



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Iyar/Syvan 5779

June 2019

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## Expanding Torah, Expanding Community

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



CDT Member's Meeting in May 2019. Photo by Viv Shein



**T**HIS MONTH WE celebrate Shavuot, the holiday when we commemorate the receiving of Torah at Mount Sinai. Initially a Biblical harvest holiday, the early rabbis reconfigured Shavuot as *zman matan Toratenu*, the “time of the giving of our Torah.”

How did our rabbinic forebears imagine that mythical moment? Not, as you might think, as a literal handing of a Torah scroll to Moses up on the mountain. Rather, according to one midrash, all Jewish teaching was given to Moses at that time—some written down, some orally. My favorite commentary is this: “Even the question a student asks their teacher, God told Moses at that time” (Exodus Rabbah 47:1). What a marvelous concept! Not just Bible, Mishnah, and Talmud, the foundational works of Jewish law and learning, were given at Sinai, but every question a student will ever ask! I think of this rabbinic conception of Sinai as a kind of “Big Bang,” with the written Torah as that first infinitely dense bit of energy, and the Sinai moment as the “bang!” after which our universe of asking questions and seeking answers comes to be,

eternally expanding, including all of our inquiry, curiosity, and search for truth.

This image of an ever-expanding universe of Torah resonates with me as I contemplate this moment in the life of our community. Dorshei Tzedek is also expanding, in wonderful and powerful ways. We now have over 230 member households, and over 80 children in our religious school. We have shifted, in the language of congregational development theory, from the “pastoral” size congregation – where one clergy person sits at the center of everything – to the “program” size. At this size, greater staff capacity is needed, and our staff has been growing in recent years in step with our growing numbers.

I feel truly blessed to be part of an incredible team. **Rabbi Shahar**, who began working with us in her final year in rabbinical school, has been full-time since the summer of 2016. Having a rabbi as our Director of Congregational Learning has meant that as our numbers and our programs grow, I am not alone in trying to meet the congregation’s expanding interests and needs. Bringing insight, energy and talent, her role extends beyond directing the religious school, focusing on areas of congregational life where members are learning and growing. This has included working with tikkun olam

leaders, teaching adult classes, young adult community building, sharing her Torah on Shabbat mornings, and being available for pastoral needs.

On the administrative side of things, **Lidia Pruen**te has been working her magic in many areas for the past three years. She has been instrumental in shifting us over to a new on-line database and operations system. From overseeing our complicated Kiddush program, to cooking with our kids on Tuesday afternoons, to somehow making all the logistics work for a religious school that meets in two (and sometimes three) spaces, and more, life at CDT without Lidia is at this point hard to imagine.

And most recently, I am thrilled that **Melissa Colten** has joined us as our inaugural Executive Director. Since she came on staff the second week of May, Melissa has dived into life at CDT, attending Mindful Mornings, Sunday school, committee meetings, Shabbat services, and our May members meeting. Her energy is contagious, and her commitment to helping the rest of us

on staff, and the congregation as a whole, achieve our goals is truly inspiring.

The moment at Sinai was not just a moment of receiving Torah; it was also a profound moment of community building. Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev, an 18th century Hassidic master, taught that just as a Torah becomes unusable if even one letter is missing, so too if even one member of the Israelite community had been missing at Sinai, the Torah could not have been given. Like a precious letter in the Torah of our community, each of our staff members, and every single one of our members, brings a gift that only they can give. I hope to see many of you at our communal celebration of Shavuot the evening of June 8, as we come together to learn in many modalities, and to discover the Torah both within ourselves and within each other.

For more information about our **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**, please go to page 3.



Andromeda Galaxy

## 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 [cbsrome@comcast.net](mailto:cbsrome@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.

## Staff & Board

### Staff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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

Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt

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

Executive Director: Melissa Colten

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

Program Associate: Lidia Pruen

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

Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin

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

### 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

Chesed: Elaine Landes

Nediv Lev: John Carroll & Debbie Waber

Newsletter: John Holohan

Inclusion: Susan Nitkin & Abby Schwartz

Ritual: Marion Ross & 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](mailto: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

## CHANTING & MEDITATION SERVICE

Saturday, June 1, 9:45am-Noon

This contemplative service features song, silent and guided meditation, as well as Torah study. No meditation experience necessary! If possible, please arrive no later than 10am so as not to interrupt the meditation; Torah discussion will begin at 11:15am (and it is fine to just come for the first or second part of the morning!).

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

June 7, August 9

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We gather at 6:00pm for candle-lighting and a potluck vegetarian dinner - please bring a main dish or salad to share. Services begin at 6:45pm, and we conclude with an Oneg dessert at about 7:30pm. *NOTE: Rabbi Toba is off in July, but there will be an all-ages erev Shabbat on Friday, August 9.*

## CDT RETREAT

June 14-16

As we gather at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire, there will be no Shabbat services in Newton this weekend.

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturday morning, 8:45am, June 22 -- Note date has been changed from June 1

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# SHAVUOT

## TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

### A Night of Learning

Saturday evening, June 8th, 8pm - midnight

This year, as we celebrate the mythic moment of receiving Torah on Mount Sinai, we will dedicate our learning to the memory of **Gina Fried**, *zichronah l'vracha*. It is traditional to usher in the holiday of Shavuot with all-night Torah study, and we will honor Torah and Gina's memory with an evening of learning with and from CDT members and special guests. So come learn with us, whether the whole evening or just as long as you can stay awake!

### 8:00pm Conversation and Musical Workshop with Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell

The evening will begin at 8pm with a conversation with and musical workshop featuring Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell. Twelve years after making his professional operatic debut, Anthony is now a performer, composer and arranger specializing in Yiddish song. This work, which has brought him to stages across the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Israel, also led him to a musical exploration of his own roots, resulting in



Convergence, a project exploring a hundred years of African American and Ashkenazi Jewish music. Join Anthony as he discusses—and performs—the various histories, influences and inspirations that have informed his groundbreaking work in Jewish music. His voice and his integration of these two traditions are incredible, don't miss it!

### 9:00pm Havdallah & Welcoming the holiday with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Session One: 9:15pm-10:10pm

**Text Study & Song: What is Jewish Prayer? with Dr. Yakir Englander** - We are thrilled to be welcoming back Yakir, as he leads us in an exploration of the meaning of *tefillah*—Jewish prayer—as request, demand, and struggle. Texts to be explored include the biblical story of Hannah, po-

ems by Yehudah Amichai, and Hasidic stories on the meaning of prayer. The workshop will include the experience of Hasidic song. Originally from the Ultra-Orthodox community of Israel, Yakir earned a PhD from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in Jewish philosophy and gender studies, and is one of the founders of Kids4Peace.

**The Torah of Blintzes** - Join the Okun/Lieberman family to make cheese blintzes, the iconic food for celebrating Shavuot!

### BLINTZ & CHEESECAKE BREAK 10:15-10:40pm

**Session Two: 10:45-11:35pm: Creativity & Revelation with Lisa Schneier** - To explore the Shavuot theme of revelation, and in memory of Gina Fried's creativity in varied media, we will study excerpts of autobiographical writings by artists/scientists about their paths to creative insight. We will then have some structured work/play with materials to inspire our own creative impulses! CDT member Lisa Schneier is a professor of education, a master teacher, and a poet.

**When the Heavens Open: 11:40pm-Midnight** - We will come together for a brief closing teaching and meditation with Rabbi Toba, at the time when, traditionally, the heavens open and the Torah (teaching) meant especially for each of us is most accessible.

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).

# Shabbat & Holidays

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.

## PRIDE SHABBAT

Saturday morning, June 22, 9:45am-Noon

As we celebrate the bnei mitzvah of Cary Lent (see below), we will also celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month with special readings

and teachings related to queer themes in our Shabbat morning service. Come join us!

## BNEI MITZVAH OF CARY LENT

Saturday morning, June 22

We are so proud and happy to be celebrating Cary's Bnei Mitzvah and hope you will join us as they are called to the Torah. Cary is an out and proud gender-queer, gay teenager who goes by they/them. They are an accomplished woodworker, love to dance at

Creative Steps in Newton where they take multiple classes and love makeup and art. They are a budding social justice activist and for their Bnei Mitzvah project they canvassed to pass Yes On 3 and also have been delivering food to people in need via Jewish Family and Children's Services. Please join us for a kiddush lunch after services.

-Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent

# Community

## WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MELISSA COLTEN

Dear Congregation Dorshei Tzedek,

At the time of writing, I begin my second week here at Dorshei Tzedek with joyful excitement. My first six days with you were full of overflowing with introductions, handshakes and hugs, shared meals and stories, learning and music. I visited religious school classes, watched Kitah Hay rehearse to lead the upcoming Shabbat service, attended an Inclusion Committee meeting, participated in Mindful Morning meditation on Thursday and Torah Study on Saturday, ate with you at an Erev Shabbat community potluck, and dined with CDT's film club before watching a documentary about Israeli cuisine. And of course, I attended shabbat morning services and *Kitah Hay Siyyum* with kiddush lunch afterwards. I should be exhausted, but am instead invigorated by this community's thoughtfulness, warm hospitality, and commitment to its mission.

I come from a number of professional worlds: the professional Jewish world, the professional non-profit world, the diplomatic/international relations world, and the ESL world. I have been a life-cycle coordinator and cantor's assistant at an 1800+ member congregation in NYC, founded and was the executive director of a community development nonprofit that brought people together through intergenerational and multi-disciplinary learning and service, and am a trained diplomat. I have combated human trafficking in eastern Europe with large-scale information campaigns and technical training bringing law enforcement and mental health professionals



Photo by Sharon Gorberg

together, and responded to emergency refugee situations to provide food and shelter to planeloads of people. I have taught English as a second language in 3 countries to students aged 6 to 86 from 4 continents.

Now, with you all, these worlds can come together. All of my worlds fit into the meaningful spirituality, serious Jewish learning, and commitment to inclusion and social justice that is Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Thank you. I am so very thrilled and honored to be here.

L'shalom,  
Melissa

# Community

## MAZEL TOV

To **Michael Fein**, on his promotion to the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI.

To **Marjorie Feld**, on being named the Goldstein Goren Fellow in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU, while on a one-year sabbatical from Babson next year.

To **Jen Kaplan** and **Susie Tanchel**, on being honored by the Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikvah!

A huge mazel tov to **Marla Lichtman** and **Larry Johnston**, on becoming grandparents (Grampy and Bubbe)! Marla writes, "We have a beautiful baby girl, 6lb 2 ounces, Lily Rose! Born at 3:18am, 5/24/19, CA time (6:18 here). Momma Veronica, baby, and partner Troy all doing great!"

To **Nathan Reider**, son of **Pamela Schoenberg** and **Joel Reider**, on graduating from Oberlin Conservatory with a degree in Performance and Jazz Studies. Nathan and saxophone are headed to Chicago in the fall.

To **Cayla Tepper**, daughter of **Scott Tepper**, on graduating with an MSW from Smith College in August.

To **Teddy Seidman**, son of **Ilana Minelli** and **Dan Seidman**, on graduating from Minuteman Regional High School this June and starting the Aviation Program at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in July.

To **Sophie Siegel-Bernstein**, daughter of **Jodie Siegel** and **Susan Bernstein**, on graduating from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Sophie will be attending American University in the fall.

To **Ava** and **Sam Feuer**, children of **Madeline Steinberg** and **Mitchell Feuer**, on graduating from Needham High School. Ava will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall. Sam will be attending Wesleyan University. Both are looking forward to this next chapter in their lives with great excitement!

To **Celia Gittleman**, daughter of **Jacqui Bloomberg** and Peter Gittleman, on graduating from Tufts University with a major in Child Development and a minor in Theater. She will stay in the area and look for jobs in higher education administration.

To **Jacob Schwartz**, son of **Abigail** and **Jordan Schwartz**, on graduating from Newton South High School. Jacob will be attending The College of Wooster in Ohio this fall.

To **Abby Roll**, daughter of **Elizabeth** and **David Roll**, on graduating from Newton

North High School. Abby is excited to be moving to New York to attend NYU in the fall.

To **Perry Miller**, son of **Laya Steinberg** and **Bruce Miller**, on graduating from OCADU (Ontario College of Art and Design University) with a B.Des. in Industrial Design. He plans to stay in Toronto for now and look for work in the design field.

To **Leah Coen-Tarbox**, daughter and step-daughter of **Sara** and **Ben Dash**, on graduating from Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall in June. Leah is headed to Clark University in the fall.

To **Liam Wilcox-Warren**, son of **Bob Warren** and **Meg Wilcox**, on graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BS in Applied Economics and Environmental Studies.

To **Jesse Halwitz**, son of **Carol Slipowitz** and **Dan Halbert**, on graduating from the Guild for Human Services in early July when he turns 22. He will be moving to a group home in Lexington and will continue to be an active member of CDT.

To **Isaac** and **Cora Hersh**, children of **Sarah Little** and **Doug Hersh**. Isaac graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland. This summer he will do ecological research and public education for a conservation organization in Nantucket, while thinking about his next steps. Cora will start a Ph.D program in Physical Oceanography at MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution with an emphasis on climate studies.

## Yahrzeit

This month we remember **David Keimowitz Crozier**, son of **Jessica Keimowitz** and **Polly Crozier**, whose 7th yahrzeit falls on June 19. We will be remembering David at Shabbat morning services on June 15th at the CDT retreat.

## Condolences

We extend our sympathies to **Mark Farber**, and to **Sherry Katz**, **Nate** and **Jake**, on the death of Mark's father, David Farber. May his memory be for a blessing.

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### 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 a member of the CDT staff if they are needed, before dropping anything off. Thank you!

# Community

To **Elizabeth, David, Juliet, Jake** and **Abby Roll**, on the death of Elizabeth's father, Harvey Halpern. 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>.

## TODAH RABAH

With deep appreciation to **Jaime Wurzel** for sharing parts of his family's story with us for our Yom Hashoah program.

A huge "todah rabah" to everyone who helped make the party for Marla Lichtman so successful: to **Annette Jacobs** for finding the perfect gift; to **Dianne Lior** and **Jen Kaplan** for the food and drink; and to **Dan Halbert** and **Lidia Prunte** for logistical support. Thank you!

Todah rabah to **Tal Shalom-Kobi** for working with the Kitot Dalet and Hay kids on their *siyyumim*, helping them make beautiful music together!

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

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped with kiddush last month:

**Carolyn Fine Friedman** (Captain), *in memory of Sara Fine, & Jeremiah Friedman, in memory of Pepi & Mark Friedman, Barbara Pittel, in memory of Edith & Murray Bushman, & Elliot Pittel, in memory of Dorothy & Aaron Pittel, Janet Penn, Marla Cummins, Ilana Streit, Sheree Galpert (Captain), **Theresa St. John-Siegel** (Captain) & **Steven Siegel, Amy Westebbe, Mark Yurkofsky, Deb Albenberg, Annette Jacobs, Doug Hersh** (Captain), **Peter Shapira, Merav Opher, Ellie Axe, Marcia Okun** (Captain) & **Joshua Lieberman, Gail Pressberg, Dan Rome, Alice Markowitz** (Captain) & **Rick Glassman, Mona***

## 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: **Annette Jacobs, Amy Mazur, Barbara Shatkin, Barbara Kassler, Bob Schaye, Bonnie Tenneriello, Stacey Chacker, Cindy Marshall, Corinne Lofchie, Danielle Klainberg, Diana Fisher Gombert, Diane Shufro, Elaine Landes, George Diep, Sue Weil, Sandy Sedacca, Judith Havens, Lidia Prunte, Lisa Hirsh, Marcia Okun, Miriam Bronstein, Ramona Pollack, Matt Shuster, Pamela Rosenstein, Sally Anderson, Sarah Hartman, Susan Cammer, and Susan Brecht.** The mechanism for generating reports through the online scheduling platform (Sign-up Genius) may not be entirely accurate, so forgive me, if I missed your name.

# CDT Events

## SUCCESSFUL MEMBER'S MEETING

Thank you to all who attended the members' meeting on Sunday, May 19. For those who were not able to attend, the minutes of the meeting and more information about the executive director can be found on our website [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org) under the Members tab on the Documents page.

## CDT GALLERY OPENING FOR MARA GIBBS SHOW

*Lauren Gibbs*

May 11th opened an exhibit of 24 of Mara Gibbs's photographs in the CDT gallery. After services, many people came over to look at the images, which will be up through Labor Day weekend. Come and take a look! The photos use a variety of



Members of CDT's new board at the meeting May 19th. Photo by Viv Shein.

# CDT Events



Idit Klein and Lior Namerow-Klein canoeing.  
Photo Jordan Namerow.

techniques: vibrant digital effects, black and white darkroom processes, use of a timer and a tripod, street photography, and photos of self, family, and friends from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and from Reed College. Much of Mara's work revolved around loneliness, tenderness, and hope. These photographs are intense, complex, intimate, and charismatic. Mara knew that photography would always be a part of her essential being, even if her living was to have been secured through computer coding. She would have enjoyed having CDT members see her images and view her through the work. There is also a second exhibit of 20 other images of Mara's that will be at the O'Neill Branch Library at 70 Rindge Avenue, North Cambridge, 02140 weekdays in August (10am - 8pm Mondays and Wednesdays and 10am - 6pm Thursdays and Fridays). Mara was in CDT's Hebrew School from kindergarten through 10th grade, and died in an off-campus fire in February, 2017.

## SAVE THE DATE: CDT BBQ ON AUGUST 18TH!

11am-1pm at *Auburndale Cove*

Join us for a fun afternoon where CDT plays! Invite your friends! It's a great way for new folks to experience CDT.

## CDT FILM CLUB

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

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

## CDT MEMBERS ENJOY HAVDALLAH ON THE WATER

*Diana Fisher-Gomberg*

Over 50 CDT members gathered for our annual celebration of Havdallah on the Water on May 11th in the Fisher Gomberg's "backyard". After enjoying a potluck dinner and some daylight paddling, we enjoyed being in the dark stillness, floating all together to light candles, do blessings, and sing songs. Some stayed to enjoy a campfire and sing-along afterwards. Special thanks to **LilyFish Gomberg** who led the blessings. We are happy to report that only one boat flipped, and the brave celebrant continued smiling the whole time.

## AVELUT REUNION GATHERING

*Andrew Sofer*

Avelut, Dorshei Tzedek's support group for adult mourners, actively met from November 2009 until 2014. On April 13, former participants commemorated Avelut's first decade and shared our own journeys since then. Here are some reflections about the reunion and what Avelut has meant to each of us.

"It was great to gather together and recall how special it was to share our pain, memories and even joy about loved ones who have passed on. It feels like a privilege to be part of our loving and supportive community."

"Avelut provided a meaningful way to 'be in community' to obtain important emotional support during the eleven-month mourning period following the death of a parent."

"It feels very meaningful to share memories and histories and stories, especially to talk about the values and legacies we've inherited. We understand ourselves and

know each other better, even after a short conversation."

"Reflecting back on Avelut after ten years, I feel so fortunate to have had a supportive group to meet with monthly after losing my parents. Sitting with peers, even after a decade, provided a familiar opening for meaningful dialogue. We asked each other how do we keep memories alive, and how might we make the replicable framework of Avelut available to others?"

Avelut could be revived if a group of interested members decides to convene. For more information, including Avelut's "best practices" guidelines for meetings, please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, **Hilary Marcus**, or **Andrew Sofer**.

# Learning

## 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!).



Photo by Viv Shein

# Tikkun Olam

## JOIN THE JERICO WALKS IN BURLINGTON, MA

Every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm (3-2-1) Next walk on Tuesday, June 18

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](mailto:acmazur@comcast.net).

## MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

CDT had a great showing at the 22nd Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace, benefitting the Louise D. Brown Peace Institute. Approximately 50 CDT members of all ages did all or part of the walk, and we raised \$3000 towards the Peace Institute's goal of \$400,000.



Photo by Tatjana Meschede

# Religious School Notes

## END OF THE YEAR SIYYUMIM!

### CDT's First Alef, Bet, and Gimel Siyyumim

For many years the CDT religious school has had four classes celebrate *siyyumim*-events that honor the completion of a course of study. We have had *kita gimel* (3rd grade) lead a *havdallah* service, *kita dalet* (4th grade) lead a *kabbalat shabbat/ma'ariv* (evening) service, *kita hey* (5th grade) lead a *shaharit* (morning) service, and *kita vav* (6th grade) lead *shaharit* along with the Torah service. Each of these services have been sweet, proud moments for the classes involved, reflecting the hard work and growth of our students over the course of the year. Our 7th graders haven't had a *siyyum*, since we assume they are working hard to prepare for their b'nai mitzvah celebrations.

But, why should only some of our classes publically celebrate their learning? This year, we tried something new. I wanted to

have an event that honors the learning of our first and second graders as well.

This year we had a joint first, second and third grade *siyyum* on Sunday, May 5th. Each teacher was responsible for planning with their classes some presentation related to their learning. Each one turned out different, and reflected the character of the group. *Kita Alef*, having studied the Jewish year, prepared a skit that highlighted some of the activities and major themes of each holiday. They demonstrated the *shofar* calls for Rosh Hashana, and ran to their parents in the audience to say "sorry" on Yom Kippur. *Kita bet* studied a series of Jewish values this year. They prepared a "quiz show" where their teacher asked them and the audience questions about Jewish values such as welcoming guests, caring for the earth, and honoring elders.

Finally, our *gimel* class shared written reflections on the meaning of *havdallah* and led the community in a *havdallah* service.

I found it powerful to see even some of our youngest learners present their learning, and I look forward to seeing this event continue and develop in the coming years.

## WELCOMING NEW SCHOOL FAMILIES!

The best way new families find our school is through our members sharing what they love about the community. If you have friends who might be interested, please put them in touch with Rabbi Shahar, invite them to the June All Ages Shabbat and our Summer BBQ on August 18th!



# Chesed

## CHESED: Recipes for a Caring Community

by Ellie Goldberg

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

On the 'Chesed: Caring Community' webpage we offer favorite recipes and suggestions for meals and food baskets. The recipes are tagged as (GF) Gluten Free, (V) Vegetarian, (V+) Vegan and (NF) Nut Free. There is also a list of bakeries and food sources for special items.

Note: A food basket of clearly labeled store-bought items is very helpful to folks who

need to avoid gluten, nuts, dairy and other allergenic foods.

We hope that the CDT community will contribute favorite recipes and food sources, favorite GF or Nut Free items, and suggestions for websites so we can all learn from each other. Contact the Chesed Committee at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.com](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.com).

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

Please join the CDT Chesed Community at the Lotsa Helping Hands website <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>. We use it to coordinate the community's chesed needs.

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

The Chesed Coordinators for June/July 2019 are **Ellie Goldberg** and **Susan Nitkin**. Contact them with comments, questions, or recipes at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

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](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

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Nediv Lev campaign is CDT's only fundraiser of the year. This year, we have increased our target to \$85,000, about 15% of our annual budget. It is a way for each of us to give back to our community with voluntary gifts "from the heart," to show appreciation for the role that CDT plays in our lives.

Starting this year you can donate online. Just log in to the [dorsheitzedek.org](http://dorsheitzedek.org) website and find Nediv Lev under the "Giving" tab. Of course, we still appreciate paper checks (especially for larger donations)! If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the Nediv Lev Co-Chairs, **John Carroll** ([jcarroll@mit.edu](mailto:jcarroll@mit.edu)) and **Debbie Waber** ([dpwaber@gmail.com](mailto:dpwaber@gmail.com)).

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

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent  
Karen and Jeffrey Arnold  
Steffi Aronson Karp and Eric Karp  
Lynn Brandon and Jyl Lynn Felman  
Barbara and Dennis Carboni  
Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder—*In memory of Marla Lichtman and her years of dedication to CDT. Thank you!*  
Rebecca Cohen and Jacob Weinberg—*In memory of Charles Gallun*  
Lauren Gibbs—*In honor of Marla Lichtman, Administrator Extraordinaire, and to thank Lidia Prunte, Rachel Greenberg, and Margery Meadow for helping set up the exhibit of Mara's photography*  
Rick Glassman and Alice Markowitz  
Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman—*In memory of Phyllis's brother, Arthur Goldberg*  
Lynda Goldberg and Joseph Bayes  
Beth and Jeffrey Green  
Judith and Tim Havens  
Douglas Hersh and Sarah Little  
Judy Hersh  
Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx  
Lisa Hirsh and DB Reiff

# CDT Calendar

# June 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY 26	MAY 27	MAY 28	MAY 29	MAY 30	MAY 31	JUN 1
<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>						<p>Chanting &amp; Meditation Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>CDT Men's Softball Game 10:00am to 12:00pm Forte Park 235 California St Newton, MA</p>				<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library</p> <p>Staff Meeting 1:30pm 60 Highland St: Library</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Shavuot, An Evening of Learning in memory of Gina Fried z"l 8:00pm to 11:55pm 60 Highland St: sanctuary, kitchen, living room, room 111, room 212</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p> <p>Tikkun Olam Steering Committee Meeting 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room (Parlor)</p>	<p>2019 CDT RETREAT! All Day Camp Yavneh</p>		<p>CDT Retreat - No Shabbat Service in Newton</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Father's Day</p>		<p>Jericho Walk in Burlington, MA 1:00pm 1000 District Ave, Burlington, MA 01803</p>		<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; B'nei Mitzvah of Cary Lent 9:45am</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>CDT Men's Softball Game 10:00am to 12:00pm Lincoln Field Complex: 110 Lincoln St Lexington, MA</p>	<p>Wise Aging Meeting 7:00pm to 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room</p>		<p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am 60 Highland Street: Library</p>			<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
30	JUL 1	JUL 2	JUL 3	JUL 4	JUL 5	JUL 6
<p>CDT Men's Softball Game 10:00am to 12:00pm Forte Park 235 California St Newton, MA</p>				<p>Independence Day</p>		

# Nediv Lev

Annette Jacobs  
Phyllis and Bill Kantor  
Reva Kasman  
Sherry Katz and Mark Farber  
Sue Lanser and Jo Radner  
Corinne Lofchie and Noam Shore  
Ilana Mainelli and Daniel Seidman  
Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury—*In memory of Arthur Marshall*  
Emily Mathis and Hali Diecidue  
Amy Mazur and Michael Feldstein [NM]  
Tatjana Meschede and Daniel Krasa —*In memory of Hana and Edgar Krasa*  
Sivan Nasoff and Valerie Bodet  
Jennifer Nichols and Jerold Gelfand  
Ruth Paris and Rob Saper—*In memory of Janice Phillips*  
Ellen Pashall  
Janet Penn  
Ramona Pollack  
Deborah and John Saltzman  
Laura Schulz and Susan Kaufman  
Sharon Schumack and Michael Luckens  
Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman  
Tal Shalom-Kobi and Hayim Kobi—*In memory of her beloved grandmother, Yehudit Gill*  
Alan Shapiro and Priscilla Harmel  
Peter Shapiro and Aline Newton—*In memory of Joan Shapiro*  
Emily and David Shumsky—*In honor of Marla Lichtman's Dedication, Service and Kindness to CDT members and Marsha W. Tobias on the occasion of her 81st Birthday*  
Ilene Spiro and Ira Schor  
Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller  
Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan

## RETREAT FUND

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent  
Stacey Chacker  
Judy Hersh  
Jennifer Levine-Fried and Matthew Fried  
Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen  
Jennifer Nichols and Jerold Gelfand  
Jamie Tessler

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder—*In memory of Sylvia Sheketoff, Martha Harris and Gerry Cohen, three wonderful women and teachers.*

### 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](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 online shopping you were planning to do anyway.

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**June 1:** DB Reiff (Captain), Sue Lanser, Stephen Gomperts, Cindy Shulak-Rome

**June 7:** Liz Carver (Captain), Alli Gold Roberts, Judah Axe, Daniel Reeves

**June 8:** Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen (Captain), Myra Schwartz, Amy Westebbe

**June 22:** B'nei Mitzvah of Cary Lent: Sanctuary Cleanup: Rebecca Pomerantz, Kristin Butcher; Ushers: Jennifer Sartori & Barry Gilbert

**June 29:** Rachel Davenport (Captain), Rebecca Byard, Becca O Murchadha, Rosalyn Goldbarg

**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



# Havadallah on the Water



Photo by Jordan Namerow

