



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Iyar/Sivan 5781

May 2021



Enough/Not Enough

By Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Photo by Viv Shein



One of the most well-known parts of the Passover seder is the song “Dayenu” – which means, “It would have been enough for us”:

If [God] had taken us out of Egypt, it would have been enough for us!

If [God] had given us Shabbat, it would have been

enough for us!

If [God] had given us the Torah, it would have been enough for us!

The full version of this 1,000 year-old poem has a slightly different form, and goes through each step of the process of liberation, from leaving Egypt through entering the Promised Land: “If God had taken us out of Egypt, but had not brought judgments upon them, dayenu... If God had split the Sea but not taken us through on dry land, dayenu... If God had brought us close to Mount Sinai but not given us the Torah, dayenu” – and so on, 14 stanzas in all.

The premise of this poem is extremely odd. It would have been enough if the Sea split, but we didn’t actually cross through? It would

have been enough to come to Mount Sinai, but not receive the Torah? Really?

In her commentary in the Reconstructionist Haggadah, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg writes: “In what sense is each moment of liberation enough? In the affirmation of dayenu, we are fully present to the preciousness of each act of redemption and care... Dayenu is a jolt into the presence of awe, compassion, attention, and freedom.”

I am thinking of this teaching as I write this column, the day after the announcement of the guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. As the verdict was delivered, I was watching coverage of events in Minneapolis as they unfolded, the gathered crowd exhibiting a wide range of intense emotions, including tears and smiles, relief and pain, joy and sorrow. The verdict was, as President Biden said, an act of “basic accountability.” In the larger project of racial justice, barely a beginning. And yet – dayenu. A small act of redemption happened, an affirmation of the value of George Floyd’s life. And the song needs to continue. A guilty verdict – dayenu. An end to police killings of Black and brown

people, of people who need mental health support – dayenu. The transformation of policing in America – dayenu. The dismantling of all structures of oppression – dayenu.

This month we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, the mythic moment of receiving Torah at Mount Sinai. It is traditional to count 49 days from Passover to Shavuot, marking the journey from slavery to revelation. This journey reminds us that the end of physical slavery is just the first step, necessary but far from sufficient. In Jewish tradition, the entire point of the liberation from Egyptian bondage was to receive Torah, sacred instructions for creating a society based in justice and love. In a famous midrash about the stone tablets received on Sinai, Rabbi Aha bar Yaakov comments on the verse “And the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets” (Exodus 32:16). He says: “Do not read “engraved – charut” – rather “free – cherut.” By changing one small vowel, Rabbi Aha suggests that the true meaning of receiving Torah is liberation.

Another Shavuot teaching asks – why is this holiday called a celebration of matan Torah,

the giving of Torah, and not the holiday of kabbalat Torah, of receiving Torah? Because, according to Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk, the giving of Torah happened once, in the month of Sivan, but the receiving of Torah takes place every day.

If receiving Torah is an ongoing, never-ending process, then so too is the process of liberation. It is not a linear, straightforward journey: there are victories and setbacks, progress and reaction. As the Chauvin verdict was delivered, Ma’Khia Bryant, a Black teenage girl, was shot and killed by a police officer in Columbus OH. As legislatures around the country enact laws to suppress the vote and criminalize peaceful protest, grassroots groups are organizing to reimagine their communities, to disinvest in militarized policing and reinvest in housing, healthcare, and education. The journey continues.

Dayenu? No single victory is ever enough. When it comes to social justice, there is always more to do. But let us celebrate the wins along the way, each step forward that brings us just a little closer to a time of true liberation.

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

Executive Director: Melissa Colten,

m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org

Director of Congregational Learning: Earnest Vener,

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Administrative Assistant: Erin Dimson-Doyle,

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Inclusion Coordinator: Amira Shulman-Kumin,

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Executive Committee:

President: Bob Warren

Past President: Lissy Medvedow

VP Finance: Ezra Hausman

Secretary: Ro Weichman

Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman

VP Education: Diana Fisher Gomberg

VP Leadership: Sheree Galpert

VP Tikkun Olam: Stacey Chacker

Board Members—at-Large:

Ellie Axe, Linda Kramer, Carla Naumburg, Dan Rome,

Jonathan Rosenthal & Lisa Samelson

Off-Board Chairs:

Children’s Education: Sarah Birkeland

Chesed: Gail Pressberg

Nediv Lev: Debbie Waber, Janice Cole

Newsletter: YOU?

Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak–Rome

Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling

Space: Steve Siegel

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

Newsletter News

DO YOU NEED A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER?

CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@DORSHEITZEDEK.ORG

Rabbinic Liaison

Rabbinic Liaisons: While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with **Rabbi Toba**, 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.

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:** Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Amy Westebbe.

CDT Events

CDT WALKING BUDDIES

Sign up for a walking buddy! As the weather warms up, now is the perfect time to go for a walk with another CDT Member. Go to dorsheitzedek.org/members to sign up!

SAVE THE DATE! CDT MEMBERS MEETING

June 6, 4:30pm-6:00pm

At the final Members Meeting of 5781, we hope at least one representative of each CDT household will attend as we vote in new Board members and leadership, approve the 5782 budget, hear updates on CDT activities, and begin to imagine together hybrid High Holydays. Zoom information will be available on the CDT website.

CDT MINI RETREAT 2021- SAVE THE DATE!!

June 12, 2021

Although we are not having our retreat this year, we are planning a special day-long mini-retreat on Saturday, June 12, at Frank A. Day camp in East Brookfield, MA. We'll begin with Shabbat morning programming at 10am and continue through havdalah and evening activities. All ages encouraged to attend!! Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more info. If you would like to join the planning committee of Rachel and Chad Pytel and Margo Michaels, please email Margo at margomichaels@gmail.com.

From the Board

CDT needs you! The nomination process for the CDT Board of Directors is now open. You can find the Board Nomination Form at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/form/board-nomination-form.html>

The nominations will be open until May 19, 2022. You can also use that form to indicate your interest in becoming involved on a committee or other leadership positions.

Please contact CDT President Bob Warren for more information - rmwarren53@gmail.com

From the Office

We offer a heartfelt thank you and sad goodbye to our Interim Zoom Coordinator, **Jordan Leonard**. We wish her all the best with her upcoming academic adventures, and hope to see her in late 2022 upon her return from Scotland.



Photo by Viv Shein

Shabbat, Holidays & Spiritual Practice

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday evenings, May 7, June 4, 6:00-6:45pm

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, friendly to kids but meaningful for all! Have your candles ready to light and a kiddush cup ready to bless. **In May, our Kitah Dalet students will lead an outdoor service with Rabbi Toba** under the canopy at Gann Academy, and the rest of the congregation is invited to attend via Zoom to cheer our student service leaders on from afar. More information is available on the CDT website.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah, beginning at 10:00am. Zoom information for each service can be found on the CDT website; just click on the calendar link in purple writing on the upper right corner of the homepage. Services are followed by virtual Kiddush chat rooms for anyone who'd like to connect with CDT members and guests.

Shabbat Morning, May 1, parshat Emor - Kitah Vav Siyyum! - All are welcome to join Kitah Vav, our 6th grade class, as they co-lead the morning service with Rabbi Toba. The class will be outdoors with Rabbi Toba at Gann Academy, and the rest of the congregation and guests are invited to attend via Zoom. Services begin at 10am.

Shabbat Morning, May 8, parshat Behar/Behukkotai - Kitah Hay Siyyum! - All are welcome to join Kitah Hay, our 5th grade class, as they co-lead the morning service with Rabbi Toba. The class will be outdoors with Rabbi Toba at Gann Academy, and the rest of the congregation and guests are invited to attend via Zoom. Services begin at 10am.

Shabbat Morning, May 15, parshat Bamidbar - Bar Mitzvah of Evan Gan - We invite the CDT community to join us for the Bar Mitzvah of our son, Evan Micah Gan, as he is called to the Torah on May 15, 2021. Evan is a

7th grader at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton. He spends much of his free time reading, singing, playing minecraft, 3-D printing, and participating in his school's plays and musicals. As part of his tikkun olam project, Evan has spent the past several months delivering lunches to elderly folks through the Newton Senior Center. We look forward to seeing you all in the Zoomiverse on this special occasion. - **Valerie Graf and Doron Gan**

Photo by Viv Shein



Shabbat Morning, May 22, parshat Naso - Bar Mitzvah of Shai Lipton - I am so excited to invite the entire CDT community to join us in celebrating my son, Shai, becoming Bar Mitzvah. He will be called to the Torah on Saturday, May 22nd, 2021. Shai is an 8th grader at The Rashi School in Dedham. He will be attending Northfield Mount Hermon for high school in the fall. He is a lover of all things basketball: playing, trivia, and more. He spends most of his time playing basketball and hanging out with his friends and family. For his tikkun olam project, Shai had hoped to mentor younger children in basketball, but due to the pandemic was unable to. Instead, he spent several hours with residents at Newbridge on the Charles through their "Meet the

Athlete Program" where he presented footage of himself playing basketball, answered residents' questions, built connections with them, and shared his love of basketball with them. He hopes to strengthen some of the connections he made during these sessions in the future. We look forward to celebrating with all of you! - **Ayelet Lipton**

Contemplative Shabbat Morning service, May 29, parshat B'ha'alotecha - All are invited to join CDT members **Karen Arnold and Marion Ross** at 10am in celebrating Shabbat with song, chant, guided and silent meditation. CDT member **Bill Shorr** will lead the Torah discussion at approximately 11:00am, and the service will close with blessings for healing and Mourners Kaddish at about 11:30am.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:30am-9:15am

This twice-weekly session of guided and silent meditation is open to all, regardless of level of meditation experience. Led by experienced CDT members and Rabbi Toba, Mindful Mornings is an opportunity to cultivate qualities of patience, equanimity, compassion, and resilience. Drop in is welcome! For those in mourning or observing a Yahrzeit, Kaddish is recited at the end of the sit. Zoom info is available on the CDT website (for non-members, please email office@dorsheitzedek.org for the Zoom info).

MINCHA MOMENTS

with Rabbi Toba

Wednesday evenings, 5:30pm-5:45pm

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for a moment of calm each week. The content will vary — a brief teaching, a meditative moment, some music, or another contemplative practice. We will start promptly at 5:30pm each Wednesday, but feel free to drop in at any time. Each session will end with an opportunity for those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit to recite Mourners Kaddish. And all are welcome to stay and shmooze for a few minutes afterwards!

FROM THE CDT RE-ENTRY PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

As a committee, we are hopeful that as more of us become vaccinated against COVID, over time we will increasingly be able to gather and interact with each other in-person at CDT activities. In that regard, we closely are following the guidance and advice from federal and state public health authorities and experts on what sort of interactions are permitted, or seem wise at this time and over the next number of months while we continue to use masks and observe distancing guidelines that remain in place. Likely, the guidance will be impacted by the state of population vaccination uptake, COVID infection prevalence in the state, as well as the existence of any circulating COVID variants that are of concern.

With key restrictions in place, this spring we are starting to allow limited numbers of people to participate in Bnei Mitzvah ceremonies both indoors in the CDT sanctuary as well as outdoors at Gann Academy. We are also planning outdoor religious school Siyyum gatherings and are also now planning for an outdoor June retreat day.

We are sure that many of us will continue to have questions surrounding in-person gatherings involving combinations of vaccinated

and unvaccinated people from different households, as well as mask and distancing guidelines, or activities that could involve the provision of food—at both indoor and outdoor activities at CDT. We will closely follow the recommendations of public health authorities and experts in modifying our own policies connected to COVID as it relates to these many different sorts of environmental questions and factors that are relevant in considering how to mitigate risks of COVID spread.

We plan to be in communication with the CDT community from time to time as legal and expert recommendations evolve, and we are already starting to think about synagogue guidance for issues in the fall tied to religious school and participation in High Holydays services. If you would like to send your input to us, please use this form: <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/form/covidreentry>

CDT Re-entry Protocol Committee

Barbara Beck, Melissa Colten, Paul Hattis, Linette Liebling, Gail Pressberg, Lisa Samelson, Lauren Stefano, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Bob Warren

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Lissy Medvedow** and **Cliff Cohen**, and to **Olivia & Aron Susman**, on the birth of **Ashton James Susman!**

Mazel tov to **Tatjana Meschede** and **Daniel Krasa** on the marriage of their son, **Yonatan Meschede-Krasa**, to **Lily Yan**.

Mazel tov to **Nuri Gutman** and family, on becoming bnei mitzvah!

Yahrzeit

This month we remember **David Keimowitz Crozier**, son of Polly Crozier and Jess Keimowitz, whose 9th yahrzeit falls this year on May 27. We will remember David at Shabbat morning services on June 5.

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 at <https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/mourning>.

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, May 11, 7:30pm

A group of CDT members in various stages of the journey of mourning meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month to support one another, to reflect on loss on the occasion of a yahrzeit, and to remember the legacies of the loved ones we carry with us. Any CDT member is welcome. For more information, please contact **Stacey Chacker**, chacsjc@gmail.com.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to **Al Glazerman** and **Alan Epstein**.

TODAH RABAH

A huge thank you to all who made Passover 5781 so special - including: **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Elaine Pollack, Melissa Spatz, Matthew Valleau, Kevin Hsu-Weinstein, Liz Carver, Marian Glaser, and Sue Weil**.

And thank you to our service leaders **Elaine Pollack** and **Rachel & Steven Adler-Golden**, and to our D'var leaders **Esther Kohn & Henry Wasserman** and **Ezra Hausman**

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member **Evi Beck**, who joins us from Washington, DC!



SHAVUOT

Sunday, May 16, 5:00pm through 6:00pm Monday, May 17

Shavuot is a celebration of receiving Torah at Mount Sinai, and this year we are gathering in the Zoomiverse with Hebrew College and other area congregations for a 25-hour Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a learning all-nighter that will be extended through the day of Shavuot. Dozens of teachers, artists, and facilitators will lead us in study, prayer, art making, music and more. Join for an hour or two, or brew a pot of coffee and stay up for a full day of learning, connection, and celebration. More information is available at <https://www.tisrael.org/tikkun-zoom-shavuot/>

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. Rabbi Toba does not check email 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.

CHESED: CREATING THE CARING COMMUNITY

By Ellie Goldberg

Our congregation values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. Our gestures of practical comfort and caring are a way that we acknowledge each other's hardships, life transitions or stressful times to build the type of caring community we want to live in.

To encourage the spirit of Chesed, we've posted inspirational articles for both Chesed volunteers and recipients on the Congregation website (www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community). Titles include "How Not to Say the Wrong Thing" and "How to Help a Friend Who's Going Through Something Horrible." There are also links to early Chesed columns and Q&As such as "What types of Chesed does Congregation Dorshei Tzedek provide?" and "What Do the Shiva and Chesed Committees Do?"

Update: As Covid continues to limit some of our options, we order Chesed meals from a local restaurant such as Inna's Kitchen, thanks to Rabbi Toba's Discretionary Fund. When a need arises, a Chesed Coordinator will contact the member to inquire about food preferences, order the meal, and send out a request from LotsaHelpingHands for a volunteer to pick up and deliver the meal.

When a member needs a ride, the Coordinator will discuss Covid precautions (masks, open windows, sitting in the back seat) and, for everyone's safety, the volunteer driver and recipient need to discuss their vaccination status and the status of people in their household when they confirm the ride.

The Chesed Coordinators for May are Lisa Hirsh, Dianne Lior, and Fran Malino. Please contact them if you have questions or a request for Chesed at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT Arts

CALLING ALL VISUAL ARTISTS

Lynda Goldberg and Ro Weichman

We have been honored to have a 4-person exhibit in the CDT Sanctuary this winter.

Please let us know if you are interested in exhibiting your artwork in a SOLO or GROUP SHOW in the CDT Sanctuary at this time or in the future.

Work (photos, paintings, quilts/fabric art, prints, glass, mosaics,) must be able to hang on walls in gallery area. During COVID your work will be seen during any Shabbat services, or other meetings/events held in the Sanctuary. When the sanctuary is not in use, it is a locked area. People can also schedule to visit your exhibit by appointment with Melissa. The exhibit will also be virtual on the CDT website. On your website page you can post photos, videos, explanations, tour, etc.; of your exhibit.

If you and others would like to have a group show together, please let us know. Or, we can put together a group depending on who responds. Please don't be shy - this is a wonderful and fun opportunity.

If you have any questions, please call or text Lynda, at: 617.610.3943; or email at: lynda@lyndagoldberg.com. OR email Ro at: rochelleweichman@gmail.com.

Reconstructionist News

SAVE THE DATE! RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM CONVENTION, 2022

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us on March 23-27, 2022 for the next Reconstructing Judaism Convention, outside of Washington, DC, which will be held in partnership with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Havaya Summer Programs.



WE ARE LISTENING

By Stacey Chacker, Louise Enoch, and Tony Broh

On April 28th, CDT members participated in "listening sessions" where we told stories and described concerns about conditions in our communities and the world that needs "repair." Our observations will help shape future CDT social justice activities and will provide input for GBIO in setting its priorities for the coming years. Nearly 50 CDT members participated in the listening sessions on April 28th. Watch the weekly announcements for additional opportunities to attend a listening session, or if you'd like to organize your own with a group of 5-8 CDT members, let us know - one of CDT's facilitators from the April 28th session can join you.

Over the next month, CDT's Tikkun Olam Committee will compile the information to help define the social justice activities of greatest interest to the congregation. GBIO will sift through the stories from CDT and other GBIO member congregations to set its priorities for the coming years.

GBIO trained CDT members in facilitating listening sessions. A shout out to the following Facilitators for their help and commitment in this effort: Paul Hattis, Murial Heiberger, Annette Jacobs, Sue Lanser, Janet Penn, David Rhodes, Jeni Rhodes, Jonathan Rosenthal, and Stacey Chacker. And a very special thank you to Louise Enoch and Tony Broh who led our GBIO efforts! Thanks to Fran Godine from GBIO and Rabbi Toba for keeping the various meetings on track, and of course to Melissa Colten and Erin Dimson-Doyle for their tech and administrative support.

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 9, 2021, 8:00am - 12:00pm

The 25th Annual Mother's Day Walk For Peace to support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is scheduled to take place virtually on Sunday, May 9th. This year's walk is a celebration and remembrance of the Institute's 25 years of walking for Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness. On Mother's Day, go to www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org for the live program.

There has been a team of walkers from CDT for many years and we hope to continue supporting the walk this year too. Please register at: <https://lbdpeace.zsystems.com/np/clients/lbdpeace/eventRegistration.jsp?event=621> and choose Team Dorshei Tzedek on the pull down menu where it says, "Credit this event registration to a fundraiser." Registration is \$20 per person which goes directly to the Peace Institute's services, advocacy and training. Once registered you can make a personal donation to further support the important work the Peace Institute does to help families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

This year we hope to raise \$5,000 from the Dorshei Tzedek Community. Please consider contributing what you are able to at this time.

LET'S WAGE SOME REAL CHANGE!

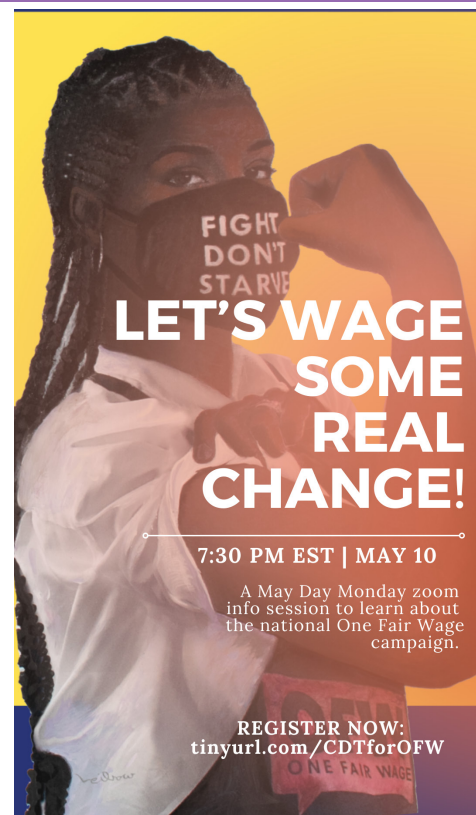
Monday, May 10, 2021, 7:30 pm

Are you looking forward to when you can gather with friends to share a meal at a local restaurant or café? As that time nears, are you also focusing on the servers who have been significantly affected by what we all have experienced this past year?

There are approximately 130,000 tipped workers in Massachusetts, 2/3 of who are women. Approximately 70% of restaurant workers have experienced a decrease in tips. They risk exposure to COVID-19 every day and have had to tolerate a profound increase in harassment over the last year. Statements like "Take off your mask so I can see how pretty you are, and give you a bigger tip," have become far more common. Not only that, restaurant workers are still among the lowest paid workers in the country and are disproportionately represented by women, immigrants and people of color.

One Fair Wage is a national campaign working to eliminate subminimum tipped wages across a number of states: <https://onefairwage.site/massachusetts>.

To learn more about eliminating the subminimum tipped wage, join CDT's Let's Wage Some Real Change! event at 7:30 pm on Monday, 10th (another May Day), where we will learn



together about how to support a livable wage for all Massachusetts workers.

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

The Prison Book Program in Quincy has resumed regular volunteer hours, but volunteers must now sign up in advance (no drop-ins) and only seven volunteers per session are permitted. Volunteer slots go very quickly. For the foreseeable future, CDT will not be volunteering as a group. If anyone wants to volunteer individually, the signup site is : <https://signup.com/go/ZeaXPfL>.

Anyone interested in supporting the PBP during their temporary closure due to COVID-19 can order books from the PBP's wish list on Amazon. Books ordered from this list are being sent to a PBP volunteer staffer, who is sending out individual, specially requested books to prisoners from her home. Other books that come off the wish list will be set aside until the PBP is reopened. The link for the PBP wishlist is: <http://a.co/iYr7TkV>.

Books can also be donated directly to the PBP by dropping them off during regular volunteer hours at the door to the PBP (back door of church), Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30- 9 pm and alternate Saturdays 1-4 pm.

Learning

A VERY NARROW BRIDGE: KABBALAH AND THE BIPOLAR EXPERIENCE

Tuesday, May 11, 7:00-8:15pm

CDT member Ben Newman will lead this Zoom workshop exploring both bipolar disorder and Jewish mystical teachings. Ben writes "During my struggle with bipolar disorder, mystical practice played a large role in my ascent into madness, my recovery, and my process of coming to terms with myself as a healthy bipolar person. I'd like to share my experience of how kabbalistic concepts of balance relate to living with mental illness." Ben will share from his own experience, explore Jewish texts, and offer music and meditation.

TORAH STUDY WITH EARNEST VENER

Wednesday mornings, 8am-8:45am

Start your Wednesday mornings with Torah Study! Join Earnest for a weekly 45-minute study session, focusing on the weekly Torah portion. You are welcome to drop-in or come every week. All are welcome and no prior knowledge is required.

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:

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx — *in memory of Jill Volk*

NEDIV LEV

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp
Karen & Jeffrey Arnold — *in memory of Phyllis Denny*

Elinor Baron & Kate Bethune
Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman
Elaine Bresnick

Stacey Chacker — *in memory of her parents, Ruth and Fred Chacker on their 1st and 15th yartzheits*

Pauline Coderre
Janice Cole — *in honor of Susan Nitkin for her generosity of face masks*

Shahar Colt & Darya Mattes
Polly Crozier & Jess Keimowitz — *in memory of Robert Keimowitz*

Susan Dargon-Hart
Vilunya Diskin

Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola — *in honor of Ernest and the CDT Trans GNC NB Group*

Joann & Michael Feldstein
Jackie Fleischman — *in memory of Stan Fleischman*

Sheree Galpert — *in honor of and with gratitude for being part of this extraordinary community; in memory of Debby Saltzman's mother-in-law*
Zee Gamson — *in honor of Jenny Gamson*



Photo: Talmud for the 99% Class

CDT Men's Softball 2021 Game Schedule

We missed last season due to Covid, and we're starting a limited season with some social distancing. Fans are invited to the games! Email Elliot Pittel at epittel@comcast.net with any questions.

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Sun May 2	10:00am	Israel 2-Boston	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton
Sun May 9	10:00am	Beth Shalom 2-Needham	Claxton Field #2, 1431 Central Ave, Needham
Sun May 16	10:00am	Newton Minyan/Beth Zion-Newton	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton
Sun May 23	10:00am	Beth David-Westwood	Morrison Softball Field, 338 Washington St, Westwood
Sun Jun 6	10:00am	Shir Tikvah-Winchester	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton
Sun Jun 13	10:00am	B'nai Shalom-Westborough	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton
Sun Jun 20	10:00am	Shalom-Newton	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton
Sun Jun 27	10:00am	Beth Shalom 1-Needham	Pelligrini Park, 11 Hawthorn St, Newton

Nediv Lev (cont)

Zee Gamson — *in memory of Bill Gamson*
 Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver — *with gratitude for being part of a community full of remarkable leadership, activists, mensches of all kinds and commitment to uplifting all*
 Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman — *in memory of Eva Goldberg*
 Ellie Goldberg — *in loving memory of her mother-in-law, Reva Goldberg*
 Jeff Goldman
 Sandy Goodman & Bill Weinreb
 Beth & Jeff Green
 Ricky & Rob Greenly — *in honor of the CDT Board of Directors and other committee chairs. Thank you for your work on all our behalf.*
 Carol Hemley
 Doug Hersh
 Judy Hersh
 Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx — *in honor of Rabbi Toba, Melissa, Ernest, the board and members of this community who have stepped up this year to support and enrich all of us during this difficult year*
 Lisa Hirsh & DB Reiff
 Annette Jacobs
 Phyllis & Bill Kantor — *in memory of Stan Fleischman*
 Audra Karp & Deb Albenberg
 Reva Kasman

Laura & Joel Katz
 Linda & Peter Katz — *in memory of Lina & Saul Weiss*
 Sherry Katz & Mark Farber
 Hope Kellman
 Sue Lanser & Jo Radner
 Sue Lauf & Bruce Becker — *in honor of Josephine Lauf's baby naming*
 Alissa Leonard — *in memory of Susannah Zisk and Sol Elkin*
 Jenny & Jay Leopold
 Dianne Lior
 Ilana Mainelli & Daniel Seidman
 Fran Malino — *in memory of Kim Hoffman*
 Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner — *in honor of Susan Nitkin and the CDT's inclusion work*
 Amy Mazur & Michael Feldstein — *in memory of Amy's parents, Rhoda Himmel Mazur & Marvin Irvin Mazur*
 Ruth Paris & Robin Saper
 Janet Penn
 Diana Perretta
 Elaine Pollack
 Liz Reisberg
 Janet Rickles & Arthur Young, Jr.
 Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider
 Laura Schulz & Susan Kaufman
 Jodie Siegel — *in memory of Gina Fried*

Carol Sklar
 Emily Sper — *in memory of her parents, Rose and Roy Sper*
 Lauren & Andy Stefano
 Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller — *in memory of Bruce's parents, George & Bernice Miller, and in honor of Rabbi Toba for teaching and guiding the Spiritual Autobiography class*
 Chagit Steiner & Tom Brown
 Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan — *in celebration of the 5781 Kitah Zayin class*
 Jamie Tessler — *in memory of her parents, Eleanor and Ted Tessler*
 Matthew Valleau & Michael Gnozzio
 Ellen White

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Estelle Disch — *in memory of Bill Gamson*
 Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman — *in memory of Eva Goldberg*
 Diana Perretta — *in honor of Earnest Vener's class, Talmud for the 99%*
 Abby & Jordan Schwartz — *in honor of Jenna's becoming bat mitzvah*
 Nessa Spitzer

SCHOOL FUND

Kaitlyn Nerpouni & Michael Lauf

MAY 2021 • IYYAR/SIVAN 5781

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 Iyyar 13 1:00pm CDT Trans/GNC/NB Group 4:30pm Talmud for the 99%	26 Iyyar 14 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	27 Iyyar 15 8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:30pm Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	28 Iyyar 16 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Mincha Moment 7:00pm Tikkun Olam Listening Sessions	29 Iyyar 17 8:30am Mindful Mornings	30 Iyyar 18 Lag B'Omer	1 Iyyar 19 Emor 10:00am Kitah Vav Siyyum
2 Iyyar 20 9:00am Nitzanin/Gan 10:00am Kitot Alef, Bet, Gimel & Vav: Religious School Outdoors 10:00am Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:00am CDT Men's Softball 11:15am Kitah Dalet Siyyum Rehearsal 11:45am Kitah Hey Siyyum Rehearal 4:30pm Talmud for the 99%	3 Iyyar 21	4 Iyyar 22 8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:30pm Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6	5 Iyyar 23 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Mincha Moment 7:00pm Leadership Workshop	6 Iyyar 24 8:30am Mindful Mornings	7 Iyyar 25 6:00pm Kitah Dalet Siyyum All Ages Erev Shabbat Service 6:45pm Kitah Dalet Zoom Dinner	8 Iyyar 26 Behar-Bechukotai 10:00am Kitah Hey Siyyum 3:30pm CDT Religious School Open House + Shabbat Afternoon Outdoors
9 Iyyar 27 8:00am Mother's Day Walk for Peace 10:00am CDT Men's Softball	10 Iyyar 28 7:30pm Let's WAGE Some REAL Change! 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	11 Iyyar 29 8:30am Mindful Mornings 3:30pm Religious School Gr. 3 - Gr. 6 7:00pm A Very Narrow Bridge: Kabbalah and the Bipolar Experience	12 Sivan 1 Rosh Chodesh Sivan 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Mincha Moment	13 Sivan 2 8:30am Mindful Mornings	14 Sivan 3	15 Sivan 4 Bamidbar 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Evan Gan 4:00pm Tot Shabbat
16 Sivan 5 10:00am Religious School Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 10:00am CDT Men's Softball 5:00pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot	17 Sivan 6 Shavuot - 1st Day 12:00am Tikkun Leil Shavuot	18 Sivan 7 Shavuot Yizkor 8:30am Mindful Mornings	19 Sivan 8 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Mincha Moment	20 Sivan 9 8:30am Mindful Mornings	21 Sivan 10	22 Sivan 11 Nasso 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & B Mitzvah of Shai Lipton
23 Sivan 12 10:00am CDT Men's Softball	24 Sivan 13 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	25 Sivan 14 8:30am Mindful Mornings	26 Sivan 15 8:00am Torah Study 5:30pm Mincha Moment	27 Sivan 16 8:30am Mindful Mornings	28 Sivan 17	29 Sivan 18 Beha'alotcha 10:00am Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service
30 Sivan 19	31 Sivan 20	1 Sivan 21 8:30am Mindful Mornings	2 Sivan 22	3 Sivan 23 8:30am Mindful Mornings	4 Sivan 24 6:00pm All Ages Erev Shabbat Service	5 Sivan 25 Sh'lach 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Kaplan

Children's and Family Programs



FROM EARNEST VENER, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING, AT THE CLOSE OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL YEAR

Octavia E. Butler teaches, "Kindness eases change. Love quiets fear." In this challenging year, filled with stretching our comfort zones and trying new things, the CDT community showed me the power of this teaching. As best as we could, we stayed kind to one another, and we have this to celebrate most of all as we wrap up a truly unique Religious School year.

As we approach our final day of Religious School on May 16th, I'm filled with awe and gratitude. I am in awe that each week CDT youth log onto Zoom for Jewish learning, Hebrew and Tefilah practice, and community building. I am filled with gratitude for our teachers who worked to adapt curriculum to a brand new format and for shorter school hours, for our grown-ups who read a million emails and demonstrated flexibility when plans needed to change, and our Children's Education Committee who supported me as a new school leader. We could

not have made it through this year without the resiliency, creativity, and kindness of all the members of our school community.

At a virtual school it can be hard to know exactly what is happening in various classes, without the ability to walk down the hall and poke your head into the lessons. At our final Maariv service of the year Kitah Dalet class (4th grade) led Tefilah. This was their first time leading for the community! Each student led with so much grace, confidence, and sincerity. I was beaming with joy for them and their tutors. It was amazing to see the growth that happened this year. Despite all of the challenges of virtual school, our students learned and grew. Importantly, after each student led, the older students sent "yasher koach" messages in the chat and did silent cheers.

The broader Dorshei Tzedek community is invited to celebrate our Religious School students at our May Siyyumim. Kitot Dalet, Hey, and Vav will each lead a service for the congregation. The students have spent the year learning how to lead their service and it will certainly be a meaningful event for all! For more Siyyum information see page 4 of the newsletter.

We are working on our vision for the 5782 (2021-2022) school year and look forward to sharing our plans with the community soon. Registration for Religious School will open on May 16th. Please share the registration widely to any local families who may be looking for a Jewish community and education for their children. On May 8th, we will have a Religious School Open House and Shabbat Afternoon at The Cove event. All CDT families are invited to join us at The Cove and bring friends for an afternoon of outdoor activities and community building.

In a recent school gathering, we explored the idea of counting the omer between Passover and Shavuot. We learned about the tradition of using this time to reflect on middot (character traits), and through self-reflection we prepare to receive the Torah anew. Stu-

dents reflected on which middot (character traits) helped them during this challenging year. They described moments of resiliency, from waiting until it was safe to do what they wanted to practicing generosity with siblings. It was clear that we have all learned a lot this year. As we prepare for the coming year, we will take our Torah of pandemic Religious School with us into the new year. A Torah that emphasizes inclusion, compassion, resilience, and a deep knowing that our community is capable of working through challenging times.

CDT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE & SHABBAT AFTERNOON OUTDOORS

Saturday, May 8th, 3:30-4:30pm followed by popsicles and shmoozing!

Invite your friends to our final Shabbat Afternoon Outdoors program of the year*! This event will also be an Open House for prospective families. Help spread the word! Dorshei kids + prospective students, grades PreK through grade 7/Zayin, are invited to spend Shabbat afternoon with Dorshei Tzedek at Auburndale Cove. While the kids play, Earnest will meet with prospective families to discuss our wonderful school! Families are welcome to stay after for popsicles, shmoozing, and playground time!

Our outdoor teachers are planning a fun day of games and activities to celebrate the end of the year! Join us for this in person day of fun (and hopefully sun!).

Masks and social distancing are required and will be maintained for the duration of the program. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 children per group to maintain Covid safety. Sign up on the CDT website to save your spot! This program is open to the public, spread the word and invite friends to register!

**We decided to cancel May 29th because of Memorial Day Weekend*



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



Address correction requested



Kitah Gimel Visits Heart of Nourishment Goat Farm

