



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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February 2023



"Beach Day" by Emelia Webbe  
(magazine collage on cardboard, 2017)

## BUILDING OUR MISHKAN

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



In this month of February, we are – in the yearly cycle of Torah readings – immersed in the book of Exodus, our Jewish “master narrative.” This story of the liberation from bondage in Mitzrayim, the “narrow place” of oppression, culminates in the building of the Mishkan. In chapter 25 of Exodus, God tells Moses to instruct the Israelites to build “a holy place, so that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). This holy place is also called the “Mishkan,” from the root “to dwell”; it was a portable sanctuary that housed the ark of the covenant. The text does NOT have God say, “build me a holy place so that I may dwell in it,” but rather, “that I may dwell among them.” This wilderness sanctuary was not like other Near Eastern temples, with a bed inside for the local god to sleep in. Rather, it was a structure that allowed the Divine Presence to become manifest amidst the Israelite community. In the innermost part of the Mishkan, the Holy of Holies, Moses would encounter God’s Presence in the form of a Voice, and the Israelites outside would witness that Presence as a cloud hovering over the sanctuary.

Most of the remainder of the book of Exodus – 15 chapters in all, over 1/3 of the entire book – are devoted to detailed instructions for the building of the Mishkan. Why is so much attention paid to this construction project? I believe it’s because this “holy place” was a physical symbol of the social structure the Israelites were called on to build. If constructed properly, this society would allow the Godly qualities of justice and love to become manifest in the human realm. This ideal social structure was made up of mutual obligations that connected the freed slaves to one another and to the Divine.

The Torah describes the Israelites eagerly answering Moses’ call to build the Mishkan — bringing everything from gold and silver to goat’s hair, from precious stones to incense and colorful yarn. Artisans were called upon to weave cloth and shape metal for the construction. The medieval philosopher Nachmanides wondered, how did people just a few months out from doing heavy labor as slaves have any idea how to do these things? His answer: the project itself called up talents that the Israelites didn’t even know they had.

When I think about what we are trying to do here at Dorshei Tzedek, I imagine us engaged in the task of building our own, scale-model version of the Mishkan, and in so doing, helping to create a much larger structure: a society – and a world – in which Godliness can dwell. Whether at Shabbat morning services or at the religious school, in our Tikkun Olam work or supporting one another in a web of *chesed*/acts of lovingkindness, we are building a structure in which divine qualities of love and justice become manifest. And in that process, we too have an opportunity to celebrate the gifts and talents of each of our members.

February also has special meaning as Black History Month and as Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). In 1915, the historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. By the late 1960s, with the leadership and agitation of student leaders and civil rights activists, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses, and February was first designated as Black History Month by President Gerald Ford in 1976. Each year there is a theme of the month; this year's theme is "Black Resistance." You can see a "virtual festival" of events sponsored by ASALH at <https://asalh.org/festival/>.

Founded by the Jewish Special Education Consortium, JDAIM began as a North American initiative in 2009, and is now observed by Jewish communities worldwide. The mission of JDAIM is to unite Jewish communities worldwide to raise awareness and champion the rights of all Jews to be accepted and included in all aspects of Jewish and community life. During the Covid pandemic, Jewish disability activists have been providing critical leadership as the Jewish community navigates issues of accessibility.

In very different ways, Black History Month and JDAIM provide opportunities for us as a community to celebrate the gifts of all of our members, and to acknowledge the ways in which the American Jewish community – and we at CDT – still have work to do when it comes to fully appreciating the stunning diversity of the Jewish people. As we expand our understanding of and commitment to disability justice, as we work to become an anti-racist community, we know that such efforts are not and should not be confined to just one month of the year. And at the same time, our Jewish calendar tells us that it's important to mark certain times for remembrance and celebration. In this newsletter, you can read an interview with a CDT member who is a disability justice activist (p. 2), see artwork by a disabled member of our community (p. 6, 7, & 10), find out about kids' books related to both JDAIM and Black History Month (p. 8), and find out about a special visit to an exhibit by a local Black Jewish artist (p. 10). May this month be for a blessing!

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

The CDT Newsletter is compiled, edited, and designed by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, and photos to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org) by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address. Volunteer Staff for this issue: Haralie Alpert (interviewer). Please let us know if you'd like to join the team!

## 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](mailto:t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org)  
Executive Director of Operations: Margaret Farmer,  
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Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon,  
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### Executive Committee:

President: Stacey Chacker  
Immediate Past President: Bob Warren  
VP Finance: Jen Levine-Fried  
Secretary: Dan Rome

### Vice-Presidents:

VP Membership: Carole Slipowitz and  
Marjorie Salvodon  
VP Tikkun Olam: Tony Broh

### Board Members—at-Large:

Sheree Galpert, Melody Komyerov, Ayelet Lipton, Jenny Sartori, Meryl Epstein, and Rebecca Byard

### Off-Board Chairs:

Children's Education: Becca O'Murchadha  
Chesed: Gail Pressberg  
Nediv Lev: Janice Cole & Ezra Hausman  
Ritual: Marion Ross & Peter Katz  
Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome  
Executive Director Liaison: Linette Liebling  
Education Director Liaison: Lissy Medvedow  
Space: Steve Siegel  
Website: Dan Halbert  
Welcoming: **Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!**



## From the Office



### MEET MARGARET FARMER, CDT'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

I am very pleased to be joining Congregation Dorshei Tzedek as the Executive Director of Operations. I am coming to you with more than ten years experience working for mission based non-profits. I look forward to meeting all of you, and learning how I can best support everyone in maintaining a vital and active community.

*Stay tuned to learn more about Margaret in the March newsletter, and at the March members meeting!*

### FEBRUARY OFFICE HOURS AND STAFF OUT OF OFFICE

Alistaire will be in the CDT office at 60 Highland St from Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm and virtually on Mondays 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Please keep an eye out for a future announcement regarding Margaret's office hours.

Alistaire will be out on February 20, and Rabbi Toba will be on vacation from February 20-26.

## Interview of the Month

### ALLEGRA HEATH-STOUT – A BELIEVER IN DISABILITY JUSTICE AND THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT!

Haralie Alpert

Allegra Heath-Stout is currently the Director of Programs and Disability Initiatives at JOIN for Justice (the Jewish Organizing Institute and Network). JOIN equips Jewish leaders with tools to bring about social, racial, economic and environmental reform. Since 2016, Allegra has directed the Jewish Organizing Fellowship at JOIN that trains young organizers and places them at community organizations. Allegra has a B.A. in Psychology and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Wesleyan University.

#### Where did you grow up and what is your Jewish background?

I grew up in Montville, New Jersey. I grew up conservative. Judaism was always a big part of my family's life, celebrating Shabbat and other Jewish Holidays and going to Hebrew school.

#### How did you decide to become a member at CDT?

As a young adult, I moved to the Boston area. I was figuring out what I wanted in my adult Jewish life and I explored different possibilities. I first met Rabbi Toba when she was teaching in the Jewish Organizing Fellowship program. That led me to first check out Dorshei at High Holiday services. I brought my partner as well and we felt like it was the right fit for our family. CDT has a lot of the melodies and

service structures that I grew up with. It is also focused on justice values and adapting Judaism for our lives and values today. I'm in a multi-faith family and we feel very welcome at CDT.

#### What about your background led you to develop your current interest in the field of disability justice?

I got started in that direction through my family. I have 3 siblings and all 4 of us have different disabilities. When I was a kid, I started volunteering with younger kids with disabilities to help out in arts and crafts and other recreation programs. (Meanwhile) my mom had really raised me to be a feminist including going to National Organization for Women marches from the time I was a baby.

In high school, a friend introduced me to the idea of the disability rights movement – that disabled people are an identity group facing oppression and fighting for their rights. (I realized that) people with disabilities can be leaders rather than just being the recipients of services and help. I learned the motto: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US. Later, in college, my work was about changing concrete policies on campus and about helping people see disability as a social justice issue and not just a medical or bureaucratic issue.

#### In 2021, you met with Rabbi Toba and a few other congregants regarding disability



#### justice and access issues at CDT. What was discussed at these meetings?

We discussed both practical access challenges and the values that drive this work. So much great progress has been made, but there are still ways access can improve at CDT. We need to prioritize accessibility at every stage of planning our events and programs. We also discussed the need for more education about disability justice and opportunities to build community among congregants with disabilities.

Another thing that stood out for me was that we have congregants with a variety of relationships to disabilities. For example, we have adults with disabilities, parents of people with disabilities, children with disabilities and people who work with people who have disabilities. All of these experiences deserve recognition and support, even while it's key that people with disabilities be in leadership conversations about disability.

## Interview of the Month (cont.)

### How can CDT meet those needs you just mentioned?

The biggest thing is to listen to members with disabilities. We need to make sure that we are asking people in our congregation, and those who don't yet feel welcome as members, "How can we be more accessible?" And then we need to be ready to make changes, and to use our time and money to build a more inclusive and just community. We can also educate ourselves by reading disability justice texts (for instance, some of us read Care Work

by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha) and invite disabled Jewish leaders to speak.

### What do you want to say to CDT members as we continue on the path to disability justice?

One is just to remember that access and inclusion are really for all of us so that we can be in community together and be in relationship with one another. It's not about doing something for disabled people; it's

something that we do for all of us to be able to have a strong community and be able to be together. The other thing is just how the disability justice movement really has so much to offer to all of us in terms of wisdom for how we can live our lives and build our communities including on a spiritual level. It's really about honoring everyone's uniqueness and wholeness and that to me feels connected to recognizing that everyone is created in the image of God.

## 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)!

**COVID Protocols:** For our in-person gatherings, **vaccination/booster shots are required for all those who are eligible aged 5 and older, and masks are required of all persons aged 2 and older** (KN95 or better recommended). Kids too young for vaccination are welcome! Please check our website for ongoing updates about our COVID policies, and see the calendar listing for each service to find information about Zoom links, links to our Shabbat prayerbook, and other information.

**We are fragrance-free:** For the health of our community, we also ask that all those attending programs in person 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.

### ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SHIRA

Friday, February 3, 6:00-8:00 pm  
CDT (60 Highland St, West Newton)

This month, we celebrate Shabbat Shira – the Shabbat of Song – with a catered dinner at 6 pm and a special musical service at 6:45 pm featuring Rabbi Toba and CDT musicians! Adults and kids of all ages are invited to gather at 6 pm for candle-lighting and a vegetarian catered dinner; the service starts at 6:45 pm, with an Oneg at approximately 7:30 pm. *This program is in-person only.*

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

#### Shabbat Shira & Refugee Shabbat – B'shallach

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning

services and Torah discussion as we read about the Israelites crossing of the Red Sea and the song they sang – hence the name of this Shabbat! We'll have an extra-musical Shabbat morning in honor of this Shabbat of song. We will also remember CDT member Mara Gibbs on the occasion of her 6th yahrzeit.

This Shabbat morning, in connection with HIAS's national Refugee Shabbat initiative, we will also honor all the work of our Afghan Resettlement Project and the year-plus of our hosting a refugee family from Afghanistan, whom we will have the chance to meet! A special Kiddush lunch will follow services.

#### Shabbat Yitro

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services and Torah discussion as we read about the receiving of Torah on Mount Sinai! Kiddush lunch follows services.

At noon, CDT Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson will lead a Hagbah training. Ever wondered how to lift and wrap the Torah? Want to flex some special muscles? Come and learn how to lift and wrap the Torah scroll following services, at noon!

#### Shabbat Shekalim & B Mitzvah of Shirel Moser

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are invited to join us in person or on Zoom as we call Shirel Moser to the Torah as a B Mitzvah! A special Kiddush lunch follows services.

*Please join us on February 18 as Shirel is called to the Torah as a B Mitzvah. Shirel is in 7th grade at F.A. Day Middle School. They love to sing and write songs, swim, hang out with their dog (and all other animals), play sports and they make people laugh every day.*

– Thea Breite

# Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

## Shabbat Terumah

Saturday, February 25, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Zoom only

All are invited to join CDT member-leaders for this Shabbat morning Zoom service and Torah study. We will be remembering CDT members Francis Greenberg on the occasion of his 16th yahrzeit and Marion Weinberg on the occasion of her 26th yahrzeit.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:15 am  
Zoom

We invite all CDT members to consider joining us for meditation. No meditation experience or regular commitment required. For questions or to find out more, please contact Karen Arnold or Carole Slipowitz.

## TU B'SHVAT

### Tu B'Shvat Seder

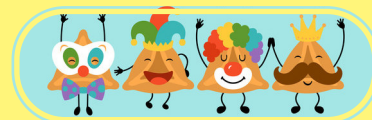
with CDT Rabbic Intern Akiva Nelson  
Sunday, February 5, 5:00-6:30pm  
FUSN (1326 Washington St, West Newton)

Celebrate Tu B'Shvat (the New Year of the Trees) with Akiva and CDT member leaders Erica, Esther, Randi, and Sheryl. We're going to be hosting a mystically-inclined and delicious evening of song, poetry, arts-and-crafts, meditation, and spiritually-potent foods. This year's IN-PERSON (!) Tu B'Shvat seder will be on Sunday, February 5, 2023, from 5:00 PM - 6:30 pm at FUUSN. For additional details, please see the CDT calendar.

## SAVE THE DATE: CDT PURIM PARTY & SPIEL!

Monday, March 6, 7:00-9:00 pm  
FUSN (1326 Washington Street, West Newton)

Rav Tiffany says: it's time to party in person! Adults and kids of all ages are invited to enjoy Purim davvening with Rav Tiffany, megillah reading, the Purim spiel, and dancing! Don't miss it! Tell your friends! And bring some cash or checks just in case there's a tzedakah opportunity...



## Community

### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new members Phyllis & Marc Kirschner, Rikki Connors, and Leila Quinn!

### MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Haralie Alpert on the birth of her grandson, Joseph Leonard Alpert, born to Alla and Sam Alpert on New Year's Eve!

Mazel tov to David Roberts and Sue Fischlowitz on their 50th wedding anniversary!

Mazel tov to Akiva Nelson and Carly Margolis on their engagement!

### TODAH RABAH

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush in January:

Nathan Aronow, Benita Danzing, Ami Gordon, Jonathan Gordon, Jennifer Nichols, Jeff Goldman, Naomi Lev, Deb McEwan, Trish Nuzzola, Steve Zisk, Ora Gladstone, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Annette Jacobs (in memory of her father, Marcus Jacobs), Ilana Mainelli, David Reider, Dan Halbert, Deborah Levenson, Mark Schafer, Sarah Birkel, Michael Feldstein, David Felson, Lisa Hirsh, Elaine Landes, Ellie Goldberg, Ellen Pashall, and

Elaine Bresnick (in memory of Marty Bresnick and David Adler).

Thank you to Elizabeth Ferrenz and Rebecca Bact for volunteering for Door Duty during Sunday Religious School!

### REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Anya Rhodes, Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, Gail Pressberg, and Harriet Budd.

### YAHARZEIT

This month we remember CDT member Mara Gibbs, whose 6th yahrzeit falls this year on February 2. We will remember Mara at Shabbat morning services on February 4. May her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Francis Greenberg, whose 18th yahrzeit falls this year on February 22. We will remember Francis at Shabbat morning services on February 25. May his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Marion Weinberg, whose 26th yahrzeit falls this year on February 25. We will remember Marion at Shabbat

morning services on February 25. May her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Al Glazerman, whose first yahrzeit falls this year on February 26. We will remember Al at Shabbat morning services on March 4. May his memory be for a blessing.

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Cindy Marshall on the death of her mother, Helene Marshall, mother-in-law of Kathy Pillsbury and grandmother of Jeremy and Mikayla. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Kathy Pillsbury on the death of her niece, Leah Pillsbury. May her 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](https://dorsheitzedek.org/mourning).

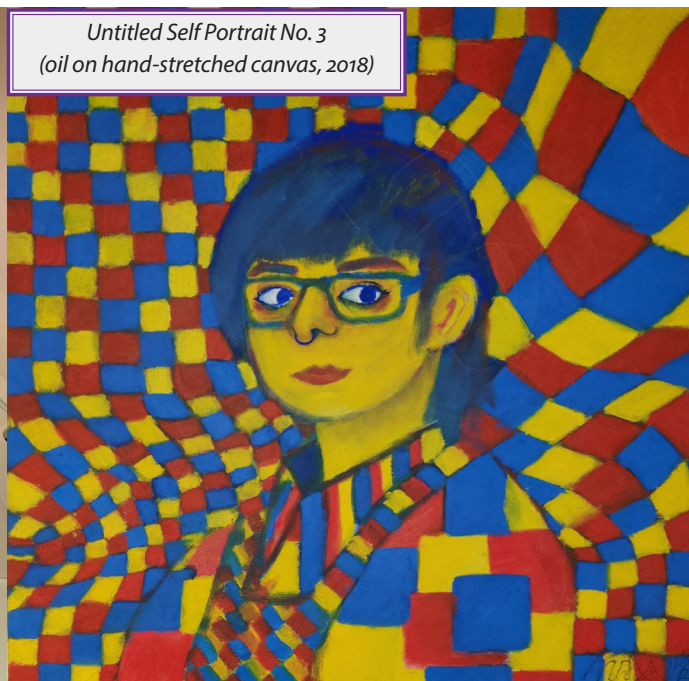


# Artist of the Month

## EMELIA WEBBE



Untitled Self Portrait No. 3  
(oil on hand-stretched canvas, 2018)



**Emelia "Frowogs" Webb** is a multi-disciplinary artist who creates with clay, paint, hot glue, cardboard, and any other scraps they can get their hands on. Their favorite personal works include *Untitled Self Portrait No. 3* (pictured above), *Irregular Lotus* (pictured below and to the right), *Untitled Clown No. 1* (pictured below), *Landscape Earrings* (pictured p. 7), *Beach Day* (pictured front cover), and the Ukelele they used in their marriage proposal (pictured p. 7).

Emelia has hypermobile-type Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, abbreviated hEDS. This is a

condition that affects collagen production, which results in symptoms like frequent dislocation of joints, chronic fatigue, unusually soft and stretchy skin, and nervous system dysfunction. You can sometimes find them in their manual wheelchair on days they need it. Despite the difficulty their symptoms present, Emelia prefers to look on the bright side of things and use their unique perspective on life to encourage others and see them smile, as well as while working with CDT's Kitah Bet. If you're ever curious to learn more, they're always delighted to help spread awareness about their condition.

Emelia loves working with vibrant colors and cheery compositions as a way of brightening the world for themselves and others, spreading joy and happiness through their pieces. They also make earrings and design products that are for sale on their website at <https://frowogs.com>.

When not creating, Emelia can be found playing video games or cooking for their wife, who you may know as the administrative assistant, Alistaire Webb. They also like being out in nature, rollerskating, trying local coffee shops, collecting clown tchotchkes, and antiquing.



Above: *Irregular Lotus* (stained glass, 2018)  
Left: *Untitled Clown No. 1* (acrylic on canvas, 2021)



## CDT Groups and Events

### JOIN CDT'S NEW MAH JONG GROUP!

*Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, & 27, 4:00-6:00 pm*

Thanks to Carol Sklar, a small group of us learned how to play Mah Jong this fall. We are now looking for more people to join our group as regulars or occasional substitutes. If you already know how to play (or are a very quick game learner) and you are free on a weekday late afternoon, let us know! We currently play 4-6 pm on Mondays.

Please contact Diana Fisher Gomberg at [dfgomberg@gmail.com](mailto:dfgomberg@gmail.com) or Bruce Miller at [perrystop@rcn.com](mailto:perrystop@rcn.com) for location and other information.

### CDT FILM CLUB

*Saturday, February 11, 8:00-9:00 pm*  
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of *Life, Animated*! Watch the film on your own on Kanopy any time before the discussion.

*Life, Animated* (2016, 1 hr 31 min): From Academy Award winning director Roger Ross Williams, *Life, Animated* is the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films.

Contact [filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org) with questions, film suggestions, to lead a discussion, or to be put on our mailing list.

### AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

*Tuesday, February 14, 7:30-9:15 pm*  
Zoom

All CDT members who are in the various stages of mourning are welcome to attend as we 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](mailto:nancy.gertz@gmail.com) or Dianne Lior at [dianne.lior@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.lior@gmail.com).

### CDT MEN'S GROUP

*Monday, February 20, 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. Contact Dan Rome at [dan.rome.md@gmail.com](mailto:dan.rome.md@gmail.com) for more information.

### SAVE THE DATE: CDT ONE-DAY RETREAT!

*Saturday, June 3, 9:00 am-9:00 pm*  
Camp Frank A. Day, East Brookfield, MA



All CDT households are invited to join us for a one-day CDT Retreat at the lovely camp we enjoyed in 2021. We'll celebrate Shabbat together and enjoy a full schedule of arts and crafts, music and dance, sports, nature, text study, and more! It'll be a day of activities for all ages. Stay tuned for registration information, coming soon! If you have questions or want to help out, please contact Retreat Coordinators Suzi Dargon-Hart and Rebecca Byard at [retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org).



## Learning

### SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

*with Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

*Shabbat mornings, February 11, March 4 & April 15, 9am-9:45am*  
*February session on Zoom*

Shabbat morning Torah study is back! In February, we will be meeting on Zoom, although anyone is invited to join Rabbi Toba in the Library at Second Church if you plan to go to services after Torah study.

### PLAYING WITH PURIM

*with R. Intern Akiva*

*Sunday, March 5, 10:00-11:00 am*  
*CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton)*

Purim is a great place to find silliness and joy centered within Jewish tradition. In this class, we'll be playing: likely a mixture of games, song, and study — stay tuned for more details!



# Youth and Family Programming

## PARENT CAFE AFFINITY SPACE: INTERFAITH FAMILIES WITH BECCA Ó MURCHADHA

Sunday, February 5, 10:00-11:00 am

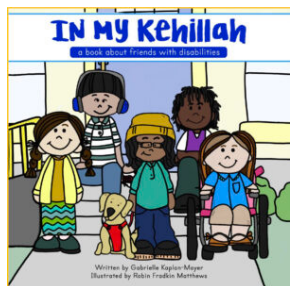
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton, MA)

If you identify as a member of an interfaith family, we invite you to join Becca Ó Murchadha for a bagel brunch affinity group meetup!

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, AND INCLUSION MONTH

Education Director Earnest Arky Solomon

In Judaism, there is a concept of *zikaron*, remembrance. On Passover we remember leaving *Mitzrayim*, the narrow place of oppression, through ritual action. We dip the parsley in salt water, eat the bitter herb, break the *matzah* and on and on. In Judaism, *zikaron* always couples memory and action. As a concept, memory and action are inextricably linked in Jewish thought. Through story and remembrance we find our place in history and discover our path for meaningful action. February is Black History Month and Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). In this newsletter I have included stories for families or individuals to use as a Black History Month and JDAIM *zikaron* practice. After reading, ask, where am I in this story? What actions can I take to honor this remembering in my daily life?



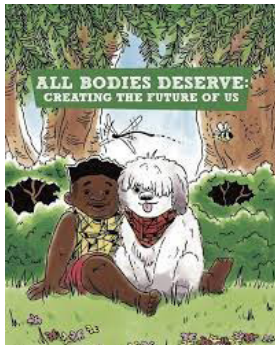
*In My Kehillah: A Book about Friends with Disabilities* by Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, illustrated by Robin Fradkin Matthews.

Celebrate JDAIM with this delightful book! *In My Kehillah* encourages young learners (4 to 8 years old) to be inclusive of their peers with physical, cognitive, and learning disabilities.

Learn how four Jewish concepts teach us to be inclusive: *Adam Yechidi Nivra* (every person is a unique creation), *Chesed* (loving kindness), *Kavod* (respect), and *Kehillah* (community).

*All Bodies Deserve: Creating the Future of Us*

Celebrate JDAIM with this wonderful coloring book! The Center for Cultural Power presents a coloring book titled *All Bodies Deserve: Creating the Future of Us*. Inviting all of us to imagine a colorful, welcoming future where all bodies deserve love, care and recognition, *All Bodies Deserve: Creating the Future of Us* includes twenty new illustrated coloring pages from eight artists. Each of their drawings centers joy and diverse communities and is inspired by the ideas of abundance — that we should all have what we need to thrive; that people can be different and still equally valued; that we need to care for ourselves, our communities, and the world; and that we can raise curious, happy, healthy identities and families.



Download your copy for free and start coloring!  
[www.culturalpower.org/stories/all-bodies-deserve-creating-future-us/](http://www.culturalpower.org/stories/all-bodies-deserve-creating-future-us/)



*Color Me In* by Natasha Diaz

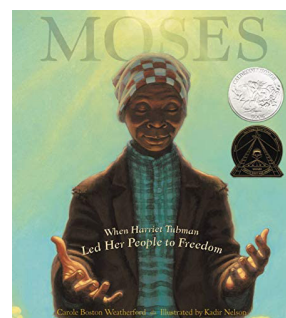
Celebrate Black History Month with debut YA author Natasha Diaz's *Color Me In*. This novel, about a Black Jewish teen, is in a lineage of Black Jewish stories throughout time.

We can honor Black history by listening to contemporary stories. Díaz pulls from her personal experience to inform this powerful coming-of-age novel.

Who is Nevaeh Levitz? Growing up in an affluent suburb of New York City, sixteen-year-old Nevaeh Levitz never thought much about her biracial roots. When her Black mom and Jewish dad split up, she relocates to her mom's family home in Harlem. Nevaeh is forced to confront her identity for the first time as she prepares for a belated bat mitzvah and navigates the push and pull of her two cultures.

It's only when Nevaeh stumbles upon a secret from her mom's past, finds herself falling in love, and sees firsthand the prejudice her family faces that she begins to realize she has a voice. And she has choices. Will she continue to let circumstances dictate her path? Or will she find power in herself and decide once and for all who and where she is meant to be?

*MOSES: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Kadir Nelson



Honor Black history with *MOSES*, a beautiful picture book about Harriet Tubman. Did you know that Harriet Tubman was called Moses? In lyrical text, Carole Boston Weatherford describes Tubman's spiritual journey as she hears the voice of God guiding her north to freedom on that very first trip to escape the brutal practice of forced servitude. The story parallels the book of Exodus and the story of Moses. This is a powerful book to read as we honor Black History month and read the book of Exodus from the Torah.

"I set the North Star in the heavens and I mean for you to be free...." Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman hears these words from God one summer night and decides to leave her husband and family behind and escape. Tubman would make nineteen subsequent trips back south, never being caught, but none as profound as this first one. Courageous, compassionate, and deeply religious, Harriet Tubman, with her bravery and relentless pursuit of freedom, is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.



## Tikkun Olam

### I/P PEACE WINTER STUDY GROUP: PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI VISIONS BEYOND TWO STATES

Wednesdays, February 22 and March 15, 7:30-8:30 pm  
Zoom

In our exploration of the concept of “a land for all,” our discussions in February and March will draw upon two short works, Omri Boehm’s *Haifa Republic* (2021, available in print and e-book versions) and Jonathan Kuttav’s *Beyond the Two-State Solution* (2020, freely available online). Grounded in both historical understanding and contemporary realities, these works explore current challenges to peace and propose pathways toward resolution that are at once visionary and pragmatic.

The study group will meet at 7:30 pm on February 22 and March 15. The February meeting will take place on Zoom; depending on feasibility, the final meeting may be hybrid.

All members of CDT are welcome to attend. Reading in preparation for each session is encouraged but not required. More details, Zoom registration and links to readings can be found on the CDT calendar and the I/P Peace page of the CDT website.

### GBIO UPDATE

Louise Enoch

There certainly has been a lot going on at GBIO! The fundraising effort for 2022 is wrapping up with great success. At the time of this writing, the Impact Fund was closing in on its goal of raising \$165,000 to be used primarily for living wage salaries for two new organizers. CDT members made a substantial contribution to this achievement by donating over 20% more than they did last year. We also increased our donor group by going from 29 donors in 2021 to 45 donors in 2022! We are very grateful to all who gave. Thanks also goes to Miriam Bronstein and other members of the

Core Team who helped get the great results that we did.

On another front, the Housing Justice Campaign is off to a great start. The Housing Steering Team has been doing a great job in laying out the goals, strategies, and “targets” (those in authority who can say yes or no to GBIO’s “asks”) so that members will be primed to go into action in the spring. CDT, along with other GBIO institutions, is holding Housing “Teach-Ins” to bring the details to our members. Our “Teach-In” was held on January 29; we hope you had a chance to attend and learn about this exciting, important, and ongoing work. By understanding the big picture, you can be more motivated to act when called upon. When we all work together, our People Power can have an impact of housing, both statewide and locally.

Please let Louise Enoch ([lpenech@gmail.com](mailto:lpenech@gmail.com)) know if you have any questions and/or want to get involved.

## 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](mailto: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. For pastoral support while Rabbi Toba is away, please contact [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to get in touch with “on call” rabbis.

### HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CHESSED?

Ellie Goldberg

Our 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, other members volunteer to provide a Shabbat dinner, a weekday meal or a food basket, a ride, an errand, or a visit. These gestures of practical comfort and caring acknowledge each other’s life transitions or stressful times.

We would like to be sure everyone in our community is signed up to receive notifications of Chesed opportunities. Signing

up does not obligate you to volunteer, but it will keep you informed of life cycle events in our community.

We use a service called LotsaHelpingHands to publish and coordinate these opportunities. It’s a separate sign-up from other CDT mailing lists, so if you’re not signed up please go to <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup>.

If you have a Chesed need, know someone in our community who has a need, or are interested in joining the Chesed Committee, please contact the Chesed Coordinators at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).



## Special CDT Event

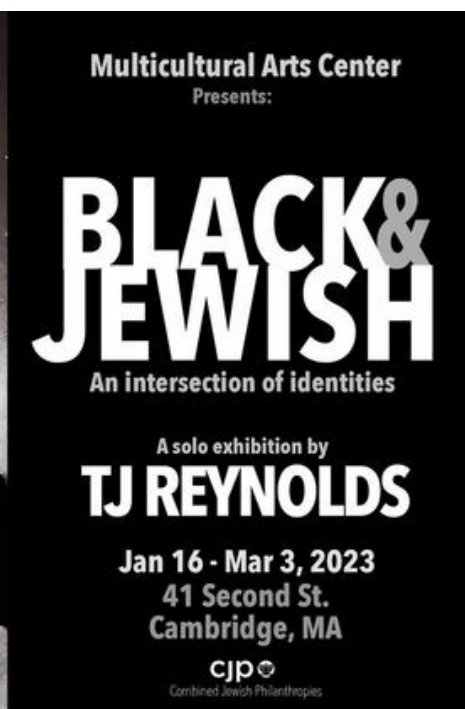
### GALLERY VISIT AND ARTIST TALK — BLACK AND JEWISH: AN INTERSECTION OF IDENTITIES

**A Solo Exhibition by TJ Reynolds**

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 pm

Multicultural Arts Center (41 Second St, Cambridge, MA)

Black & Jewish is a series of painted and drawn black and white portraits by TJ Reynolds that amplify the intersectional identities of Jews of Color. Join Rabbi Toba and CDT members at the Multicultural Arts Center for a gallery visit and artist talk. TJ is an artist, musician, and educator. You can learn more about TJ and see his art on his website: [TJReynolds.net](http://TJReynolds.net).



## 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:**

### CAMP HAVAYA FUND

Elana & David Cutler — *In honor of Isaac Saposnik*  
Rachel & Chad Pytel

### GENERAL FUND

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp  
Phyllis & Mark Bernstein  
Elise Brenner — *With gratitude for being included in Mindful Mornings*  
CDT Mah Jong Group — *With thanks to Carol Sklar to thank her for teaching us how to play Mah Jong last fall!*  
Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein — *In memory of Etta Epstein; in honor of Karen Wasserman for her support*  
Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan — *In memory of my beloved mother Sylvia R. Gorberg*  
Gail Harris & David Reider — *In memory of Raphael B Reider*  
Idit Klein & Jordan Namerow

Sue Lanser & Joe Radner  
Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome — *In memory of Etta Epstein and Joe Slipowitz*  
Rabbi Toba Spitzer — *In honor of our wonderful CDT staff team - Melissa Colten, Earnest Arky Solomon, and Alistaire Webbe!*

### SCHOOL FUND

Annette Jacobs — *In loving memory of her parents Marcus & Ada Jacobs, and her grandparents, Josef & Sofie Loewenherz and Benny Jacobs, and her forever friend, Trudee Parenteau*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein — *In honor of Rabbi Toba's help with the funeral*  
Ellie Goldberg  
Peggy Stafford & Mike Shapiro  
Madeline Steinberg & Mitchell Feuer

### NEDIV LEV

Ricky & Rob Greenly



Resin Crafts by  
Emelia Webbe  
(epoxy resin in silicone  
molds, 2022)



# February 2023 • Sh'vat/Adar 5783

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>29 Sh'vat 7</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Kitah Zayin Family Ed 2:00pm GBIO Housing Teach In 5:00pm January HBT & CDT High School Youth Group Collaboration!	<b>30 Sh'vat 8</b>	<b>31 Sh'vat 9</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	<b>1 Sh'vat 10</b>	<b>2 Sh'vat 11</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>3 Sh'vat 12</b> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat Shira	<b>4 Sh'vat 13</b> <b>B'shallach</b> 10:00am Shabbat Shira & Refugee Shabbat Morning Services 10:00am Shabbat Learner's Minyan
<b>5 Sh'vat 14</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am Parent Cafe Affinity Space: Interfaith Families with Becca O Murchadha 5:00pm Tu B'Shvat Seder	<b>6 Sh'vat 15</b> <b>Tu B'Shvat</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>7 Sh'vat 16</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	<b>8 Sh'vat 17</b>	<b>9 Sh'vat 18</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 6:00pm Kulam: 8th Grade Program	<b>10 Sh'vat 19</b>	<b>11 Sh'vat 20</b> <b>Yitro</b> 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba 10:00am Shabbat Learner's Minyan 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: <i>Life, Animated</i>
<b>12 Sh'vat 21</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Nitzanim Sunday Religious School	<b>13 Sh'vat 22</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>14 Sh'vat 23</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Avelut	<b>15 Sh'vat 24</b>	<b>16 Sh'vat 25</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 6:00pm Gallery Visit and Artist Talk — Black and Jewish: An Intersection of Identities	<b>17 Sh'vat 26</b>	<b>18 Sh'vat 27</b> <b>Mishpatim</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & B Mitzvah of Shirel Moser
<b>19 Sh'vat 28</b>	<b>20 Sh'vat 29</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	<b>21 Sh'vat 30</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>22 Adar 1</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b> 7:30pm I/P Peace Study Group: Palestinian and Israeli Visions Beyond Two States	<b>23 Adar 2</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>24 Adar 3</b>	<b>25 Adar 4</b> <b>Terumah</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services (Zoom only)
<b>26 Adar 5</b>	<b>27 Adar 6</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>28 Adar 7</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	<b>1 Adar 8</b>	<b>2 Adar 9</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>3 Adar 10</b> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	<b>4 Adar 11</b> <b>Tetzaveh</b> 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services



## Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested



Do you need a large print version of the newsletter?  
Contact the office at [office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org)

## SAVE THE DATE: CDT ONE-DAY RETREAT!

*Saturday, June 3, 9:00 am-9:00 pm  
Camp Frank A. Day, East Brookfield, MA*

All CDT households are invited to join us for a one-day CDT Retreat at the lovely camp we enjoyed in 2021. We'll celebrate Shabbat together and enjoy a full schedule of arts and crafts, music and dance, sports, nature, text study, and more! It'll be a day of activities for all ages. Stay tuned for registration information, coming soon! If you have questions or want to help out, please contact Retreat Coordinators Suzi Dargon-Hart and Rebecca Byard at [retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org).



*CDT Retreat  
2019*

