



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Tevet/Shevat 5780

January 2020

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

Yes, Everyone Can “Drash” by Rabbi Shahar Colt



SERMON. HOMILY. “TALK.” D’var Torah. Drash.

What’s the difference between all these things? There are many styles for presenting words of spiritual inspiration and motivation in a religious context, and these words reflect different contexts even within Jewish communities. A d’var Torah means a “word of Torah,”

while *drash* comes from the same root as “Dorshei” meaning to search out or pursue. Specifically, when we speak from the *bima* to interpret words of Torah and bring them into connection in our lives, we are sharing *drashot*. Just like Dorshei Tzedek reflects our community’s pursuit of justice, I love referring to words of Torah as “*drashot*” to reflect our project of pursuing meaning.

In our community, even when Rabbi Toba isn’t on sabbatical, we have one shabbat morning each month that is member led, and members share words of Torah. When I heard that the ritual committee sometimes has trouble finding people to give the *drash*, it occurred to me that this was an opportunity for skill and confidence building in our community. If we believe that each *b’nai mitzvah* student can and should experience delivering their own words of Torah (at age 13! In front of the whole community!) shouldn’t more adults be taking on a similar role?

So, this fall I have led an adult learning program called, “Everyone can Drash.” I truly believe that every member of our community has wisdom to share. You don’t have to consider yourself a writer or a scholar, you just need to be

interested in bringing your open heart and questions to our tradition (most often texts from the Torah)... and seeing what new Torah comes out in the process. My vision for us as a Jewish community is that we pursue Torah together, that we find ways to learn from each others’ Torah.

I was thrilled when five members came together to build their tool boxes in this classroom context. Each one is focusing on a different *parsha* (Torah portion). They are exploring the Torah text itself, as well as commentaries. We have talked about the benefits of writing out our thoughts versus speaking from notes, as well as what styles of speaking move us. People may look for personal stories, intellectual stimulation, or poetry. Some enjoy something you can

remember afterwards, while others prefer something that is primarily a listening experience at the time. We have considered our community’s tradition of having a communal discussion following the words of Torah, and how that provides both meaningful engagement, but sometimes leads to more ambiguous conclusions. Some of their *drashot* will be delivered in services in the coming months.

Listening to the words of our *b’nai mitzvah* students teaches us who they are, inspires us with their passions and insights and connects us as a community. Similarly, listening to adult members’ words of Torah can teach, inspire and connect us. Developing and sharing a *drash* is both a meaningful process and a service to the community.

If you didn’t get to join the class, but would be interested in learning more about crafting your own *drash*, please be in touch! I would love to work with you in the coming months.



CDT members speaking at last May’s membership meeting. Photo by Viv Shein

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 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.

Shabbat & Holidays

ALL AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE & POTLUCK

Friday evening, January 10, February 7, new March date: March 20

6:00pm candle-lighting & potluck dinner,
6:45pm service

Bill Shorr, along with guest musicians, will be leading us in this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6:00pm, followed by a catered vegetarian potluck dinner provided by the congregation from Comella's and Inna's Kitchen (for our strictly gluten-free and dairy-free members). We ask that you sign up beforehand, so that we can order enough food. There is a sign-up on the CDT website www.dorsheitzedek.org under "upcoming events." Services begin at 6:45pm.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

There will be no Shabbat morning Torah study while **Rabbi Toba** is on sabbatical. Resumes March 21.

TOT SHABBAT!

Shabbat mornings (Saturday) at 10:45am
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

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).

Nitzanim/Gan teacher. We will sing, pray, dance, march with Torahs, play games, read stories, and eat... all we need is YOU!

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 presenter 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, organiza-

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

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Executive Director: Melissa Colten

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Executive Committee

President: Lissy Medvedow

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

VP Education: Diana Fisher Gomberg

VP Leadership: Rob Greenly

VP Tikkun Olam: Bob Warren

Secretary: Ro Weichman

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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)

tional consultant, community activist, and Torah learner and leynner. 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 BELLOWES

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 WITH RABBI SHOSHANA FRIEDMAN

Saturday morning, January 18, 2020: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Shabbat



"Got Shabbat?" is an opportunity for the whole community to gather and have fun, learn together, and explore new ways to celebrate Shabbat. In January, we will be celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and exploring his legacy. Special guest Rabbi Shoshana Friedman will lead morning songs and blessings, highlighting the music of the Civil Rights Movement. Adults and kids are then invited to choose from a pan-

oply of activities until we gather again to read Torah and close the morning together. Got Shabbat Workshops include:

1. Dance with Adah Hetko: What does it mean to build a movement for justice? How do we move together to build our power and create meaningful change? What does it feel like to move together? In this dance workshop we will explore these questions through physical movement. Adah is a teacher in our religious school, as well as a Yiddish speaker, singer and dancer.

2. Comic Drawing with James Kaplan: The Torah portion tells the beginning of the story of the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt, and in this workshop we will work together to draw and write a comic version.

3. Music! with Shira Moss: Join returning Got Shabbat leader, and kita bet teacher Shira Moss for a percussion and musical exploration of the themes of freedom found in the Torah portion and the aspiration of Martin Luther King Jr.

4. In the main sanctuary, visiting Rabbi Shoshana Friedman will lead *shaharit* service and speak from her experience doing the work of climate justice, and how it relates to racial justice work.

5. Tot Shabbat with Mora Devora Rohr: Starting at 10:45am Mora Devora will lead our tot community (0-5 year olds and their adults). See page 2 for more information.

Kiddush lunch to follow!

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



Dr. 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.

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!

UPCOMING SHABBATS

Shabbat Bo—February 1, 2020—Led by Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman.

Shabbat Shirah, The Sabbath of Song—February 8, 2020—How Chanting the Bible Explains the text (Cantillation in a Nutshell) Led by Cantor Louise Treitman.

Shabbat Mishpatin—February 22, 2020—Led by Rabbi Jordan Schuster.

Shabbat Terumah—February 29, 2020—Led by our own Rabbi Shahar Colt.

Shabbat Tetzaveh—March 7, 2020—Seductive Idolatries: Exploring the Legacy of the Golden Calf—D'var by our own Fran Malino.

Community & Events

Yahrzeit

This month we remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 19th yahrzeit falls this year on January 25. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services that morning. May Marty's memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To **Becky Herst**, **Dan Lesser**, and **Jacob Herst-Lesser**, on the birth of **Maya Eve Herst-Lesser** on Thanksgiving day!

To **Idit Klein**, on being honored by Jewish Women International as "one of 10 inspiring Jewish women role models" at the Women to Watch Leadership Celebration!

To **Rob Greenly**, on being honored for his work with the Yale School of Medicine reunion sessions. In 2018, Rob piloted alumni panels about career transformations for the medical school's Alumni Weekend. "Rob's enthusiasm for embracing our efforts demonstrates his commitment to Yale and Yale alumni," said Debby Jagielow, former director of alumni affairs, Yale School of Medicine. "Without his leadership and guidance, these YSM reunion sessions would not have happened. With his leadership, they were well thought out and very well received."

Condolences

We extend our sympathies to **Benis Bernstein** and **Hugh Fenimore**, on the death of Benis' mother, Cynthia Bernstein. May her memory be for a blessing.

Refuah Shleyamah

We send blessing for complete healing to **Lynne Brandon**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Joann Breuer**, 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>.

Todah Rabah

Thanks to everyone who provided kiddush:

David Lobron, **Lauren Stefano**, **Karen Engels**, **Jen Levine-Fried**, **Jen Kaplan**, **Jenny Siegel**, **Elizabeth Ferrenz** (Captain), **Annette Jacobs**, **Janet Penn**, **Beth Green** (Captain), **Jeff Green**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Jamie Tessler**—*in memory of Ted Tessler*, **Mark Yurkofsky**, **Denise Yurkofsky** (Captain), **Amy Brodesky** and **Rex Flynn**—*in memory of Kayla Brodesky Flynn*, **Jacqui Bloomberg** (Captain), **Danielle Klainberg**.

CDT Film Club

Saturday evening, January 11, 6:00pm
potluck, 7:00pm movie, at the home of **Ellie Goldberg**

Denial. 2016. English, German, Hebrew. Acclaimed writer and historian Deborah E. Lipstadt must battle for historical truth to prove the Holocaust actually occurred when David Irving, a renowned denier, sues her for libel.

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 **Ellie Goldberg**, 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.

NEW CDT GALLERY SHOW: WORKS OF SUSANNAH ZISK

Be sure to visit the beautiful new show at the CDT Gallery! The show features works of fabric art by Susannah Zisk, z"l. Pictured below: one of Susannah's pieces. Photo by **Sharon Gorberg**.



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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 (cont'd)



CDT members celebrate Hanukkah in 2016. Photo by Vv Shein

EXPLORATORY TECH COMMITTEE - ALL CDT MEMBERS INVITED

CDT members are invited to help explore how CDT could use tech. All levels of expertise, including zero, appreciated. Limited time commitment, and all meetings Zoom-interactive as well as face-to-face. Participate in any of the planned phases. Can't make the group meeting time, but have something to say? Call or email **Melissa Colten** at m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org to schedule a time to talk.

Phase II: Research.

Thursdays January 9, 16, and 30, 6pm - 7pm

We will meet once a week to discuss specific tech options based on function, cost, and connectivity that have been researched by members of the committee individually.

Phase III: Spreadsheets and Proposals.

Mondays, February 3, 10, and 24, 6:30-7:30pm

Committee members will meet, discuss, and propose combinations of technology researched. We will creatively vision how members of vastly varying abilities, comfort levels, and expertise can more easily and effortlessly communicate with each other, get information about what is happening at CDT, and make our myriad offerings more accessible to all. Our goal is to present 3 different budgeted visions to the CDT board to consider for 2020-2021.

Reconstructionist News

EVOLVE: GROUNDBREAKING JEWISH CONVERSATIONS: PEOPLEHOOD RECONSIDERED

Rabbi Alex Weissman

January 23 at 1 pm, EST

Join a discussion of Rabbi Toba Spitzer's essay "Peoplehood Reconsidered" led by Rabbi Alex Weissman. The article dives into the use of metaphors in framing a picture of the Jewish people that is encompassing and defining. Register at the Reconstructing Judaism web site. (<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/>).



Photo by Vv Shein

Tikkun Olam

GBIO ACTIVITY

Tony Broh

The GBIO “Rise Up for Healing” campaign moves from the very successful November 4 Action with State government officials, in which 31 CDT members participated, to meetings with members of the Massachusetts House in their districts. Called “In-district Meetings,” the objective of each gathering is for at least 25 constituents from each legislative district to meet with their representative. The meetings will address three health care issues: cost of prescription drugs, insurance coverage for mental health and substantive abuse disorder, and so-called “surprise billing” for expensive out-of-network costs.

Members of Dorshei Tzedek met on December 16 to gain an overview of the strategy and receive an update on the three GBIO priorities. During the meeting, GBIO Co-Liaisons Louise Enoch and Tony Broh and Health Care Co-Captain Paul Hattis described the Dorshei Tzedek strategy for participating in the In-District meetings that are currently being scheduled for late January and early February at various locations throughout the region. Information about each meeting will be distributed to members of the congregation so they can talk directly with legislators about the health care needs in the Commonwealth.

The GBIO effort has already had an impact. Last month, the Senate passed the Pharmaceutical Access, Cost and Transparency Legislation, the so-called “The PACT Act,” which GBIO endorsed.

Watch for an email about a Health Care Reform meeting in your legislative district. CDT’s GBIO representatives will keep the congregation informed about its progress.

PRISON BOOK PROJECT

Tuesday evening, January 7th, 6:30-9pm

Volunteer with the Prison Book Program (PBP) at the United First Parish Church in Quincy on Tuesday, January 7th. 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) Next walk on Tuesday, January 21

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 (leaving at 12:30), or for additional information, feel free to contact **Amy Mazur** at acmazur@comcast.net.



Photo by Viv Shein

ISRAEL-PALESTINE PEACE EVENTS

ALI ABU AWWAD TO SPEAK AT TEMPLE BETH ZION

Thursday, January 30, 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Temple Beth Zion, 1566 Beacon Street, Brookline

Many members of CDT have been inspired by Ali Abu Awwad, a nonviolent activist for peace in Israel-Palestine who has visited our congregation in the past. Ali Abu Awwad will be returning to Boston this month and will be speaking under the sponsorship of J Street about his efforts to mobilize nonviolent resistance to the occupation. All are welcome; please RSVP at <https://act.jstreet.org/signup/ali-abu-awwad-temple-beth-zion/>.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE OCCUPATION AND ITS IMPACT ON EVERYDAY LIFE

A three-session study group Wednesdays, January 29, February 26 and March 25

And closer to home: beginning on Wednesday, January 29 also from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., CDT’s Israel-Palestine Peace group will be hosting a three-session study group on the evolution of the occupation and its impact on everyday life. This series is open to all members of CDT and will continue on February 26 and March 25. Please watch your email for further details and links to recommended readings and videos.

A BOY FROM GAZA: AMIR QUDAIH’S EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

Report on the December 8 presentation

Many of us are aware of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. On December 8, CDT members had the opportunity to learn about that crisis directly and vividly when we listened to Amir Qudaih, son of a Gazan farming family and a trained civil engineer. Amir’s presentation, sponsored by CDT’s Israel-Palestine Peace group, showed us a brave and resourceful young man determined to further his education, support his family, and help rebuild and sustain his people. Amir began by presenting important facts about Gaza today—the extreme density of population, the barriers on all sides that ef-

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Tikkun Olam (cont'd)

fectively imprison its citizens, the lack of basic needs including any source of fresh or unpolluted water as well as sufficient food, medical supplies, and the materials for rebuilding a war-torn land.

Amir's photographs gave witness to us the destruction of his family's farm, located close to the border, and the damage to his family home and village. He recounted his two-year struggle to leave Gaza for school-

ing in the United States, a tale of permissions denied, visa interviews postponed, a daring journey to the West Bank and then into Jerusalem in order to obtain a permit to travel to the United States, another daring and oppressive journey to fly from Cairo. With the assistance of connections at CNN as well as from Americans including Elizabeth Warren, the Carter Foundation, and a sponsoring family, Amir was finally

able to reach Boston and enroll at UMass Lowell for a second engineering degree. Amir's story, and the story of his people's sufferings, are harrowing and heart-breaking, but his upbeat spirit is inspiring. If you are seeking a way to help address the crisis in Gaza, Rabbi Toba recommends the Rebuilding Alliance, <http://www.rebuildingalliance.org>.

UJIMA AND CDT

Ora Gladstone

On December 8, twenty-five-plus CDT members gathered at a meeting organized by CDT's Tikun Olam/Understanding Racism group to learn about the Boston Ujima Project and the growing Ujima Faith Network. The Boston Ujima Project is a "democratic, member-run organization building cooperative economic infrastructure in Boston, with a mission to return wealth to working class communities of color." The name "Ujima" is the Swahili term for collective work and responsibility and is the third of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The Ujima project encompasses a variety of strategies that create an ecosystem for change and for shifting wealth and decision-making power to working class, Black and Brown communities locally.

Two primary strategies are:

1. Ujima Business Alliance is a network of businesses, primarily owned by people of color, in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, that meet a set of "good business" standards established by community members related to: good faith efforts; community ownership; good local jobs; worker power; health and safety; customers and vendors; environment; community power.
2. Community-controlled Investment Fund is a pool of money gathered from community members, individuals and institutions outside of the community, and foundations. The fund invests in the growth of existing and new businesses in the Ujima Business Alliance that meet the good business standards and the needs of the community. Investment decisions are made by voting members—Boston residents who live in or are connected to Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury—with guidance from finance professionals.

Full voting membership is available to any Boston resident who identifies as working class and/or as a person of color and to any working class and/or person of color who has been displaced

from the city. Individuals and institutions that are not eligible for voting membership in Ujima may participate in many other ways. They can:

- Prioritize purchasing goods and services from members of the Ujima Business Alliance
- Invest in the Ujima Fund (there are various types of levels of investment)
- Join as non-voting Solidarity Members
- Support grassroots action on a variety of issues affecting community economic development and transparency.

There is also a growing community of faith organizations who are making institutional commitments through the Ujima Faith Network. At the 12/8 meeting, members discussed ideas for congregational involvement and have presented these ideas to the CDT board. A congregational commitment might entail:

- Promoting Ujima catering businesses in the resource guide for families of Bnai Mitzvah
- Circulating information to CDT members to encourage Ujima participation and tracking investments and Solidarity memberships made by individual CDT members.
- Making an institutional investment in the loan fund – or matching investments made by individual members.
- Participating in Ujima workshops and study hosted by Kavod
- Hosting Ujima workshops at CDT

For more information, visit Ujimaboston.com. To get involved in CDT efforts, contact **Ora Gladstone**, gladstone@brandeis.edu.

Children and Family Programs

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES: WELCOME TO CHERINA!

Rabbi Cherina Eisenberg received ordination through ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and has a M.A. in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She specializes in sharing the joy of Judaism with children and adults of all ages and has taught in synagogues for over 10 years. An avid cook and lover of the arts, she frequents farmers markets and salsa dances.



A NOTE FROM CHERINA:

Dear Religious School Parents,

I'm so excited to get to know the Dorshei Tzedek community as I serve as Interim Director while Rabbi Shahar is on parental leave. Having taught in synagogues for over 10 years, I am quite impressed by the dedication, warmth and welcoming spirit of this congregation. I look forward to joining forces with the staff and teachers to oversee and support the school in the next few months. Please say hello in the halls and introduce yourselves on Tuesdays or Sundays. See you in January!

With blessings,
Rabbi Cherina Eisenberg

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):

Havdallah: *January 4, 2020*
Second Church, 6:00-7:00pm

Pre-Pesach: *March 29, 2020*
Second Church 4:00-5:00pm

SUNDAY MORNING PARENT BRUNCHES

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 morning Feb. 9th.



CDT celebrates Sukkot 2019. Photo by Viv Shein

Chesed

CHESED AT CDT

by Ellie Goldberg

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 — gestures of practical comfort and caring acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times.

The Chesed Coordinators for January are **Judy Hersh** and **Fran Malino**. If you have questions about Chesed, as a recipient or as a volunteer, please contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Join LotsaHelpingHands to participate in CDT's Chesed Caring Community (Updated).

<https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated>

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

Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical and will be returning on March 10. During this time, Rabbi Shahar is available for pastoral and rabbinic support, and can be reached at s.colt@dorsheitzedek.org. While Rabbi Shahar is on parental leave (for four weeks in January/early February), there will be "on call" rabbis if needed. Please contact Executive Director Melissa Colten if you have a question about who is available, at m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org. You are also welcome to contact the Chesed coordinators for support at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.



CHESED: TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Only members of CDT can use the CDT LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar.

True. Only CDT members can see the CDT Community on the LotsaHelpingHands calendar. However Chesed Coordinators can help members who have ongoing needs to set up their own personal LHH calendar. When you have your own calendar you invite a larger circle of your friends and neighbors to respond to your requests for meals, visits, and other types of help.

2. Chesed means I have to cook a meal.

False. A cooked meal is only one way to help. Chesed is a gesture of support. A "food basket" of non perishables or prepared food from a restaurant may also be welcome. A Chesed task can also be doing a single one-time errand such as picking up medication or returning library books, walking a dog or providing a ride to a medical appointment.

3. Responding to a Chesed request means I have to do it all.

False. We encourage volunteers to split tasks. For example, two volunteers can provide a Shabbat meal and another person can deliver it.

4. Asking for Chesed means every request is public.

False. If the member requests privacy, the Chesed Coordinator can help you set up your own calendar or offer to make calls or send emails to selected members such as a few CDT neighbors, fellow Hebrew School parents, or other friends or "affinity groups" within the congregation.

5. Chesed means I have to ask for help, even when I don't need it.

False. Members are always free to decline an offer of Chesed. But you never know when you might need a helping hand. The Chesed Committee encourages members to reach out to Chesed if a need comes up.

6. People on the Chesed Committee coordinate the requests and volunteers, they do not respond to requests.

True and False. Two or three Chesed Committee members serve as Coordinators in two month shifts. They receive information from Rabbi Toba that a member has had a birth, illness or death in the family. The Coordinators are responsible for posting requests on the LotsaHelpingHands Calendar but do not fulfill the request themselves. When they are not serving as Coordinator, they receive alerts just like any member who has signed up for LHH.

CDT Calendar

January 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| DEC 29 | DEC 30 | DEC 31 | JAN 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | Mindful Mornings 8:30am - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library | | Shabbat Vayigash with CDT members Laurie Goldman and Cindy Rivka Marshall 9:45am - noon Havdallah Service for Nitzanim/Gan Families 6:00pm - 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Library |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 10:15am - 11:45am JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA Young Adult Gathering Contra Dance 7:00pm Cambridge | | Religious Schoo Gr 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA | Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor | Mindful Mornings 8:30am - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library Phase II: Exploratory Tech Committee Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room | All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service & Catered Dinner 6:00pm | Shabbat Morning Services with Rabbi Laura Bellows 9:45am - noon CDT Film Club: Denial 6:00pm |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 10:15am - 11:45am JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA How to Stop Losing Your Sh*t with Your Kids 10:30am - 11:30am JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA | 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 | Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor | Mindful Mornings 8:30 - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library | | Got Shabbat? The Connection Between the Climate Crisis, Migration, and Racial Equity 9:45am - noon |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | Admin: MLK Day | Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA GBIO Liaison Meeting 7:00pm - 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 Phase II: Exploratory Tech Committee Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room | | Shabbat Morning Services with Dr. Lawrence Rosenwald 9:45am - noon |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | FEB 1 |
| Religious School Gr. 1-7 9:30am - 12:00pm JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 10:15am - 11:45am JCDS 57 Stanley Avenue Watertown, MA | | Religious School Gr. 3-6 3:45pm - 5:45pm 1326 Washington St West Newton, MA | Exploring the Bible 2:00pm Home of Phyllis Kantor IPPeace Study Group 7:30pm 60 Highland St: Living Room | Mindful Mornings 8:30 - 9:15am 60 Highland St: Library Phase II: Exploratory Tech Committee Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm 60 Highland St: Living Room | | Shabbat Morning Services with Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman 9:45am - noon |

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

Helaine and John Carroll

Christopher Combest—*In appreciation and gratitude for the kindness, friendship, and community offered him as a non-member and non-Jew throughout the year*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks—*In honor of Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx to thank them for using the list serve to recycle inside our community and to keep their grandchildren's baby stuff serving the next generation*

Elizabeth Samelson and Paul Hattis

Ann Spanel—*In honor of Dan Halbert's generosity and tech wizardry*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Miriam Bronstein

Stacey Chacker—*In thanks for helping to organize Amir's talk*

Mark Farber—*On the occasion of the first yahrzeit of his mother, Phyllis Farber*

Phyllis Glazerman—*In thanks to the members of the Dorshei Tzedek congregation who lent us kids' stuff during visits from our family. Thanks to Ilana Streit, the Herzig-Marx family, and Susan Lanser.*

Annette Lieberman—*In thanks for all the support*

Dianne Lior

Diana Perretta—*For the Soul Journey*

Elaine Pollack—*With gratitude for the visits, calls, and support that were given with such generosity when she was housebound after surgery*

Jo Radner

Barbara and Dan Rosenn—*In memory of Martha Weisberg Galikov*

Barbara Shatkin

Debbie Waber

SCHOOL FUND

Margaret Mattes

BUILDING FUND

Alissa Leonard—*In memory of Susannah Elkin Zisk and Sol Elkin*

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

JoAnn Feldstein—*In memory of Judith Cohen Tannenbaum*

Beth and Jeff Green—*In memory of Florence Zevin*

Lisa Green—*In loving memory of Charles M. Broh, brother of Tony Broh*

Phyllis Kantor—*In memory of Sylvia Waltzer and Murry Waltzer*

Marion Ross—*In memory of Leslie David Levenson*

Marjorie Salvodon—*In memory of Laurencia Jean, Rose-Marie Thermidor Salvodon, Luce Attignol, and Rosita Attignol*

Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steven Siegel—*In memory of Chuck St. John*

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

January 4, Shabbat morning service:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Sharon Sevransky (Captain)—in memory of Betty Baum / Viv Shein & Norman Shein / Beth Brooks

January 10, Friday, All-ages Erev Shabbat service & potluck:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Dan Halbert / Carole Slipowitz / Lisa Keshet

January 11, Shabbat morning service:

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Richard Fisher Gomberg (Captain) / Marla Cummins / Lisa Goodwin Robbins / Barry Ingber—in honor of my grandfather, Nathan Cohen

January 18, MLK themed Got Shabbat?

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Marjorie Salvodon (Captain)—in memory of Jean Leon Salvodon / Mark Schafer / Linda Kramer / Zak Kosan / Megan Cox / Judah Axe / Corinne Lofchie

January 25, Shabbat morning Service

Kiddush Providers/Setup/Cleanup: Susan Bernstein (Captain) / Cliff Cohen / Nancy Gertz—in memory of Sandra Gertz / Jeff Goldman—in memory of Alex Fried

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

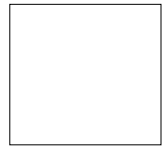
congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up. Thank you!

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

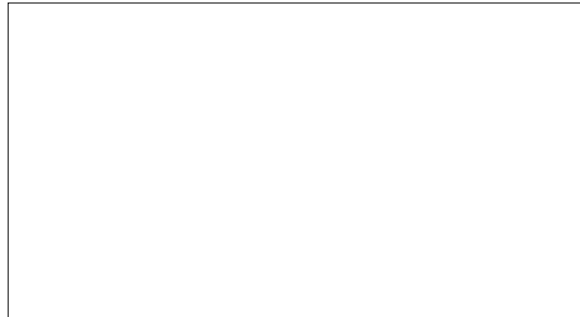
No fragrances, please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive.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



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



Address correction requested



CDT Potlucks

CDT Community Potluck hosted by Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow (not pictured) and guests. A great way to visit with old friends and make new ones!

