



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Kislev/Tevet 5780

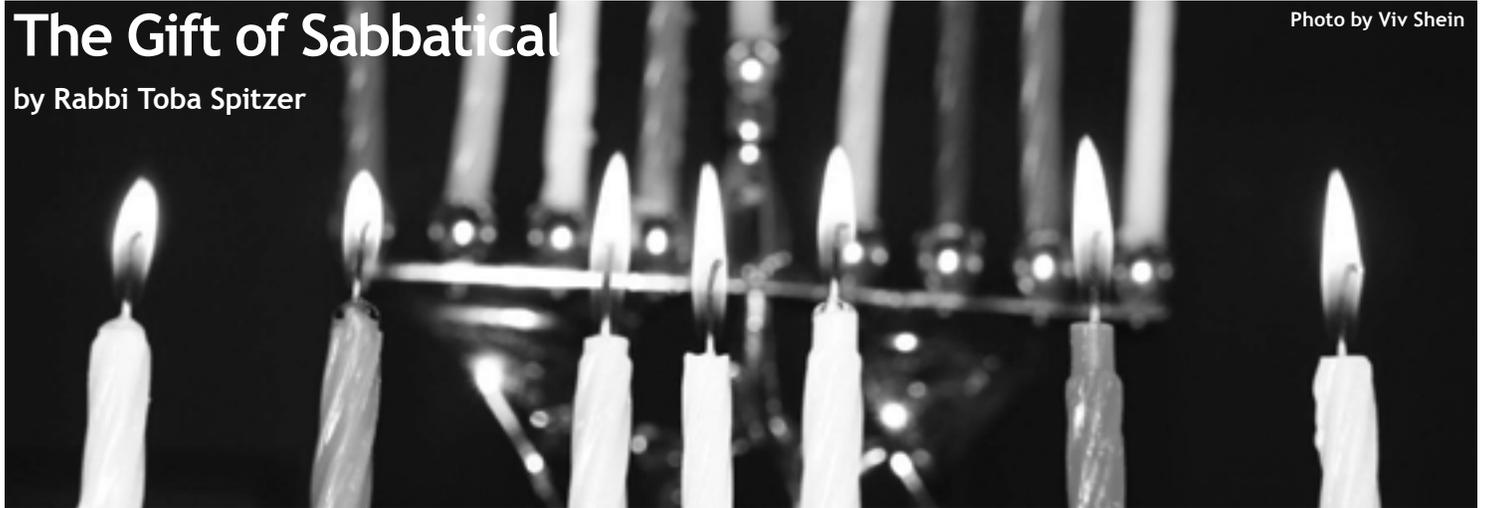
December 2019

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

The Gift of Sabbatical

Photo by Viv Shein

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



ONE OF THE Torah's greatest ideas is the notion of Shabbat—both the weekly day of rest every seventh day, and the sabbatical year every seventh year. The sabbatical year was a year of rest—for the land and all who worked on it—and also of release—of indentured servants and of debts. It was a year in which there was

to be no planting and no harvesting, and when everyone in society could access whatever grew naturally on the land. While we don't know if the sabbatical year as set out in the Torah was ever actually implemented, it is a powerful aspiration. There are some scholars who wonder if perhaps the weekly Shabbat was a kind of practice to get people ready for the sabbatical year.

One of the blessings of my job as a congregational rabbi is the gift of sabbatical. Why this nourishing practice is only expected for clergy and academics is a bit of a mystery to me, as everyone should get the gift of some months off to recharge, renew, and attend to special projects. I take my sabbatical in three-month increments over two years, for a total of six months every seventh year or so. I will begin this sabbatical cycle on December 15, and will be back for Purim (Rav Tiffany will cover for me on erev Purim, the evening of March 9!). The staff and leadership of CDT have been planning for my sabbatical since last spring, and I am confident that everything will flow smoothly. In the office, Melissa Colten and Lidia Prunte will oversee all of the administrative aspects of CDT life. The Ritual Committee and I have worked to create a wonderful set of Shabbat morning programs, with special guests supplementing Rabbi Shahar and our own talented members who will lead services and Torah discussions (you can see a beautiful brochure on the literature table in the sanctuary or go to the CDT

website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/shabbat-services). And Rabbi Shahar is here to handle all pastoral and life-cycle needs as they arise (with other coverage during January, when she is on parental leave – CDT members will receive information about who to contact during that month for pastoral support).

While I'm away, I will primarily be focused on the book project that I've been working on for the past five years. It is related to the God in metaphor topic that I've spoken and taught about here at CDT, and I am thrilled that I now have a book contract with St Martin's Press! It is both exciting and daunting, because now I have to actually finish the book. While I haven't confirmed all of my plans, I expect to be partially at home in Waltham and also visiting other locales where I can get some writing done. When I get back, I will be offering a class on God in metaphor, building on teaching I've done in the past and including – I hope! – some excerpts from the forthcoming book (you can see details about the class at www.dorsheitzedek.org/adult-education).

The final portion of my last sabbatical occurred in the winter of 2014, when my spouse Gina and I spent a month in Sevilla, Spain. A few months later, she received the diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. During the two years of her illness, and in the years following her death in the spring of 2016, I have been operating at somewhat of an emotional spiritual deficit. In addition to working on the book, I am looking forward to having the time and space to rest and renew, a kind of spiritual recharge. I am deeply grateful to our president, Lissy Medvedow, and the board, as well as to Rabbi Shahar, Melissa, and Lidia, for making this sabbatical time possible. I will be here for Shabbat morning services on December 7 (a contemplative service) and December 14. If I don't see you before I go, I look forward to reconnecting in the spring!

Rabbinic Liaison

Rabbinic Liaisons: 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.

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE & POTLUCK

Friday evening, December 13, January 10 and February 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

CDT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION!

Sunday afternoon, December 22, 4:30pm-7pm, FUUSN, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Join the CDT community on the first night of Chanukah! It will be a beautiful evening of candles and singing, creative activities and dreidle games, and a latke dinner. Bring your Chanukah menorah, two candles, a dish to share (see below) and your friends! Here's the outline of activities:

4:30pm: Candle-lighting and Chanukah songs (bring a menorah and 2 candles!)

5:00pm: Workshops for all ages, including cooking, music, art, an activity for the little ones, and adult text study!

6:00pm: Latke dinner! Latkes are provided by an incredible team of CDT cooks! Please bring a vegetarian side dish or salad as a potluck contribution to share to accompany the latkes – green salad, pasta, veggie, quinoa, tuna or egg salad, etc. (please avoid nuts). Drinks and desserts will be provided.

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

CONTEMPLATIVE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday morning, December 7 9:45am-Noon

Led by Rabbi Toba and Linda Kramer, this service combines song, guided, and silent meditation in lieu of the traditional Shabbat morning service, from 9:45am-11:15am. Torah study and discussion begins at 11:15am. Come to all or part of the service; no meditation experience necessary!

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturday morning, December 14, 8:45am-9:40am with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion before Shabbat morning services, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage. *Note: This monthly shabbat morning Torah study with Rabbi Toba will be on hiatus during her sabbatical in January and February.*

TOT SHABBAT!

Shabbat mornings (Saturday) at 10:45am December 7, January 18, February 22, March 14, April 4, May 9, June 13

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program, for children ages 6 and younger and their adults and siblings. New this year, it will be led by Morah **Devora Rohr**, CDT's Nitzanim/Gan teacher. We will sing, pray, dance, march with Torahs, play games, read stories, and eat... all we need is YOU!

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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

t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org

Rabbi for Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt

s.colt@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Director: Melissa Colten

m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org

Program Associate: Lidia Pruenete

l.pruente@dorsheitzedek.org

Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin

inclusion@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedov

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

Acting VP Education: Diana Fisher Gomberg

VP Leadership: Rob Greenly

VP Tikkun Olam: Bob Warren

Secretary: Ro Weichman

Board Members-at-Large:

Ellie Axe, Laurie Gould, Dan Rome, Jonathan

Rosenthal, & Lisa Samelson

Off-Board Chairs:

Children's Education: Sarah Birkeland & Webster Pilcher

Chesed: Elaine Landes

Nediv Lev: Debbie Waber

Newsletter: John Holohan

Inclusion: Susan Nitkin

Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling

Space: Steve Siegel

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 (cont'd)

SHABBAT VAYESHEV WITH DR. JUDITH KATES



Saturday morning, December 21, 9:45am-noon

Dr. Judith Kates will join us for Shabbat Vayeshev, and share a d'var torah titled "The Torah's Thriller: The Story of Tamar and Yehudah."

Dr. Judith Kates is a recently retired member of the founding faculty of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, who has taught Tanakh and Jewish exegetical traditions at the College and in many programs of adult learning. She co-edited (with Gail Twersky Reimer) *Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story* and *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holy Days*.

SHABBAT VAYIGASH WITH CDT MEMBERS LAURIE GOLDMAN AND CINDY RIVKA MARSHALL

January 4, 2020



CDT members **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, a professional storyteller, and **Laurie Goldman**, an expressive Torah chanter, have developed a unique, innovative, interactive approach to bringing Torah to life. Midrashic storytelling in English is interspersed into the chanting of the Hebrew verses. Congregants are invited into the process of midrashic storytelling, exploring the viewpoints of the characters in this dramatic Torah story of the reunion of Joseph and his brothers.

Cindy Rivka Marshall is an award-winning professional storyteller, workshop facilitator and story coach. She trains educators and leaders in effective story eliciting and crafting, and consults on story-based learning and community building in congregational settings. Her Story Arc blog explores the use of stories to "reach, teach and change." Cindy is a frequently invited pre-

sender at conferences, including Limmud UK; her stories were published in "Mitzvah Stories" and "New Mitzvah Stories for the Whole Family." She is the co-chair of the Jewish Storytelling Coalition.

Laurie Goldman, Ph.D., pays close attention to the power of stories as a teacher of social change agents, researcher, organizational consultant, community activist, and Torah learner and leyner. She teaches in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University and is a CDT member.



SHABBAT VAYECHI WITH RABBI LAURA BELLOWS

January 11, 2020

Rabbi Bellows is the Director of Prozdor and Youth Programs at

Hebrew College. She is a passionate educator, community builder, soferet (scribe), and artist focusing on the intersection of Torah, gender, and environmental and climate justice issues. Before returning to Hebrew College, where she received rabbinic ordination, she led the BIMA and Genesis programs at Brandeis University and pioneered congregational learning at the Teva Learning Alliance (now Hazon). She is an active member of the Havurah Movement, Let My People Sing, and has taught, drashed, officiated, and repaired Torahs in communities across the country. She had the gift of helping lead the first years of Got Shabbat at CDT and is thrilled to be back for Shabbat!

GOT SHABBAT? THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CLIMATE CRISIS, MIGRATION AND RACIAL EQUITY

Saturday morning, January 18, 2020: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Shabbat with Rabbi Shoshana Friedman



We welcome Rabbi Shoshana Friedman for our all-ages Shabbat experience, celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rabbi Shoshana will be leading morning songs and blessings, including

music of the Civil Rights movement, beginning at 9:45am, and sharing about her work for climate justice.

Rabbi Friedman is known for her uplifting and musical prayer services, her emotionally resonant teachings based in Jewish text and tradition, and her commitment to climate action and social justice. She currently serves as the Director of Professional Development at Hebrew College, in Newton, MA, where she works with rabbinical and cantorial students, and teaches on spirituality & social justice. Rabbi Shoshana was ordained by Hebrew College, and is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, JOIN For Justice, and Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences where she was also a Henry David Thoreau Scholar.

SHABBAT VA'ERA WITH DR. LAWRENCE ROSENWALD

January 25, 2020



Larry Rosenwald will join us for Shabbat Va'era and share a d'var Torah titled "Some Thoughts about Names and The Name."

Dr. Rosenwald is the Anne Pierce Rogers Professor of English at Wellesley College, where he has been teaching since 1980. Among his chief current scholarly interests are pacifist criticism, translation and multilingualism, and words and music. He has published translations from French, German, and Yiddish, and written and performed verse narratives for some fifty works of early music theater. Since 2003 he has been a member of Havurat Shalom in Somerville, and is working on the translation of that congregation's new siddur
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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 (cont'd)

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Families: We will have two trained CDT CHILDCARE providers every Shabbat, Saturdays, from 10:00am until 12:15pm.

All members: *Know a babysitter?* Please help us fill in the gaps in the CDT CHILDCARE schedule. 14-18 year olds earn \$27 and 18+ earn \$40 per shift.

Contact Us! Please email Kristin Butcher at kfbutcher@yahoo.com, or call Rebecca Pomerantz at 617-312-2636 for more information!

Important Note From Our Administrative Staff: Logistics

Please Don't Forget Your Bambaggies! We're excited to compost at our communal meals, however the price of compostable plates, cups, and utensils costs an extra \$700 per year! Help us save the planet and keep our costs down by remembering to bring your Bambaggie or other reusable dishes.

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 & Events

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT member **Alex Fried**, on the occasion of his 12th yearzeit. We will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on December 14. May his memory be for a blessing.

We also remember this month **Susannah Zisk**, on the occasion of her 8th yearzeit. We will remember Susannah at Shabbat morning services on December 21. May her memory be for a blessing.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Hannah Keimowitz Crozier** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

Mazel tov to **Steffi Aronson Karp**, for being honored at this year's LimmudFest as the founder of Boston's yearly celebration of learning, and for her ten years of leading LimmudBoston. Yasher koach, Steffi!

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to **Rob Greenly**, and to **Ricky, Laura and Savannah**, on the death of Rob's brother, Lewis Greenly. May his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our sympathies to **Jon Weisberg**, and to **Debbie Hemley and Emma Weisberg**, on the death of Jon's sister, Martha Garlikov; may her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our sympathies to **Rex Flynn**, and to **Amy Brodesky, Emily and Avi**, on the death of Rex's mother, Evelyn Flynn; may her memory be for a blessing.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessing for complete healing to **Lynne Brandon, Elaine Pollack, and Linette Liebling**.

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 **Allegra Heath-Stout!** Allegra has been attending High Holydays services and "loves the services theologically, musically, spiritually, and intellectually."

A warm welcome to new member **Gavi Bogin-Farber!**

A warm welcome to new members **David and Jeni Rhodes**, and their children **Nadav (7), Anya (5), and Seyla (9 months)**.

TODAH RABAH

Thanks to everyone who provided kiddush:

Emily Shumsky, David Shumsky, Rachel Pytel, Rachele Rosi-Kessel, Adam Rosi-Kessel, Jennifer Nichols, Jerold Gelfand, Carolyn Gelfand, Pamela Rosenstein, in memory of Beatrice Kleiman, Amy Pollack-Howard, George Howard, Laura Schulz, Susan Kaufman, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Roy Edelstein, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Laya Steinberg, Bruce Miller, Phoebe Cushman, Nina Dudnik, PJ Killian, Stacie Garnett-Cook (Captain), Lisa Keshet, Benis Bernstein, Sarah Hartman, Ilana Mainelli, Hugh Fenimore, Sheree Galpert, Lori Garg, Pushkal Garg, Wendy Gedankin (Captain), Marion Ross, Pam Katz, Steven Katz (Captain), Rachel Adler-Golden, Steve Adler-Golden, Pablo Goldburg, Hope Kellman, Stacey Chacker (Captain), David Schatz, Barbara Carboni, Pamela Schoenberg (Captain), Joel Reider, Carol Sklar, Jodie Siegel, in memory of Sara Shelton, Michael Fein, Marjorie Feld, Stephanie Hackett, Nem Hackett, Amy Dain, Scott Gordon, Noah Rumpf, Chad Pytel, Margo Michaels, Jenn Guptill, Scott Gordon, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Karen Leitner, Jen Greenberg, David Greenberg, Jan Small, Ami Gordon, Becca Ó Murchadha, Jonathan Gordon (Captain), Marc Steinberg, Linda Hsu, Doug Hersh (Captain), Esther Kohn, in memory of Hedy Weinberg, Michele Arons, Michael Brann (Captain), Tom Brown, Linda Kramer, Ruth Paris, in memory of Isaac, Dorothy and Steven Paris, Rob Saper, in memory of Louis and Eileen Saper, Ora Gladstone

Community & Events (cont'd)

COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNERS

Weekend of December 6-7

Community Potlucks, hosted in members' homes, are a great way to connect with other members—old friends and new in a small-group setting. Sign up on the CDT website in the Members section now!

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday evening, December 7, 6:00pm potluck, 7:00pm movie, at the home of Helaine and John Carroll, 22 Surrey Road Newton, MA

Bag of Marbles: French, German, Russian, Yiddish: The story of a small Jewish boy's flight, with his brother Maurice, to escape from Nazi-occupied France during World WWII.

Come by 6:00pm for the potluck. The 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, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Please let us know if you plan to come and what you're bringing (we can give you ideas and/or recipes). RSVP to Helaine Carroll, if at all possible.

Note: Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families.

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

EXPLORATORY TECH COMMITTEE - ALL CDT MEMBERS INVITED

All CDT members are invited to help explore how CDT could use tech. All levels of expertise, including 0, appreciated. Limited time commitment, and all meetings Zoom-interactive as well as face-to-face. Participate in all 3 phases or just 1.

Phase I: Brainstorming and categorization. Some questions to think about before coming to the initial meeting: What tech do we use and interact with in which part of our lives and with whom? In our professional lives, personal lives, and Dorshei Tzedek congregational lives? Which tech tools have what function, connectivity, ease of use, longevity?

December meeting dates: 12/4 (Wed), 7-8:30pm, library; 12/12 (Thurs), 6-7:30, living room; 12/17 (Tues), 7:30-9pm, library; or schedule a meeting with [Melissa m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:Melissa.m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org) during working hours on 12/23, 12/24, 12/26, or 12/27.

Phase II: Research. Details in the January newsletter! January meetings: TBD

Phase III: Spreadsheets and Proposals. Details in February newsletter! February meetings: TBD

Chesed

CREATING COMMUNITY WITH CHESED

by Ellie Goldberg

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." (Anonymous)

The Difference between Heaven and Hell: a Parable

Imagine a room where people are sitting around tables at a huge banquet. The tables are overflowing with the most delicious foods you can imagine. Everyone is famished, desperate and starving because they have no elbows. They cannot feed themselves. They are thin and miserable. Their suffering is terrible.

Now imagine a room where groups of people are sitting around tables at a huge banquet. The tables are overflowing with the most delicious foods you can imagine. In fact, the scene is exactly the same. The people have no elbows. But in this room, everyone is happy and well-nourished. What is the

difference? Here the people have learned to feed each other.

The Dorshei Tzedek community values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. When a member has a significant life event such as a birth or adoption, illness, or death in the family, the Chesed Coordinators use LotsaHelpingHands to facilitate volunteer support—a gesture of practical comfort and caring to acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times. It builds the type of community we want to live in.

If you have questions about Chesed, as a recipient or as a volunteer, please contact the Chesed coordinators at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT now has an *updated* LotsaHelpingHands site. Even if you were part of the old site, you need to re-enter your information to join "**CDT Chesed Caring Community (updated)**." <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated>

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. The Chesed Coordinators for December are **Melanie Adler, Eileen Morrison, and Ellie Goldberg**.

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 t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330. **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, our Rabbi for Congregational Learning, is also available and can be contacted at s.colt@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.

Tikkun Olam

UNDERSTANDING RACISM

Wednesday evening December 11th, 7:00pm, at the home of Tatjana Meschede, 221 Langley Road Newton, MA

The CDT Understanding Racism group will meet on Wed. Dec. 11 at 7:00pm at Tatjana's house in Newton.

INTRODUCTION TO UJIMA FAITH STRATEGY

December 8, 2019, 10:15am - noon, at JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

Learn about how our community can get involved in shifting wealth and decision-making power to working class, Black and Brown communities locally. The workshop will be primarily focused on opportunities to purchase goods and services from Ujima businesses along with investing in the Ujima Fund and supporting grassroots political campaigns connected to Ujima's work. Come learn more about this exciting local initiative!

CDT STORIES: WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND NURTURING OUR SOULS

by Bob Warren

Last month about 18 CDT members attended a Tikkun Olam event to hear stories from four veteran CDT members about social justice activities that have moved them and connected them to CDT's mission of Tikkun Olam.

We heard from **Mark Farber**, a member of our Economic Diversity committee talk about his journey through meetings and conversations with other members around issues of discomfort with economic differences in our Congregation, issues of shame because of economics and the wonderful feelings of bonding amongst CDT members engaged in these difficult discussions.

Ora Gladstone spoke about her family history that led to her activism around Israel and her increasing participation in political activism as she grew up. Her activities with CDT have included being key in promoting and bringing other members to GBIO actions in particular the fight for Health Care in Massachusetts that ultimately became the model for Obamacare nationally.

Stacey Chacker told us her life story regarding her family's immigrant history, always being part of a welcoming attitude towards immigrants which led to her many years of working in Immigrant communities prior to joining CDT. At CDT Stacey took this commitment and along with Abby Cohen, Bonnie Tenneriello and then Danielle Klainberg helped lead CDT's work in the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative. Stacey finished her contribution by reading the sanctuary guest Sofia's beautiful letter that she wrote to her supporters as she left the sanctuary at the Parish of St. Paul in Newton Highlands.

Finally, **Ellie Goldberg** recounted the origins of her environmental consciousness as a little girl on the shore of Lake Erie, to her lifelong inspiration of her hero (and many of ours) Rachel Carson whose call to action for the environment has meant so much to the world. Ellie spoke of the importance of heroes in our activist work as well. All of these points led to committing to make government work for people again as for example the fight for clean water.

We broke up into small groups to share our reactions to the stories and then listed themes that came from those discussions for further reflection.

"A BOY FROM GAZA": PRESENTATION BY AMIR QUDAIH

Sunday morning, December 8, 4:30 to 6:00 pm in Room 111 (at Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton)

CDT's Israel-Palestine Peace Group invites you to a presentation by Amir Qudaih, a refugee from Gaza who is now studying engineering at UMass-Lowell. Amir comes from a prominent farming family that learned to live without electricity or running water; he was trained in civil engineering in Gaza and also worked as a local producer and translator for CNN. He will speak with us about conditions in Gaza, about his personal experiences surviving three major wars, and about his arduous journey to escape Gaza for the United States. Through his presentation, Amir hopes to raise awareness of the situation in Gaza today. This event is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Forthcoming CDT Israel-Palestine Peace events scheduled include a three-session study group on the evolution of the Occupation and its impact on everyday life, open to all members of CDT, and a reading and conversation with Haaretz columnist Ilana Hammerman, author of *A Small Door Set in Concrete: One Woman's Story of Challenging Borders in Israel/Palestine*, out this winter from the University of Chicago Press. For questions or further information, or to join the ippeace listserv, please contact Sue Lanser (lanser@brandeis.edu) or any member of the ippeace steering committee (Louise Enoch, Elaine Landes, Ruth Paris, Jonathan Rosenthal).

GBIO ACTION

by Louise Enoch

The GBIO's Rise Up for Healing action on Monday, November 4, held at the IBEW Hall in Dorchester was attended by over 800 people. We were very pleased with the CDT turnout of 29 people! Thank you CD-Ters! It was an upbeat affair which included some great live music as we gathered. As usual the program ran like clockwork. Several members of GBIO congregations shared personal stories about the high cost of needed medications, the frustrations of an inadequate mental health care system, and the burdens of unexpected out of pocket bills. GBIO Health Care leaders outlined legislative efforts to improve health care in these three areas: the high cost of pharmaceuticals, mental health parity, and surprise out of network billing. All of these concerns were directed towards the invited government officials who attended: Senate President Karen Spilka, Senate Co-chair of Health Finance Cindy Friedman, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. Each of the officials spoke of their personal and professional commitments to promoting legislation in these three areas of health care reform. Senator Friedman announced that the Senate prescription drug bill is ready to be filed.

Comments from some CDT participants:

Allison Hausman - *It was a powerful action that was beautifully organized. In 90 minutes we felt unified, moved by personal poignant stories, and got responses from*

our state representatives. I left grateful for their work and the power we can have together.

Lissy Medvedow - *Hearing personal stories from individuals who are bearing the burden or have been victimized by failures of the health care system created an urgency that made me appreciate being in a space with 800+ members of multiple faith-based organizations, including nearly 30 CDT members, all gathered for the singular purpose to effect systemic change.*

Being part of this organization and process does give one greater hope that some reforms are possible that will offer individuals and families greater access to affordable medications and services. GBIO's work on Health Care will continue as its primary focus throughout the spring until the end of this legislative session. The CDT representatives will keep the congregation informed about its progress.

PRISON BOOK PROJECT

Tuesday evening, December 3, 6:30-9pm

Volunteer with the Prison Book Program (PBP) at the United First Parish Church in Quincy on Tuesday, December 3rd. Volunteers work at various tasks to respond to prisoners' requests for specific books and send them out to prisoners. The Church is close to the Red Line/Quincy Center stop. A regular carpool goes to the PBP from Newton and carpools can possibly be formed from other locations where individual CDT members drive from. CDT members can sign up in the Members section of the CDT website. Questions? contact Barbara Shatkin at bfshatkin@aol.com.

JOIN THE JERICHO WALKS IN BURLINGTON, MA

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

MILK WITH DIGNITY

Nate Feinfeld & Marjorie Feld



On Sunday, November 3, over a dozen CDT members joined activists from other local Jewish congregations to hold a rally and deliver a letter to store management of Hannaford's in Waltham. The letter urged the store to join the Milk with Dignity program, which will make them get milk and other dairy products from companies that provide better pay, living and working conditions for their dairy workers. Organized and led by Stacey Chacker and two rabbis from other congregations, the group held up signs, some with funny

puns on them, trying to show customers coming in and out of the store what their cause was. One sign read "Hannaford's! We are COWn-ting On You!" and another "Milk and Cookies and Justice". Milk with Dignity was established by Migrant Justice, a human rights organization founded and led by immigrant farm workers in Vermont. In 2017, Ben and Jerry's was the first company to sign on to the agreement, which prioritizes sourcing milk from farms that have enrolled in the program.

All the CDT'ers were very enthusiastic about the cause. **Eleanor Kaplan** (age 11) said, "It felt empowering, like I could really help these overworked employees and make a big difference. I felt strong, and I hope that I made enough of an impact to, even slightly, make the world a better place." **Nathan Feinfeld** (age 12) said that it was "great because it is horrible to work so hard on something and not be rewarded fairly." He also pointed out to management that Ben and Jerry's is a model: they did something good by signing onto the Milk with Dignity program and now look good for having done it! As consumers, as seekers of justice, we hope to continue pressing companies to join Milk With Justice and give fair treatment to those who bring food to our tables. For more information about Migrant Justice and the Milk with Dignity Campaign, visit <https://migrantjustice.net/>.



Children and Family Programs

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO BE DORSHEI TZEDEK- PURSUERS OF JUSTICE?

by Rabbi Shahar Colt

One aspect of Dorshei Tzedek that draws many of our members is the congregation's identity as "Dorshei Tzedek"- Pursuers of Justice. Our membership is invested in a range of ways to make our world more just and livable for all beings. This year's Children's Education Committee is committed to creating more opportunities for families to do community service work together, and they have planned opportunities for Dorshei families to help in the CDT donation garden, volunteer at Cradles to Crayons and Family Table, and participate in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Each of these events is a beautiful way for parents to model their values and enact them alongside their children.

Alongside these activities, I began wondering, are we doing enough to reflect these communal values within the context of the school and class time? Not every grade has a pre-determined and designated tikkun olam project, though some do, and our curriculum still follows a relatively traditional backbone of Torah and Tefillah (prayer)... I began to worry that we have been somehow shirking our responsibility in this area.

I began to go through each grade's curriculum, thinking about where children at each level would be encountering Jewish values around making our world a healthier, safer, fairer place and having opportunities to act them out. I realized that exploration of the values are embedded across all aspects of our curriculum, from giving tzedakah in our youngest classes, to 4th graders learning about Abraham's hachnasat orchim, welcoming guests, as inspiration for community members opening their homes to asylum seekers. Our fifth graders' focus on the Exodus story and our communal sensitivity to identity based oppression leads to the fair trade chocolate sale for Chanukah, and our sixth graders' study of Prophets invites them into exploring what it means to speak with a prophetic voice- how do we get ourselves heard about the topics that matter? The 6th grade prophets project sets them up for doing their own tikkun olam project as part of the b'nai mitzvah process, and supports the experience of speaking publicly as they will when delivering their divrei Torah.

Our November teaching staff meeting focused on child development stages, and how teachers can work most sensitively with their students' age and stage to develop the most meaningful tikkun olam engagement that we can offer. I look forward to seeing the lessons and units that this staff learning will inspire.

SAVE THE DATE: TIKKUN OLAM OPPORTUNITY!

From the Children's Education Committee

On Sunday, March 15, 2020 CDT families are invited to volunteer together at Jewish Family and Children's Services' Family Table program. (There is no religious school that day.) Up to 15 CDT families will meet at the Waltham JF&CS office at 11am to pack food for families in need. Packing takes about 30 minutes. Then you will drive and deliver the groceries to between one and three recipients. Deliveries should be completed no later than 1:30 p.m. Children of any age can help out. Would you like to join us? Please sign up!

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We are working on building connections between the Nitzanim/Gan program and other opportunities for young children and their families to connect to Jewish life at Dorshei Tzedek. To that end, Morah Devora Rohr will be leading our Tot Shabbat programs once a month on Shabbat mornings, as well as our holiday related programming for young children.

UPCOMING TOT HOLIDAY PROGRAMS (FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS AGED 0-5):

Chanukah Party: December 22, FUUSN 4:30-7:00pm

Havdallah: January 4, Second Church, 6:00-7:00pm
Pre-Pesach: March 29, Second Church 4:00-5:00pm

SUNDAY MORNING PARENT BRUNCHES

December 15, February 9

We will have a few parent brunches hosted on Nitzanim/Gan Sunday mornings at JCDS for families with younger children (ages 0-3) to come and meet the Nitzanim families, hang out together (with their younger kiddos), and get to know the program and the space. Save the dates for Sunday mornings Dec. 15th and Feb. 9th.

Learning

EVERYONE CAN DRASH!

With Rabbi Shahar Colt

Thursday evenings, December 5, 12, & 19,
7:30-9:00pm

In this class we will explore what it means to “drash”—to explore Torah texts, develop one’s own wisdom, and share it with the community. Over the course of four classes each person will develop a drash on their own or with a partner. We hope these drashot will be shared at a Dorshei Tzedek Shabbat morning service in the spring, but anyone is welcome to join the class without committing to presenting. The class will be cumulative, so attendance at all four sessions, if possible, is recommended.

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. In December, Karen Arnold leads on the first Thursday of the month, on a theme related to the Torah portion, and Rabbi Toba leads on the second Thursday. Other group members lead the meditation on other mornings. All are welcome, what-

ever your level of meditation experience (or lack thereof!).

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS

These programs happen during religious school hours on Sunday mornings, at JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue in Watertown.

CHANUKAH FOR GROWN-UPS WITH RABBI SHAHAR COLT

Sunday, December 15, 11am-noon, JCDS

What meaning does Chanukah hold beyond lighting the menorah and eating latkes? We will examine themes of assimilation and identity.

HOW TO STOP LOSING YOUR S**T WITH YOUR KIDS

Book Talk with CDT member Carla Naumburg

Sunday, January 12, 10:30-11:30am,

Ever lose it with your kid? If so, you’re definitely not alone. Parenting is stressful and you’re only human. Carla Naumburg, PhD, a clinical social worker, was so at a loss with her daughters that she found herself googling “how to stop yelling at my kids” during a particularly grueling evening. That moment led to this book--a short, empathic, tip-filled program for how to manage your

triggers, stop the meltdowns, and become a calmer, happier parents with calmer happier kids.

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Sundays, January 5, 12, 26, Feb. 2, 9, March 1 with Ayelet Lipton, JCDS, 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

TIME TO REGISTER!!! For parents raising children ages 0-9, this six-session program offers support, encouragement, and connection as you explore parenting through the Jewish tradition. Each session will incorporate Jewish values and texts to guide you in becoming a more purposeful parent, making difficult topics easier, and finding balance in everyday life. For more information, see hebrewcollege.edu/parenting. To register for this program (registration is required), go to <https://hebrewcollege.edu/parenting-through-a-jewish-lens> and look for the CDT site (listed under Watertown). Further financial support is available through CDT.



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



CDT Calendar

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEC 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Religious Schoo Gr 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA	Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor Technology Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm 60 Highland St: Living Room	Mindful Mornings 8:30am - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library Everyone can Drash! 7:30pm - 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room	Community Shabbat Potluck 6:00pm Members' home	Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am - noon Tot Shabbat 10:45am 60 Highland St: Room 111 Legos and Latkes 4:00pm - 6:30pm 60 Highland St Community Shabbat Potluck 6:00pm Members' home CDT Film Club: Bag of Marbles 6:00pm Members' home
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA Intro to Ujima Faith Strategy 10:15am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA A Boy from Gaza 4:30pm - 6:00pm 60 Highland St: Room 111		Religious Schoo Gr 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA	Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor Understanding Racism Meeting 7:00pm Home of Tatjana Meschede	Mindful Mornings 8:30am - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library Staff Meeting 1:00pm - 2:30pm Technology Committee Meeting 6:00pm - 7:30pm 60 Highland St: Living Room Everyone can Drash! 7:30pm - 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Rm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am - 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am - noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA Parent Brunch for Kindergarten & under 10:00 - 12:00pm JCDS Chanukah for Grown-Ups 11:00am - 12:00pm JCDS CDT Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room	GBIO Congregation Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm 60 Highland St: Living Room	Religious Schoo Gr 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA Technology Committee Meeting 7:30 - 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Library	Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor	Mindful Mornings 8:30 - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library Wise Aging Meeting 7:00 - 9:00pm 60 Highland Street: Living Room Everyone can Drash! 7:30 - 9:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room		Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Shahar Colt and Dr. Judith Kates 9:45am - noon
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chanukah Party 4:30pm - 7:00pm FUUSN: Parish Hall, downstairs kitchen, Alliance Rm, Head Start Rm, Children's Chapel, 2 classrooms		Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA	Admin: Christmas Day Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor	Admin: Christmas Day Mindful Mornings 8:30 - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am - noon
29	30	31	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4
Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA		Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA		Mindful Mornings 8:30 - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library		Shabbat Vaylgash with CDT members Laurie Goldman and Cindy Rivka Marshall 9:45am - noon Havdallah Service for Nitzanim/Gan Families 6:00 - 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Library

Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.

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

Steffi & Eric Karp

Carol Hemley—*In memory of Martha Garlikov, beloved sister of Jonathan Weisberg*

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Jennifer Kaplan & Susie Tanchel—*In honor of all the singers and musicians who enhanced the high holiday services with your music.*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Altman Family—*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Crozier*

Sheree Galpert—*In honor of and with gratitude for the congregation's support after the recent passing of her mother, Lois Galpert. Special thanks goes to Rabbi Toba and Debbie Waber for their lovely shiva leadership*

Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Marcus Magaziner—*In honor of Ruby Cohen-Weinberg's Bat Mitzvah and Josette Akresh-Gonzales' Jerusalem poetry*

Jonathan Weisberg & Debbie Hemley—*In memory of Martha Weisberg Garlikov, thanking Rabbi Toba for helping and supporting our family following the death of my sister Martha*

SCHOOL FUND

Margaret Mattes

YAHREIT DONATIONS

Jeffrey Green—*In memory of Herbert Green*
Frances Malinon—*In memory of Eugene C. Black*

Ilana Mainelli & Daniel Seidman—*In memory of Rosalind Mainelli*

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

December 7, Shabbat morning service:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Jacqui Bloomberg (Captain) / Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn—in memory of Kayla Brodesky Flynn / Linette Liebling—in memory of Zelda and Joel Liebling

December 13, Friday, All-ages Erev Shabbat service & potluck:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Noam Shore (Captain) / Judy Hersh / Susie Tanchel / Karen Arnold—in honor of my father's yahrzeit, Robert Levine

December 14, Shabbat morning service:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Jo Radner (Captain) / Sue Lanser / Janice Cole / Lauren Gibbs—in memory of Mara and Pat Gibbs

December 21, Shabbat morning service

Setup: Sami O'Reilly (Captain) / Louise Enoch / Alan Epstein / Allison Hausman

December 22, Sunday Chanukah Party

Latke Makers: Elaine Landes / David Felson / Janet Boguslaw / Howie Kaufman

Setup: Rosalyn Goldburg / Webster Pilcher / Liz Reisberg / JoAnn Feldstein / Michael Feldstein / Edith Epstein / Michael Tsuk / Rich Glassman

Cleanup: Lynda Goldberg / Joe Bayes / Jonathan Weisberg (Captain) / Nancy Bohan-Broderick / Amy Dain

December 28, Shabbat morning service

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Matilda Brookner (Captain) / Ed Bruckner / Bill & Phyllis Kantor

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the signups page 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 cleanup, 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



Celebrate Chanukah

CDT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION!

Sunday afternoon, December 22, 4:30pm-7pm,

FUUSN, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Photo by Viv Shein.

