING ALL NEW MEMBERS

by *Ellie Goldberg*

"Chesed knits our community together," said **Elaine Landes** at the CDT's March members meeting. She noted that many new members had not yet joined the "Chesed at CDT" community at LotsaHelpingHands, the online calendar where Chesed Coordinators post requests.

Elaine encouraged new members to join, especially because Chesed's gestures of care and support such as meals, rides and errands provide us with points of contact with each other. 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. Join at <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

The Chesed Coordinators for April 2019 are **DB Reiff, Dianne Lior, and Ellen Pashall**. Contact them with comments, questions, or recipes at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

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

For more information about Chesed, see the articles and resources on the CDT web page: Chesed (Caring Community) <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>.

Chesed Q&A: What Do the Shiva and Chesed Committees Do? <https://tinyurl.com/Shiva-Chesed>

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 or **617-965-0330**. **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, our Director of Congregational Learning, is also available and can be contacted at del@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.

Join "Chesed at CDT" at LotsaHelpingHands
<http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.



CDT Calendar

April 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 (25 Adar II)	2 (26 Adar II) Religious School Grades 3-6 3:45pm Prison Book Program Event 6:30pm	3 (27 Adar II) Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism 7:30pm	4 (28 Adar II) Mindful Mornings 8:30am New Wise Aging Meeting 7:00pm	5 (29 Adar II) All-Ages Erev Shab- bat, potluck 6:00pm	6 (1 Nisan) Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am
<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>						
7 (2 Nisan) Religious School . 9:30am	8 (3 Nisan)	9 (4 Nisan) Religious School Grades 3-6 3:45pm Practicing Hope: : A Mussar Class 7:30pm	10 (5 Nisan) Study Session on Jewish and Demo- cratic Israel (mem- bers only event) 7:30p	11 (6 Nisan) Mindful Mornings 8:30am Exploring Exodus 7:00pm	12 (7 Nisan)	13 (8 Nisan) Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am Avelut Meeting 12:45pm CDT Film Club 6:00pm
14 (9 Nisan)	15 (10 Nisan)	16 (11 Nisan) Jericho Walk in Burl- ington, MA 1:00pm Practicing Hope: : A Mussar Class 7:30p	17 (12 Nisan) Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism 7:30pm	18 (13 Nisan) Mindful Mornings 8:30am	19 (14 Nisan) Pesach begins at sundown	20 (15 Nisan) Shabbat Morning Service (Pesach) 9:45am
21 (16 Nisan)	22 (17 Nisan) Wise Aging Meeting 7:00p	23 (18 Nisan) Religious School Grades 3-6 3:45pm	24 (19 Nisan)	25 (20 Nisan) Mindful Mornings 8:30am Exodus Class Debrief Session 7:00p	26 (21 Nisan) Office closed for 7th Day of Pesach	27 (22 Nisan) Pesach 8th Day Service 9:45am Tot Shabbat 10:45am
28 (23 Nisan) Religious School Grades 1-7 9:30a	29 (24 Nisan)	30 (25 Nisan) Religious School Grades 3-6 3:45pm Practicing Hope: : A Mussar Class 7:30p	MAY 1 (26 Nisan) Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism 7:30pm Yom Hashoah Pro- gram 7:30p	2 (27 Nisan) Mindful Mornings 8:30am	3 (28 Nisan) All-Ages Erev Shab- bat, Potluck & Kitah Dalet Siyyum 6:00pm	4 (29 Nisan) Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am

Learning

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

Kita Dalet was learning about Yaakov (Jacob) stealing Esau's birthright. In rabbinic tradition, while Ya'akov is one of the Jewish forefathers, Esau is the forefather of Christianity. After looking at how these brother's struggled, the class discussed the familial relationships between the forefathers of the three Abrahamic religions. The teachers Sivan Ben Hayun and Lilyfish Gomberg challenged the kids to think imaginatively about what kind of interfaith work they would be interested in. They were tasked with imagining an interfaith organization, naming it, figuring out why this work should be done in an interfaith context specifically, and creating a mission statement for the organization.

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?



Photo: Kitah Dalet kids hard at work.

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 served as the Advocacy and Campaigns Specialist at Keshet, and was a Fellow with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings,
8:30-9:15am

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!).

Kiddush Assignments

April 5, Friday evening:

Setup/Cleanup: Robert Saper (Captain) / Deborah McEwan / Esther Kohn / Phyllis Glazerman

April 6, Saturday morning:

Setup/Cleanup: Ellen Lubell (Captain) & David Nathan / Marni & Tim Caputo

April 13, Saturday morning:

Setup/Cleanup: Carolyn Fine Friedman (Captain), *in memory of Sara Fine*, & Jeremiah Friedman, *in memory of Pepi and Mark Friedman* / Barbara Pittel, *in memory of Edith & Murray Bushman*

April 20 Shabbat Service: Pesach

Setup/Cleanup: Rachel Davenport (Captain) & Mark Paley / Lisa Schneier / Janet Penn

April 27 Shabbat 8th Day of Pesach

Setup/Cleanup: Theresa St. John-Siegel (Captain) & Steven Siegel / Amy Westebbe / Mark Yurkofsky

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



Purim at CDT, March 2019

Ruth Bader Ginsburg celebrated Purim with CDT and Rav Tiffany in West Newton, MA this year.

Photo by Jacob Weinberg

