



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Iyyar/Sivan 5782

May 2022



Reconstructing Judaism Convention, March 2022

A MONTH OF HEALING

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



This year, the month of May corresponds to the Hebrew month of Iyar (which begins on May 2). Iyar falls during the counting of the omer, the 49 days between Passover and the holiday of Shavuot. During this period, it is traditional to “count” each day in the evening before bed, saying a special blessing and then reciting, “Today is the ___ day of the omer.” In the Jewish mystical tradition, each of these 49 days is associated with a godly quality that we seek to cultivate as we prepare ourselves to receive Torah, wisdom and insight, on the 50th day – Shavuot.

I learned recently (thank you, Emmanuel!) of a tradition that the letters of Iyar – Aleph-Yud-Resh – are an acronym for a verse from the Torah. In Exodus 15:26, right after the Israelites have made their way out of Mitzrayim and crossed the Sea of Reeds, God says to them: “I am Adonai, your healer” – *Ani YHVH Rofecha*. So the month of Iyar has become associated with a process of healing.

As I imagine the Israelites making their way through the wilderness on the way to Sinai, I am also thinking about our long trudge through the Covid pandemic. While we, the readers of the Torah, know where the Israelites were headed, they did not. They were traumatized by their enslavement and the sight of Egyptian chariots bearing down on them at the Sea, then momentarily exultant at having been delivered from the oppressor’s army, and soon thereafter anxious and complaining at the lack of food and water in the desert. All of which to say, in those months of schlepping through the wilderness, they experienced highs and lows, felt expectation and fear, and most likely had to make their way through a fair bit of uncertainty, confusion, and exhaustion.

I had the opportunity this past March to attend a webinar for rabbis with Dr. Betsy Stone, a psychologist who teaches at Hebrew Union College.

She explored with us the effects of trauma, and noted that over the past two years, we have experienced a cascade of traumatic events – the onset of the Covid pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and its aftermath, the lead up to the 2020 election, the January 6 insurrection, and more recently the war in Ukraine and its atrocities – in addition to whatever personal traumas we may have endured. Dr. Stone noted that trauma is not the event itself, but our response, which can include reduced ability to cope, feelings of helplessness, a diminished sense of self, and attendant physical experiences from exhaustion to less blood flowing to the parts of our brain that handle executive function, learning ability, and memory. It was in an odd way reassuring to know that my experiences in recent months – forgetfulness and distraction and disrupted sleep – are completely normal responses to an ongoing experience of trauma.

I think it is safe to say that we are all feeling some amount of exhaustion and frayed nerves, and many of us are experiencing more pronounced distress. It has been a long, rough few years. And just as their arrival at Sinai did not end the Israelites’ travel through the wilderness, we are also not magically emerging from the pandemic. It is something we will have to continue to navigate in the coming weeks and months, even as we continue to experience the societal ills of racism and violence and the very real effects of climate change.

And yet — Iyar is a month for healing. The Jewish calendar gives us a kind of road map through challenging times, a deep connection to both our history and cycles of nature that can ground us and offer strength. Even as we experience events that feel unprecedented, our history and our master narrative tell us that we’ve been here before. We’ve struggled, we’ve journeyed, we’ve been at our wits’ end – and we’ve experienced liberation, we’ve received Torah, we’ve made it to the promised land. We’ve rebelled and rejoiced, experienced divine anger and divine compassion, been exhausted and been nourished and everything in between.

On the evening of June 4, we'll gather to celebrate Shavuot with a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a night of learning dedicated to the memory of my spouse, our beloved rebbetzin and master educator Gina Fried (see page 5 for details). May we also dedicate our learning this year to the journey of healing, seeking compassion for ourselves and others as we acknowledge all that we've been through this past two years. May we find little moments of healing as we make our way through this month of May/Iyar — a 90-second break to go outside and breath fresh air, an extra few minutes in a nice hot shower, a special meal, a good cry, time in the garden, dancing around the kitchen to a favorite song – whatever it might be that doesn't take too much effort and is soothing to your soul. As we journey through the wilderness, may we be gentle with ourselves and others, knowing that we have all been through a lot, and that we're all doing the best we can, even as our resources are depleted. As we count each of day of the omer, may we find a little gift in each day that brings its own healing. May we all receive a Torah of healing at Sinai this year.

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,
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Executive Committee:

President: Bob Warren
 1st VP: Stacey Chacker
 VP Finance: Ezra Hausman
 Secretary: Dan Rome

Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Debby Saltzman
 VP Education: David Rhodes
 VP Tikkun Olam: Tony Broh

Board Members—at-Large:

Sheree Galpert, Melody Komyerov, Linda Kramer, Ayelet Lipton, Carla Naumburg, Jenny Sartori, Ro Weichman

Off-Board Chairs:

Children's Education: Rebecca O'Murchadha
 Chesed: Gail Pressberg
 Nediv Lev: Janice Cole & it could be you!
 Newsletter: **Vacant - could be you!**
 Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz
 Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome
 Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling
 DCL Liaison: Lissy Medvedow
 Space: Steve Siegel
 Website: Dan Halbert
 Welcoming: Debbie Saltzman (Acting)

CDT Celebrates 30 Years

CDT GALA AND CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2022!

Saturday, November 5, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

The Windsor Club (1601 Beacon St, Waban, Newton, MA 02468)

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this very special event! One of the activities as part of the program we will have is a CDT Trivia game, created by and emceed by none other than our own Sheree Galpert!

CDT Trivia Question #5: We know Rabbi Toba likes to play softball. What's another sport she has played in several states?



From the Office

MAY & JUNE OFFICE HOURS

For the months of May and June, the CDT office at Second Church will be open Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Please also note that Melissa will be on vacation from Wednesday, May 18-Sunday, May 22 and Lise will be on vacation from Friday, May 20-Tuesday, May 31.

Rabbinic Liaison

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 Rabbinic Liaison Chair Cindy Shulak-Rome at bsrome@comcast.net.

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly, with a July/August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org. Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address. Volunteer Staff: Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Haralie Alpert (interviewer). Let us know if you'd like to join the team - we especially need photographers!!

From the Board

SAVE THE DATE: CDT MEMBERS' MEETING!

CDT's next members' meeting is on Sunday, June 12, 4:30-6:00 pm, both in-person at CDT in Fellowship Hall and virtually on Zoom! Please come to discuss board nominations, 5783 budget, and so much more!

BOARD NOMINATIONS

CDT needs you! The nomination process for the CDT Board of Directors is now open. You can find the Board Nomination Form at dorsheitzedek.org/form/board-nomination-form.html. The nominations will be open until May 25, 2022. You can also use that form to indicate your interest in becoming involved on a committee or other leadership positions.

Please contact Stacey Chacker at chacsjc@gmail.com for more information.



Members Meeting April 2022

Photo by Vivienne Shein

Interview of the Month

MEET MARVIN BROTMAN, OUR OLDEST (94!) CDT MEMBER

Haralie Alpert



I had the honor of interviewing Marvin Brotman who is 94 years young! Marvin has the distinction of being the oldest person who is a member of CDT.

I met Marvin as part of the WISE AGING CDT group that has been meeting monthly for several years and is led by Marion Ross. Marvin is amazing for his wisdom and poignant story telling. He gives our group many suggestions about how to enjoy life and how he navigates the challenges along the way. Marvin is married to CDT member Charlene Brotman and has two daughters in Massachusetts and a son in Georgia.

Marvin's childhood

Born legally blind, Marvin explained to me that he could see images, but couldn't recognize faces when he walked around. He could see near point so he could do his own writing. Marvin went to a private school for children who had vision impairments and came home on the weekends including Friday

night Shabbat dinner. From age 7 through High School, Marvin went to a school that was in Baltimore, while his family lived in Washington. At the school, it was hard for him to live away from home and he was challenged by displays of antisemitism.

As a child, Marvin grew up with an orthodox grandfather. Due to his low vision, his grandfather taught him his Bar Mitzvah portion, which he did from memory. There were no Braille Hebrew books at this time. As an adult, Marvin was one of the early users of a Braille siddur and brings his siddur to our shul. He had loving aunts and uncles and one brother who became a dentist.

College years

Marvin went to George Washington University and studied Liberal Arts. In his master's program, he majored in journalism at Columbia University. His memory of some of the columns he wrote included covering the United Nations and political parties such as the American Labor Party. When he graduated with his Masters degree, it was very hard to be employed as a blind reporter but he found out that a publisher in Wichita, Kansas had such a person on his staff. He went to visit this publisher and was hired!



Professional career

Later in Marvin's career, he became the Director of Public Relations for the National Jewish Hospital, a free hospital in Denver. National Jewish Hospital had regional offices all over the US.

Interview of the Month (cont.)

Move to Boston

Marvin was then offered a job with the Carroll Center for the Blind which is a rehabilitation facility for people with vision difficulties. Most of the students there are legally blind. He moved to Boston for this job. Later he went into his own business called Brotman Communications.

Marvin's success story - *The JOY of his life!*

Marvin states that the "JOY OF HIS LIFE" was during 1975-1985 when he lobbied congress for 10 years to increase eye research. He, and a grass roots organization, testified on Capital Hill. Every year, Marvin felt successful as money for research was appropriated by Congress for people with visual impairments.



Marvin and Charlene join CDT

Marvin relates that he was already involved in Reconstruction Judaism when he lived in Denver. He belonged to a Havarah and was the founding president of his group. Marvin, as an adult, picked to be in a reconstruction Havarah because it "allows you to explore more fully and more freely the Jewish religion. You can explore and find you own meaning in Judaism, the richness of Judaism."

When Marvin and Charlene moved East, Marvin contacted the reconstruction movement and was given the name of Dorshei Tzedek because it was near his new home in Newton.

Current challenges - *Story of the backyard railing*

Marvin explained that he now has low vision and glaucoma issues and therefore he has difficulties with orientation when walking by himself. Recently, Marvin got lost in his backyard and couldn't find his way back to the house. After doing a lot of problem solving, he had a railing built from his back door to the end of the backyard so he can both exercise and find his swing independently. He enjoys using his swing for meditation.

Gratitude

Marvin is grateful for the help of his wife, Charlene. She has made it easier for him to achieve his goals as she is "his eyes" for his many projects.

Advice from Marvin to CDT

"Do your own small part to make it a better world. Find ways to use your skills, we all have them."



Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice

We are excited to be gathering again in person for Shabbat services and holiday programs (most are also available on Zoom). For our in-person gatherings, **vaccination/booster shots and KN95 masks are required of all persons aged 2 and older** in order to attend. Please check our website for ongoing updates about our Covid policies, and see the calendar listing for each service to find information about Zoom and livestream links, links to our Shabbat prayerbook, and other information.

For the health of our community, we also ask that those in attendance **refrain from wearing fragrances**, including perfume, hair and body sprays, and other scented products. These cause illness for some of our members, and we appreciate all of our members' and guests' efforts to keep our space fragrance-free.

SHABBAT SERVICES

All are welcome to join us every Saturday morning for prayer, song, and Torah beginning at 10 am. 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. For the time being, we will not be sharing Kiddush lunch together.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat and Kitot Gimel & Dalet Siyyum

Friday, May 6, 6:00-7:30 pm
CDT Sanctuary & livestreamed

All are invited to come together for Shabbat blessings, a meal provided by CDT, and a fun, musical erev Shabbat service! We will celebrate the learning of our Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) students who will lead the Shabbat blessings before the meal and our Kitah Dalet students (4th grade) who will co-lead

the service with Rabbi Toba. Oneg Shabbat and schmoozing in Fellowship Hall to follow!

Shabbat Kedoshim Morning Services and Kitot Hey & Vav Siyyumim

May 7, 10 am-noon
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom for youth services lead by our fifth and sixth graders! Kiddush in Fellowship Hall to follow.

Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

Shabbat Emor Morning Services and B' Mitzvah of Wren Stefano

May 14, 10 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & YouTube

All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary or via YouTube for Shabbat morning services as Wren is called to the Torah as a B'Mitzvah!

We invite the CDT community to join us in celebration as Wren is called to the Torah. A kiddush lunch will follow the service. Wren is a 7th grader at Watertown Middle School who is happiest with a book (or several) to read or while spending the summer at Camp Ramah. Wren also volunteers by taking care of the cats and kittens at Stray Pets in Need. We're proud and excited to be welcoming Wren as an adult in the CDT community.

- Lauren & Andrew Stefano



Pickles, Sam Daniel Cohen-Weinberg

Shabbat Behar Morning Services and Bar Mitzvah of Sam Daniel Cohen-Weinberg

May 21, 10 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom as Sam is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah!

The Cohen-Weinberg family invites all CDT members to join in celebrating their son, Sam Daniel, when he is called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 21.

Sam is currently a 7th grader at Brown Middle School, where he played ultimate frisbee and is a longtime member of Advanced Art Club and Pride Club. Outside of school, Sam plays soccer, reads until late into the night, and draws comics that make us think deeply and laugh very hard!

- Rebecca Cohen and Jacob Weinberg

Shorashim Shabbat & Play @ the Cove

Saturday, May 21, 3:30-4:30 pm

Auburndale Cove, West Pine Street

Families with children ages 5 and younger are invited to join Heather and Adah for

Shabbat music, stories, nature time and play at Auburndale Cove!

Shabbat Bechukotai Morning Services and Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Dash

May 28, 10 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary or on Zoom as Jesse is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah!

We invite the CDT community to join us in celebrating as we call our son, Jesse, to the Torah as a bar mitzvah! Jesse is a 7th grader at Brown Middle School in Newton. A few of his hobbies include track & field, spending time in nature, trying new foods, and hanging out with friends. A fun fact about Jesse is that he loves climbing and jumping activities: Treetop Adventures, trampolines, rock climbing... you name it! Jesse has had a long-term interest in finding ways to address homelessness. For his tikkun olam project, Jesse is working as a peer buddy for students in special education programs at Brown. We are all very excited for this occasion!

- Sarah & Ben Dash

All-Ages & Prospective Families Erev Shabbat

Friday, June 3, 6:00-7:30 pm

CDT Sanctuary

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba for this fun, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service! We'll begin at 6:00 with a catered dinner and move into the Sanctuary at 6:45 for our service that will welcome and highlight our prospective Religious School families! Oneg Shabbat and schmoozing in Fellowship Hall to follow.

Z'man B'yachad at JCDS with Rabbi Toba



Shabbat Bamidbar Morning Services and Celebration of Learning

June 4, 10 am-noon

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

As we prepare for the holiday of Shavuot, we will dedicate our Shabbat morning service to our past year of learning at Dorshei Tzedek, including a celebration of the participants in our Adult B'Mitzvah class and our rabbinic intern, Emmanuel Cantor. Over the course of this year, the Adult B'Mitzvah class has delved deeply into a wide range of topics, from Jewish views of the afterlife to Talmud to Judaism and sexuality and much more. To celebrate their learning with Emmanuel, a few members of the class will offer reflections and teachings, and we will call them all to the Torah for a special aliyah. We will also be celebrating all those who have studied Torah and other topics at CDT this year and celebrate our graduating high school seniors.

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

June 4, 8pm-midnight

Seven weeks after Passover, we celebrate the receiving of Torah at Mount Sinai during the holiday of Shavuot. One Shavuot tradition is a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, when Jewish mystics would rise at midnight to study esoteric texts until dawn. When Shavuot falls

on a Saturday evening, our CDT tradition is to hold our own (slightly earlier) Tikkun in memory of beloved rebbetzin Gina Fried. We will begin at 8 pm with a talk by Rabbi Toba about her new book, *God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine*, followed by workshops including blintz-making, text study, yoga, and more!

CDT Groups and Events

CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, & 22

The 2022 season has officially begun! Don't miss out on any of the action. For more information, contact head coach Elliot Pittel at epittel@comcast.net and check out the team's Facebook page at facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam.

WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND STUDIES OF MY HEART: INSIDE THE AMIDAH

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, & 23, 7:00-8:30 pm
Zoom

What are we saying when we are praying? If you've ever wanted to deepen your relationship with davening/prayer, join us for an in-depth exploration of the Amidah. We'll interpret selections of the Amidah word by word and uncover our own personal translations to take with us. Whether you are decoding the Hebrew in our prayerbook for the first time or the hundredth time, this class is for you! Familiarity with the alef-bet and ability to sound out the letters is all you need for this class. This class will be facilitated by Elaina Marshalek with Earnest Vener as an assistant teacher. We are excited to dive in with you!



Elaina Marshalek (she/her), Director of Programs at SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, which aims to empower queer and trans people to expand Torah and tradition through the spiritual practice of Talmud study.

TORAH STUDY WITH RABBINIC INTERN EMMANUEL CANTOR

Mondays, May 2, 6, & 30, 8:00-9:00 am

Start your week with Torah Study! Join Emmanuel for a dive into the weekly Torah portion as we explore its connections to our lives and to the social, emotional, and spiritual questions of our day. Participants are welcome to drop in or come every week. No prior knowledge is required, and learners of all backgrounds are welcome.

MINDFUL MORNINGS IN-PERSON SOCIALIZING

Saturday, May 7, 8:45-10:00 am
CDT Library

Join us as in the CDT Library at 60 Highland St the CDT mindfulness group meets in person for the first time in over two years! Arrive anytime between 8:45 and 9:15 for schmoozing, followed by mindfulness sit lead by Karen Arnold until 9:45. We will conclude with more schmoozing time before in-person services begin at 10.

26TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday, May 8, 8:00 am
Town Field Park (1565 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122)



It's back, and we're going! Once again, CDT is participating as a community in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, sponsored by the Louise D. Brown Peace Institute. Every dollar we raise will advance the Peace Institute's mission to be a center of healing, teaching, and learning and to respond effectively and equitably to murder, trauma, grief, and loss in Boston. LDBPI works to meet the needs of survivor families and communities to prevent cycles of retaliatory violence, supports advocacy for policy that promotes dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder, and provides personalized training and education for response teams, professionals, and students.

You can join Team Dorshei Tzedek as a walker and/or as a contributor. Some CDT members will be starting the walk at the beginning in

Town Field Park, Dorchester (8 am program and 8:30 am kick off); the rest of us will gather at the mid-way point, Madison Park High School at Roxbury Crossing (9 am program and 9:30 am kick off). This year the walk will be a loop (7.7 miles total), ending back at Town Field. And you can also participate virtually, beginning at 9 am! Go to mothersdaywalk4peace.org/TeamDorsheiTzedek to register for the congregational walking team, to make a donation, and to learn more about the walk and the virtual option. If you have any questions, contact Abby Cohen at abby.cohen@verizon.net or 617-216-3540.

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30-9:15 pm
Zoom

All CDT members who are in the various stages of mourning are welcome to attend. Our monthly gathering meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month to support one another, reflect on loss on the occasion of a *yahrzeit*, and remember the legacies of the loved ones we carry with us. Drop-ins are always welcome anytime. For more information, please contact Nancy Gertz at nancy.gertz@gmail.com or Dianne Lior at dianne.lior@gmail.com.

CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, May 16, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

The CDT Men's Group meets on the third Monday of each month and is open to anyone who identifies with manhood.

CULTIVATING ACTIVE HOPE IN TURBULENT TIMES

A Workshop with Rabbi Mordechai Leibling in conjunction with Understanding Racism
Sunday, May 22, 2:00-4:30 pm
CDT Sanctuary

Join Rabbi Mordechai Leibling for a workshop based on the work of Buddhist scholar and environmental activist Joanna Macy. It is a transformational group process that builds motivation, connection, solidarity, and vision, renewing the courage to act for the healing

CDT Groups and Events (cont.)

of our world. In these times of environmental degradation, rampant inequality, systemic racism, and other daily catastrophes, there is a tension between our desire to take urgent action and our need to process reality on a deeper level. We often experience despair, anger, fear, and burnout as we navigate this tension, and at times it feels easier to turn away and close ourselves off. Yet it is through reconnection with ourselves and others, and acknowledging the reality of these times, that we can find hope and the courage to continue.

All are then invited to stay for a nosh and further discussion among friends! Free, but limited to 40 in-person participants. Childcare upon request – please email Executive Director Melissa Colten at m.colten@dorsheitzedek.org.



Rabbi Mordechai Liebling is the interim Director of Organizing for POWER Interfaith (powerinterfaith.org), the largest faith-based community

organizing group in Pennsylvania. He leads workshops on Race, Antisemitism and Christian hegemony; and on the Work That Reconnects developed by Joanna Macy. He is married to Lynne Iser, and they have five adult children.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, May 28, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

We'll watch films on our own and discuss them on Zoom (check the CDT calendar for the link). No commitment is necessary – feel free drop in only once or come every time! Contact Emily Sper at emily@emilysper.com with questions, film suggestions, or if you'd like to lead a discussion about a particular film.

One Week and a Day: (Kanopy, 2016, 99 min.): Eyal finishes the traditional Jewish week of mourning for his late son, his wife Vicky urges him to return to their routine — but just because the shiva has ended doesn't mean it's life as usual.

THE SUM OF US READING AND DISCUSSION

An Understanding Racism Program

Saturday, June 4, 12:45-2:15 pm

CDT's Understanding Racism group invites you to the launch of our new project: reading and discussing *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee. All interested members are welcome to join a hybrid kick-off discussion of the book's introduction (while you don't need to read the intro in advance, it is encouraged.) McGhee's book has been acclaimed for revealing the hidden costs of American racism and for showing what a new solidarity can achieve. Next fall, we will begin working through the book chapter by chapter in gatherings where we can share our thoughts and reactions as we read *The Sum of Us* through a Jewish and congregational lens.

Community

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Kirsten Kuhn who joins us from Watertown!

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Lucy Caputo and her family on becoming Bat Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Noah Pytel and his family on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to Bill Shorr and all of the host families for coordinating this year's Passover Seder Matchmaking!

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to Anya Rhodes, Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, Gail Pressberg, Joyce Traister, Harriet Budd, and Ellen Pashall.



Leaves with singing guy
Sam Daniel Cohen-Weinberg

YAHREZEIT

This month we remember CDT founding member Jill Volk on the occasion of her 15th yahrzeit, which falls this year on May 13. We will remember Jill at Shabbat morning services on May 14. May her memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

CDT mourns the death of member Steve Adler-Golden on April 21. After seven months of treatment for glioblastoma, Steve died peacefully at home with his family around him. We extend our condolences to Rachel Adler-Golden, to Rachel and Steve's children Lisa and Dan and their partners, Gaelin and Diana, and to their cousins, CDT members Mark Schafer, Marjorie Salvodon and Marie-Carmel Schafer. May Steve's memory be for a blessing.

MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "*Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek*," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website at dorsheitzedek.org/mourning.

Artist of the Month



SAM DANIEL COHEN-WEINBERG

My art is a way to express my feelings or capture a story or just something I'm thinking

about. It's also just fun for me to get my pen and pencils, papers and watercolors and draw, sketch, or paint something. I love drawing!

I use different mediums but most of the time I use pens. Usually, I work on white paper and I like seeing the contrast of black and white, light and dark on the page.

It is important to me to have humor in my work. Sometimes I'll get inspired and I try to draw one of my cats looking majestic. Some of my artistic influences are Roz Chast, Barry Blitt, Jeff Smith, and Liniers. I love cartoons and graphic novels. I love Bone, Witch Boy, Be Prepared, The Montague Twins, Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales, Calvin and Hobbes. And so much more!!!!!!!!!!!!!! :)

When I'm engaged in making art, I feel in the zone. I don't even have to think about what I'm drawing, it just comes out. I am influenced by everyday things in the world, like when I'm taking a walk or talking to people. I'll get an idea and think "Oh, that would make a great comic" or "I'd love to make a portrait of that."

If there was no art in the world, things would be... boring. Drawing and painting allow creative people to reflect on the world.



Dutch and Flemish Fish

Tikkun Olam

ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE

Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony

Tuesday, May 3, 1:30-2:30 pm

Live broadcast

CDT is again co-sponsoring the largest Israeli-Palestinian peace event in history. On May 3, Israeli Memorial Day, we will gather virtually with tens of thousands of people in Israel/Palestine and around the globe to call for peace, freedom, and human rights for all. The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony is hosted by Combatants for Peace and The Parents Circle-Families Forum. Register here: www.afcfp.org/memorial

Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, is a solemn day on which Israelis remember those they have lost in the years of war and conflict. Traditionally, the Palestinian narrative is erased, leading both sides into deeper despair. By acknowledging the pain of those living on all sides, the Ceremony offers us all the choice to walk a new path: the path of respect, equality, freedom – and ultimately peace. In this time of immense anxiety and separation, the Joint Memorial Day Ceremony offers hope for a better future.

Reconstructionist Rabbis Series: Final Session & Open Conversation

Wednesday, May 11, 8:00-9:30 pm

Zoom

CDT is cosponsoring a free series about Israel/Palestine led by Reconstructionist rabbis over 9 sessions between January and May. Zionists, non-Zionists, anti-Zionists, and those unsure of how to define themselves are all welcome to participate as the meanings of these terms are explored. Each 90-minute session includes a lecture and discussion. Details and registration can be found on the CDT calendar.



Sardine Guy, Sam Daniel Cohen-Weinberg

NEWTON HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE

Lisa Keshet

On April 11, in honor of Fair Housing Month, CDT hosted an interfaith gathering to learn more about the historical use of law and policy to segregate housing by federal, state, and local authorities. Together, we watched the animated documentary *Segregated by Design* by Richard Rothstein and Mark Lopez, which chronicles unconstitutional housing policies nationwide. We had several wonderful guest educators including Henry Korman who serves as the General Counsel for 2Life Communities. He presented on the regional impact that discriminatory housing policies had on Black and immigrant communities and noted that these policies were also aimed at Jewish communities.

Kathleen Hobson of the Newton Interfaith Housing Coalition described the work of the coalition as seeking an abundant supply of smaller, accessible, more affordable homes in Newton. She also spoke about Newton's arrival at a crossroads for zoning reform as it enters the Phase 2 of its Zoning Redesign process and its confluence with the new

Tikkun Olam (cont.)

Massachusetts zoning requirements of the MBTA Communities.

Finally, we heard from Louise Enoch (filling in for Shayok Chakraborty) who brought us up to date on the GBIO housing campaign. She explained that the use of ARPA money, statewide legislation on Real Estate Transfer fees, and the MBTA law allowing multi-dwelling units in 175 communities across the state are the areas being explored as part of GBIO's housing action plan.

Tony Broh, VP for Tikkun Olam, was instrumental in organizing the event together with Lisa Keshet and the event's planning committee. To learn more about the Newton Housing Project, visit the CDT website at dorsheitzedek.org/newton-housing-project.

To learn more about GBIO's initiatives in Housing Policies, please contact Louise Enoch at lpnoech@gmail.com.

GBIO UPDATE

Louise Enoch

GBIO's work on Reentry, Mental Health, and Housing is underway! Steering Teams are formulating the campaigns for each area. Action Teams meet monthly to help carry out the campaigns. Here's where you can get involved! We are looking for liaisons to the Mental Health and Housing Action Teams. Let me know if you have any interest. The Reentry group has already had some success in meeting with officials to guarantee funding for the Office of Reentry (who works with returning citizens) and in securing needed IDs for people as they exit the system. Action Teams meet once a month; at this point it is the first Tuesday evening, and participation does not involve a big commitment.

Together with our Tikkun Olam Committee, we cosponsored an educational program about the history of housing discrimination and encouraged people to either get involved with GBIO around housing or with the newly created Newton Interfaith Housing Coalition, which is working on local issues related to affordable housing in Newton. If you missed it, the film *Segregated By Design* is available online and is very informative.

SAVE THE DATES: There will be a Spring "Action" on May 26. The details of this event are being worked out, but it will address all three areas and we hope to have a large turnout. Look for updates on this event on our calendar and emails. There will also be a CDT Reentry Program on May 18 at 7 pm to bring our members up to date on the actions of the Reentry Team.

ONE FAIR WAGE UPDATE

What's New with One Fair Wage?

Amy Mazur

As we watch the changes going on for workers and wonder what the next update will be, here in Massachusetts we have some good news to report.

If you have not heard, for the first time ever, the One Fair Wage bill has received a favorable response from the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and is now moving forward to the Senate in the Massachusetts statehouse.

As a reminder, this bill would give servers and bartenders the full minimum wage plus tips on top and allow for tip sharing between the front and back of the house. It would end a centuries-long system that contributes to harassment, discrimination, and poverty wages as a direct repercussion of slavery.

Although this is a huge step forward, our fight is not yet over. There are many steps to pass a law in Massachusetts, but this progress makes it clear that this is possible!

The bill is now waiting for a hearing in front of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. We will keep you posted on how you can support this legislation and our work.

Other good news is that CDT now has a webpage to keep you updated on all matters One Fair Wage. Please visit us at dorsheitzedek.org/one-fair-wage to learn about how we are moving forward, both in the Commonwealth and as a community.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

With the Blue Dove Foundation

Visit thebluedovefoundation.org/mental-health-awareness-month/ for more information about this year's events and programs.

Mi Sheberach Book Talk

Thursday, May 12, 7:30 pm

Quieting the Silence: How to be a Source of Support

Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 pm

Anchors: A Well-being Workshop for Jewish Preteens

Sunday, May 22, 3:00 pm



Dayenu Circle Passover Action at Chase Bank Boston, April 2022

Chesed

MANY GESTURES OF CHESED

Ellie Goldberg

Chesed (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value. The members of the Chesed Committee coordinate volunteers who provide a meal or other acts of support and comfort when our members have a major life event such as a new baby, illness or death in the family. We post Chesed tasks online on the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar.

QUESTION: What is a gesture of Chesed?

ANSWER: The Chesed Committee coordinates an act of support and caring, most often a home-cooked or purchased prepared meal. Acts of Chesed also include a task such as shopping for groceries, a ride to a medical appointment, picking up or returning library books, dog walking, transporting kids to school, daycare, sports, lessons or other activities. When a member's needs are ongoing, a Chesed Coordinator can help the member set up a personal LotsaHelpingHands calendar so that they can include a wider network of friends and family.

Help make Congregation Dorshei Tzedek a more caring community. All members are invited to join the CDT Chesed Caring Community volunteer list at my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/cdt-chesed-caring-community-updated.

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community. Please contact the Chesed Coordinators at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org with any questions or Chesed requests.

Nediv Lev

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 importantly, to help out congregants in need. **We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:**

AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent
Diane Becker
Elaine Bresnick
Terri Kasper
Denise & Mark Yurkofsky

CAMP HAVAYA FUND

Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried — *In honor of Ava Levine-Fried's bat mitzvah and Kitah Zayin 5782*

GENERAL FUND

Linda & Peter Katz — *In memory of Lina and Saul Weiss*

NEDIV LEV

Anonymous — *In honor of the Rhodes family Ellie & Judah Axe*
Barbara Beck — *In memory of her sister Louise, her beloved rascal*
Diane Becker
Elaine Bresnick & Alan Cushing
Pauline Coderre
Janice Cole
Christopher Combest
Amy Dain & Michael Dudnik

Susan Dargon-Hart
Vilunya Diskin
Karen Engels
Mark Farber & Sherry Katz
JoAnn & Michael Feldstein
Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman
Jackie Fleischman — *In honor of Stan Fleischman*
Sheree Galpert — *In memory of David's father*
Lauren Gibbs — *In memory of what would have been Mara Gibbs' 25th birthday*
Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver
Tessa Goldsmith
Diana & Richard Gomberg
Valerie Graf & Doron Gan
Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan
Ricky & Rob Greenly
Muriel Heiberger
Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Stephanie & Nem Hackett
Carol & Robert Hausman
Lisa Hirsh & DB Reiff — *With thanks to all who have sustained CDT during this long virtual year with generosity and spirit*
Barry Ingber
Annette Jacobs
Phyllis & Bill Kantor — *In memory of Al Glazerman*
The Karp Family
Reva Kasman
Terri Kasper

Linda & Peter Katz
Hope Kellman
Sue Lanser & Jo Radner
Jenny & Jay Leopold
Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried
Dianne Lior
Alice Markowitz & Rick Glassman
Sivan Nasoff — *In honor of Janice Cole, whom I miss now that I'm in New Orleans*
Ellen Pashall
Diana Perretta
Kathy Pillsbury & Cindy Rivka Marshall
Barbara & Elliot Pittel
Tal Shalom-Kobi
Carol Sklar — *With deep gratitude for the Wise Aging group and the support, wisdom, life lessons and friendships found there*
Melissa Spatz
Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer — *In honor of Rabbi Toba's 25 years at CDT*
Lauren & Andy Stefano
Denise & Mark Yurkofsky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ellie Baron & Kate DeBethune
Michael Luckens — *In memory of Gina Fried, Stan Fleischman; In honor of Rabbi Spitzer on the publication of her new book*
Gail Harris & David Reider

May 2022 • Iyyar/Sivan 5782

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Nisan 30</i> Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 15th Day Omer 9:30am Kitah Vav Family Ed 9:30am Bet Tuesday school parent meeting 9:30am Hey Parent Meeting 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth Elohim-1 12:00pm Bandits (Vav-Zayin) 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	2 <i>Iyyar 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 16th Day Omer 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor 7:00pm Words of my mouth and studies of my heart: Inside the Amidah	3 <i>Iyyar 2</i> 17th Day Omer 1:30pm Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School 4:00pm Rosh Hodesh Tuesday RS	4 <i>Iyyar 3</i> 18th Day Omer	5 <i>Iyyar 4</i> 19th Day Omer	6 <i>Iyyar 5</i> 20th Day Omer 6:00pm All Ages Erev Shabbat and Kitah Gimel and Dalet Siyyum	7 <i>Iyyar 6</i> 21st Day Omer Kedoshim 8:45am Mindful Mornings In-Person Socializing 10:00am Kitah Hey and Kitah Vav Siyyum
8 <i>Iyyar 7</i> 22nd Day Omer Mother's Day 8:00am 26th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth Elohim-2 Wellesley 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	9 <i>Iyyar 8</i> 23rd Day Omer 7:00pm Words of my mouth and studies of my heart: Inside the Amidah	10 <i>Iyyar 9</i> 24th Day Omer 3:00pm Tuesday Religious School 6:00pm 8th/9th Grade Tuesday Program 7:30pm Avelut	11 <i>Iyyar 10</i> 25th Day Omer 7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener 8:00pm Reconstructionist Rabbis of Israel/ Palestine series - Open conversation	12 <i>Iyyar 11</i> 26th Day Omer	13 <i>Iyyar 12</i> 27th Day Omer	14 <i>Iyyar 13</i> 28th Day Omer Emor 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & B Mitzvah of Wren Stefano
15 <i>Iyyar 14</i> Pesach Sheni 29th Day Omer 9:30am Parent Learning: Closing Day 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Shir Tikvah-Winchester 10:00am 8th/9th Grade Kids4Peace 3:00pm Exploring Aging through Literature 7:00pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	16 <i>Iyyar 15</i> 30th Day Omer 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor 7:00pm Words of my mouth and studies of my heart: Inside the Amidah 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	17 <i>Iyyar 16</i> 31st Day Omer	18 <i>Iyyar 17</i> 32nd Day Omer	19 <i>Iyyar 18</i> Lag B'Omer 33rd Day Omer	20 <i>Iyyar 19</i> 34th Day Omer	21 <i>Iyyar 20</i> 35th Day Omer Behar 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Sam Weinberg-Cohen 3:30pm Shorashim Shabbat afternoon & Play @ the Cove
22 <i>Iyyar 21</i> 36th Day Omer 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Sinai/ Ohabei Shalom 2:00pm Cultivating Active Hope in Turbulent Times: A Workshop with Rabbi Mordechai Leibling	23 <i>Iyyar 22</i> 37th Day Omer 7:00pm Words of my mouth and studies of my heart: Inside the Amidah	24 <i>Iyyar 23</i> 38th Day Omer	25 <i>Iyyar 24</i> 39th Day Omer	26 <i>Iyyar 25</i> 40th Day Omer GBIO Assembly	27 <i>Iyyar 26</i> 41st Day Omer	28 <i>Iyyar 27</i> 42nd Day Omer Bechukotai 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & B Mitzvah of Jesse Dash 8:00pm CDT Film Club: "One Week and a Day"
29 <i>Iyyar 28</i> 43rd Day Omer	30 <i>Iyyar 29</i> 44th Day Omer Memorial Day 8:00am Torah Study with Rabbinic Intern Emmanuel Cantor	31 <i>Sivan 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th Day Omer	1 <i>Sivan 2</i> 46th Day Omer 7:00pm Mussar (applied Jewish ethics) Practice Group with CDT Member Ora Grodsky and Earnest Vener	2 <i>Sivan 3</i> 47th Day Omer	3 <i>Sivan 4</i> 48th Day Omer 6:00pm All Ages & Prospective Families Erev Shabbat	4 <i>Sivan 5</i> 49th Day Omer Bamidbar 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services & Celebration of Learning 12:45pm "The Sum of Us" Reading and Discussion: An Understanding Racism Program 8:00pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
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West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Do you need a large print version of the newsletter?
Contact the office at office@dorsheitzedek.org

Current guidelines for in-person CDT events and gatherings:

- » Pre-registration for indoor gatherings is suggested but not required, and **seating is now back to 100% capacity!**
- » **(K)N-95 masks are still required** to be worn by all persons aged 2 and older for the duration of the program/service. CDT will always have masks on hand in case of need.
- » Vaccination and booster shots are required for all that are eligible (we are maintaining the honor system).
- » Please stay home and take advantage of our Zoom option if you are experiencing elevated temperature, sore throat, nausea, muscle aches, cough, respiratory symptoms, unexplained rash, and loss of smell or taste, or have been in contact with someone with COVID.

Please review the full update at

<https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/covid-19-resources>