



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Nisan/Iyyar 5783

April 2023



Israelis protest in Tel Aviv against Netanyahu's plans to overhaul the judicial system (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg, via Global News)

CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



As I write this column, each day brings news of the growing protest movement in Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis are in the streets – both inside Israel and around the world – decrying the Netanyahu government's proposals to eviscerate the remaining democratic institutions in that country, beginning with the courts (and extending as well to the media and academia). Refusal to serve in the military has shifted from the

domain of the furthest left on the political spectrum to the center, with some reserve officers in the most elite units already refusing to report to duty, asserting that they will not serve a dictatorship. It is a deeply distressing situation, but also an inspiration to witness the scale and extent of the demonstrations.

As someone whose deep engagement with and care for Israel has always been intertwined with opposition to the denial of fundamental human rights to Palestinians in the occupied territories (as well as the second-class treatment of Arab citizens of Israel), I cannot help but be reminded of the famous statement by the German pastor Martin Niemöller as I witness the protests. Niemöller was a prominent Lutheran minister who, in the 1920s and early 1930s, sympathized with many Nazi ideas and supported radically right-wing political movements. But after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, he became an outspoken critic of

Hitler's interference in the Protestant Church. He famously said:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.

While I am not suggesting that Israel is Nazi Germany (although there are true fascists and bloodthirsty nationalists in the current government), Neimöller's quote speaks to the reality that it is impossible for a nation to deny the humanity of a population within its borders without ultimately harming those who enjoy the privilege of being in the majority. Inside Israel, anti-occupation activists have joined the protests, working to make their fellow citizens understand the connections between the intrinsically anti-democratic nature of Israel's rule over the Palestinians and the threat to the wellbeing of Jewish citizens of Israel. Bonot Alternativa, a women's group comprising a cross-section of Israeli society (secular, Orthodox, Jewish, Arab), has lifted up the threats to women's well-being posed by the current government, its members wearing red costumes evocative of *The Handmaid's Tale* at the demonstrations. There seems to be a growing

awareness of how a threat to one segment of those who live in the land is connected to the threat to others.

It is possible that something akin to civil war within the Israeli Jewish population will be kindled in the coming weeks and months, as counter-protestors and police ramp up attacks on the demonstrators. If the government passes laws undermining the authority of the Supreme Court, and the Court refuses to accept the legitimacy of the legislation, it is possible that Israeli institutions will have to choose whose authority to follow. The prospects are frightening, but in every crisis, there is an opportunity.

The current government, and the protests it has engendered, have broken the status quo. The status quo was untenable. In the wreckage, it is possible that those Jewish Israelis now in the streets will come to realize that their wellbeing – and Israel's existence as a democratic nation – can only be realized in partnership with the significant percentage of Israelis who are not Jewish (Palestinians, Bedouin, and others), as well as in partnership with the vast majority of Palestinians in the territories who simply want to live a normal life, free of occupation and violence. I fervently pray that the power of the demonstrations is a sign of new possibility. May we in America who care for both Israelis and Palestinians be partners in building on that possibility, for the sake of all those who dwell in the holy land. As Theodore Herzl once had the temerity to proclaim, "If you will it, it is no dream."

Moving testimony to the intertwined fates of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples is the annual Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Service, organized by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle Family Forum. It is happening this year on Monday, April 24 at 1:30 pm, and CDT is again a co-sponsor. It's an incredibly moving event, with Israelis and Palestinians sharing about the loss of loved ones in the conflict and visions for justice, peace, and transformation. Since the first ceremony in 2006, it has grown exponentially; three hundred thousand people participated last year. For more information and to register, go to <https://afcfp.org/memorial/>.

From the Office

OFFICE HOURS AND APRIL CLOSURES

The CDT offices at 60 Highland St will be open Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Please note that the office will be closed for Pesach on the 1st and 7th days (April 6 and 12), and Margaret will be out of the office on Friday, April 7.

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.

The CDT Newsletter is compiled, edited, and designed by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, photos, and any questions to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Volunteer Staff for this issue: Debby Saltzman (copyeditor). 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,
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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

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Nediv Lev: Janice Cole & Ezra Hausman
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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!**

Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice

We are excited to be gathering again in person for Shabbat services and holiday programs, most of which 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

Fridays, March 31 & May 3, 6:00-8:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St, West Newton)

Note: The March 31 service is in lieu of an April service this year, due to Pesach and school vacation week

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for Shabbat dinner and a musical service! We gather at 6 pm for candle-lighting and dinner; the all-ages service starts at 6:45 pm, with an Oneg at approximately 7:30 pm. On March 31, we will share a potluck vegetarian dinner; please bring a salad or main dish to share, enough for 6-8 people (no nuts, please). The May 3 dinner will be catered by CDT, and our Kitot Gimel & Dalet (3rd and 4th grades) will be leading the Shabbat blessings and co-leading the service with Rabbi Toba!



"All-Ages" by Emelia Webbe

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Shabbat Hagadol

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba & CDT member Matthew Valleau in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services and Torah discussion on this Shabbat preceding the Passover holiday. We will be remembering Bill Gamson on the occasion of his 2nd yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch to follow.

Shabbat Chol Ha'mo'ed Pesach

Saturday, April 8, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom for this special Shabbat of Passover week, featuring the singing of Hallel! We will be remembering beloved CDT teacher Lesley Chapman on the occasion of her 14th yahrzeit. A chametz-free Kiddush lunch will follow services.

Shabbat Shemini with special guest Pnina Lahav

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are welcome to join Rabbi Toba and Rachel Adler-Golden in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services. During the Torah service, we are thrilled to welcome special guest Pnina Lahav, author of *The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and Her Path to Power*, a biography of Israel's fourth prime minister. Join us as we hear Pnina discuss Golda's life story, achievements, and failures. We will also be remembering Steve Adler-Golden on the occasion of his 1st yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.



for Lifetime Achievement (2017) and the Prime Minister Golda Meir for Society and Leadership Award (2021). She is the author of the acclaimed

Pnina Lahav

is a Professor of Law, Emerita and a member of the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University. She is the recipient of the Israel Studies Award

Justice in Jerusalem: Chief Justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist Century. Of late she has focused her attention on the status and history of women and her biography of Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister, presents Golda Meir's life in the context of the twentieth century through the gender lens. This biography, titled The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and Her Path to Power (Princeton University Press, 2022), is a part of the 2022-2023 book picks of the Jewish Women's Archive.

Shabbat Tazria-Metzora

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson and members of the Learners Minyan in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for an instructive and joyful Shabbat morning service! Members of the class will be sharing their learning and words of Torah. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Achrei-Mot-Kedoshim & Bat Mitzvah of Rose Naumburg

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are invited to join the celebration in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom as we call Rose Naumburg to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah!

Please join us as our daughter, Rose Naumburg, is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on April 29. When she's not busy preparing for her bat mitzvah, Rose enjoys drawing, reading, hanging out with her cats and friends, and playing soccer. For her tikkun olam project, Rose is volunteering at Cradles to Crayons, sorting and packaging books, clothing, and toys for children living in poverty in the greater Boston area. A 7th grader at the Jewish

Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

Community Day School and Havaya camper, she lives in Newton with her mother, father, and older sister Frieda. Rose is the second grandchild of a CDT founding family (Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx) to become bat mitzvah at Dorshei Tzedek, and we're delighted to celebrate this simcha with you all.

— Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx

Shabbat Emor & Kitah Vav Siyyum

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba and our 6th grade class for this Shabbat service as our Kitah Vav-niks help lead the Shacharit and Torah services! Come celebrate their learning either in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom. Kiddush lunch follows services.

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH

Holocaust Remembrance & Resistance Day

Tuesday, April 18, 7:30-9:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary (livestream possibility pending)

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba, Elaine Landes, and Lisa Samelson for an evening of inspiration, honoring the memories and legacies of those who perished in and those who survived the Holocaust. The evening will include readings and music, as well as sharing from CDT members whose parents and other relatives were affected by the Shoah.

This is an in-person event; stay tuned for the possibility of a Zoom option.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

Note: There will be no meeting on Thursday, April 6.

We invite CDT members and guests to join us for guided and silent meditation, twice a week or whenever you can! Mindful Mornings meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:15 am on Zoom, and we close each sit with Mourners Kaddish for anyone observing a yahrzeit or in mourning. Sessions are led by CDT members, and Rabbi Toba joins us the second Thursday of each month. No meditation experience or regular commitment required. For questions or to find out more, please contact Karen Arnold and Carole Slipowitz at mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org. The Zoom link can be found on the CDT calendar.

PASSOVER

Passover begins this year the evening of April 5, and continues through April 12 (the Reconstructionist calendar follows the Israeli calendar, celebrating Passover for 7 days; some choose to observe for 8 days, through April 13). As we celebrate *zman cheruteynu*, the "season of our freedom," here are a few opportunities for learning and more!

Preparing for Passover Workshop with Earnest Arky Solomon

Sunday, April 2, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton, MA)

Looking for some great ideas to make your seder engaging for people of all ages? Wondering how to get kids excited about Passover rituals? All are invited to join Earnest for this pre-Pesach workshop, focused on creating engaging seders for multi-generational gatherings.



Beyond the 10 Plagues: God in the Passover Story with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Sunday, April 9, 10:00-11:00 am
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton, MA)

In the traditional Passover haggadah, Moses is not mentioned - the Exodus from Egypt is all God's doing! And in some contemporary haggadot, God isn't mentioned at all. What is a Reconstructionist approach to thinking about the traditional Exodus story, and how might we reimagine the Divine as the "Power That Makes For Liberation"? What spiritual teachings does Passover hold for us? Come join the conversation!

7th Day of Passover Service

Wednesday, April 12, 9:30-11:30 am
CDT Sanctuary (in-person only)

Traditionally, the 7th day of the Passover week celebrates the Israelites' crossing of the Reed Sea. We will celebrate the final day of Pesach with a service that includes Hallel and Yizkor, an opportunity to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. For those remembering a loved one, yizkor candles are lit Tuesday evening, April 11 (or Wednesday evening, if you are observing 8 days of Passover).

CDT Groups and Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, April 8, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

Please join us for a double-feature discussion of *Three Minutes* and *Uncle Chutzkel*! Watch the films on your own on Kanopy any time before the discussion, and look for the Zoom link on the CDT Calendar. Contact filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org with questions, film suggestions, if you'd like to lead the discussion about a particular film, or to be put on our mailing list.

Three Minutes: A Lengthening (1 hr 11 min, 2022): A snippet of 16mm film offers an emotionally charged, meditative glimpse into the lives of the unsuspecting Jewish citizens of a small Polish village at the precipice of World War II. The three minutes of footage, mostly in color, are the only moving images left of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk before the Holocaust. The existing three minutes are examined to unravel the human stories hidden in the celluloid.

Uncle Chutzkel (52 min, 2000): A personal documentary about Rod Freedman's 93 year old great uncle in Lithuania, Uncle Chutzkel portrays the patient triumph of one man's dignity and intellect over genocide, oppression, and personal tragedy.

Visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club to learn more about the CDT Film Club and to see future movies and dates.

PARENT CAFE AFFINITY SPACE: PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF GIANTS WITH JACOB WEINBERG AND SHAWN BACT

Sunday, April 9, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton, MA)

CDT parents Shawn Bact and Jake Weinberg will be leading the meet up at Religious School (Cabot Elementary) for caregivers of kids who identify as Gender Independent and Nonbinary/Transgender or questioning/ exploring. This is an opportunity to strengthen community, celebrate your kids, discuss topics of interest, and support our youth at CDT.

Coffee and bagels will be provided! There will be time to schmooze and then head into a room for privacy for a conversation. Come at 10:45am for bagels and coffee so you can head up to a classroom at 11am.

April topic of discussion TBD; possibilities include medical support or Jewishness & transness.

Open to all adults caring for Gender Independent and Nonbinary/Transgender & questioning children!

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, April 11, 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 or Dianne Lior at dianne.lior@gmail.com.

CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, April 17, 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 for more information.

CDT MAH JONG GROUP

Mondays, 4:00-6:00 pm
Contact for location address

Thanks to Carol Sklar, a small group of us learned how to play Mah Jong last 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.

A FATHER'S KADDISH SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

A story of love, loss, art, and ritual
Sunday, May 7, 7:00-8:30 pm
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom



In 2005, Jared Branfman died of brain cancer at the age of 23. A week after his death, his father, potter and teacher Steve Branfman, went into his studio, took some clay, and made a *chawan*, a Japanese-style tea bowl. Each day for one year, he made one *chawan* – they were the only pots he made. Steve's daily *chawan* made at his wheel was his own personal *kaddish* (the traditional Jewish prayer of mourning). For 9 years, these 365 bowls sat unfinished on shelves in his studio. One day, in the 9th year, he decided to glaze and fire these bowls, bringing them to life with color and sheen.

A Father's Kaddish is the personal story of a man who created an art form to honor his son and his son's memory. This powerful film shows traditional and non-traditional ways for people to grieve. From one man's poignant story at the intersection of love, art, and ritual comes a universal lesson for all who have experienced loss.

Come join us for a post screening discussion with CDT Member/Past President Jen Kaplan and film subject Steven Branfman. A selection of *kaddish chawans* will also be available to touch, hold, and purchase (all proceeds go to cancer fighting organizations).

To view the trailer and for more information about the film, visit www.afatherskaddish.com.

Please register to attend at www.dorsheitzedek.org/event/afatherskaddish.

CDT Groups and Events (cont.)

REVIVING A CDT TRADITION: COMMUNITY POTLUCK DINNERS MAY 12-13

For about 10 years prior to the start of the Covid pandemic, we had a wonderful tradition of periodic small Friday or Saturday evening potluck dinners for members. About 5 to 7 dinners at a time, all on one designated weekend, were hosted by CDT members in their homes. Most of these were Erev Shabbat dinners, but because an early start (sometimes as early as 4:30) was often preferred by families with young children, Saturday Havdalah dinners also became popular. Covid has of course changed things, but we are hoping that a 2023 round of potluck dinners can happen! This year, as a precaution, we would ask that guests and hosts all take a Covid test on the day of the dinner (or outside dinners might also be possible, weather permitting).

As in past years, we'll need volunteers to host dinners, this time on either May 12 or May 13. The hosts determine the gathering time and the number of guests they can fit, specify any food restrictions, and let people

know if there are animals in their home. Some enjoyable dinners had themes like sharing a song you've always loved or ways to celebrate the spring season, others were geared for families with kids in a certain age range or empty-nesters, and some were just for "those who like to schmooze." You get to decide!

WE ARE PUTTING OUT A CALL FOR HOSTS!

Please contact Carole Slipowitz at carole@slipowitz.org if you want to volunteer or have any questions about hosting. Members will be able to sign up for the dinners online in the Members section of the CDT website.

Please contact Diana Fisher Gomberg at dfgomberg@gmail.com or Bruce Miller at perrystop@rcn.com for location and other information.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CDT ONE-DAY RETREAT!

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

We're so excited to come together again for the 1-day CDT Retreat on June 3rd, 2023!

Registration is open; sign up today from the homepage of the CDT website!

This all-day event will be at Frank A. Day Camp in East Brookfield, MA. We will celebrate Shabbat together and have a variety of activities for all different interests, activity levels, and ages, including learning, music, arts, sports, archery, climbing wall, Israeli dancing, and nature-based activities.

Tentative schedule:

10:00 am – Gather for Shabbat programming with youth and outdoor options
12:00 pm – Lunch
1:30-5:30 pm – Activities and free time
6:00 pm – Dinner
7:00 pm-dark – Activities and campfire for those with early bedtimes
After dark – Havdalah and campfire

If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Retreat Coordinators Suzi Dargon-Hart and Rebecca Byard at retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org. We can't wait to see you there!

Learning

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday, April 15, 9:00-9:45 am
CDT Library (in-person only)

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for the final Shabbat morning Torah study of the year! We will explore commentaries on the weekly Torah portion both old and new. This will be an in-person only gathering in the Library at Second Church.

SHABBAT MORNING LEARNERS MINYAN REDUX

with Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson

Saturdays, April 1, 8, & 22, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Library & Sanctuary (in-person only)

Join R. Intern Akiva for a continuation of Shabbat learning! We will be covering topics

including the meaning of key Shabbat morning prayers, how to relate to the theology of the Shabbat morning prayers, and why the prayer service is designed the way it is. We will also likely touch on the age-old question of why we pray: what functions does it serve, and how can it improve our lives and wellbeing?

MAKING SHABBAT RITUAL MEANINGFUL: PART 2

with Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson

Sunday, April 30, 10:00-11:00 am
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton)

Dance, sing, and kindle your inner pyro as we learn about the music and rituals of Havdalah, the end of the weekly Shabbat celebration.

JUDAISM DISRUPTED WITH R. MICHAEL STRASSFELD

Tuesday, May 2, 7:30-9:00 pm
Zoom

We are thrilled to be hosting Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, who will join in conversation with Rabbi Toba about his new book: *Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century*.

R. Strassfeld writes: "My book begins with the premise that Judaism isn't about being a good Jew. Instead, Judaism offers wisdom and



Learning (cont.)

practices on how to take the most precious gift we have been given — our lives — and live with meaning and purpose. *Judaism Disrupted* sets out eleven core principles that can serve as a guide for life's journey. These principles offer ways for cultivating such qualities as gratitude and satisfaction and for deepening a commitment to social justice and to this planet." *Judaism Disrupted*

is an invitation to move beyond some of the rabbinic paradigms of what Judaism is, and opens a conversation for reimagining Jewish practice and community.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld is the rabbi emeritus of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism. This year marks the 50th anniversary of his best-selling first book, *the Jewish Catalog*.



Youth and Family Programming

SHORASHIM SHABBAT & SHABBAT CHILDCARE

Saturday, April 29, 9:30 am-12:00 pm
CDT Library (60 Highland St, West Newton)

Shorashim Shabbat for grownups and kids 5 and younger and Shabbat childcare for all kids!

Shorashim Shabbat: From 9:30-10:30 am, come sing, pray, read, and play with the wonderful Morah Devora Rohr!

Shabbat Childcare: From 10:30 am-12:00 pm, childcare will be available with experienced CDT teens, Ila and Adele, for all kids in the Library until the end of the service in the sanctuary.

CAMP HAVAYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 15

For more than 20 years, Camp Havaya has offered an amazing space to Reconstructionist

youth, growing and deepening their connection to Judaism. In the past several summers, CDT has sent one of our movement's largest contingents of campers. As in past years, CDT will be offering scholarships up to \$500 per camper for Camp Havaya in Summer 2023. Applications are due April 15 and can be found on the homepage of the CDT website.

CDT has witnessed firsthand the unique magic of Camp Havaya and the way it brings Reconstructionist values to life for our youth. One family recently wrote:

We really value the influence, values and character building that comes from Camp Havaya. This is especially true for our gender-expansive youngest kiddo who could really use an environment where navigating pronouns and bathrooms is uncomplicated, not the main story. Honestly, until we discovered Camp Havaya, imagining them at a summer camp didn't even seem possible.



From another CDT family:

Camp Havaya has truly woven our daughter's Jewish life into one that feels truly hers, and together with her connections to her Dorshei classmates, has motivated her to continue her Jewish learning.

Some years back, Cindy Shulak Rome & Dan Rome started the CDT Camp Havaya Scholarship Fund to provide support for our members who want to send their children to Camp Havaya, the only Reconstructionist camp in the US. If you or someone in your family has experienced the wonder of Camp Havaya, or are a believer in the power of a great Jewish summer camp to shape young lives, we encourage you to consider a donation to CDT's Camp Havaya Scholarship Fund.

To make a donation to our CDT Camp Havaya Scholarship Fund, send funds to CDT and designate "Camp Havaya Scholarship Fund" along with the contribution.

Community

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Susan LaDue!

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Ali Tillinger and her family on becoming Bat Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Jacqui Bloomberg, Upper School Latin teacher and World Languages Department Head at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, for being recognized by the Classical Association of Massachusetts as Educator of the Year!

Mazel tov to Josette Akresh-Gonzales on the

publication of her book of poetry, *Apocalypse on the Linoleum!*

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush in March:

Community (cont.)

Lisa Keshet, Danielle Klainberg (in honor of Rabbi Toba), Lindsey Silver, Ellen White (in memory of John S. White), Sherry Katz & Mark Farber, Cheryl & Jeff Sacks, Karen Arnold, Miriam Bronstein (in memory of Tamar Bronstein), Diana Perretta, Robin Bernstein,

Beth Green, Tessa Goldsmith, Ezra & Allison Hausman, and Doron Gan & Valerie Graf.

Thank you to Nina Cohen, Judah Axe, and Sara Ulanet for volunteering for Door Duty during Sunday Religious School in March!

A huge thank you to Josh Herzig-Marx and Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow for helping us to move in our new sanctuary chairs, and an additional thank you to Benita & Nathan for finishing out our move from FUUSN!

PURIM THANK YOUS

Thank you to the Purim Religious School Volunteers:

Shahar Colt our roller skating hamantaschen maven, Rachel Danford for baking and plating, and our Madrichimot for rocking the carnival and Purim stations

Thank you to CDT teens coordinated by Ila Karp for kidnapping Rabbi Toba for a tzedakah ransom that resulted in raising \$534.31 for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace!

Todah rabah to our fabulous Megillah leyners: Rachel Adler-Golden, Miriam Bronstein, Laurie Goldman, and Rachel Guberman!

Yasher koach and chazak u'varuch to the cast and crew of "Mishegoss Impossible Redux", this year's Purim spiel (in order of appearance): Joshua Komyerov, Shirel Moser, Eden Pytel, Andrew Sofer, Rikki Morrow-Spitzer, Ruby Gan, Ila Karp, Emelia



Webbe, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Audra Karp, Alistaire Webbe, Doug Hersh, Lolo Margolin, Leora Reeves, and Evelyn Albenberg. With huge thanks to the original Mordechai Andy Stefano, to Nathan Aronow on piano and Tal Shalom-Kobi on bass, to Earnest Arky Solomon for all his help, and to Dennis Maler for making the sound and streaming work!

And thank you all those who helped with set-up and clean-up:

Ben & Sara Dash, Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander, Tatjana Meschede, Daniel Krasa, Leila Quinn, Alissa Leonard (in memory of Susannah Zisk), Andrew Sofer & Bonnie Tenneriello (in memory of Alex Fried), Diana Fisher Gomberg & Richard Gomberg, and Judy Hersh

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT Bill Gamson, whose second yahrzeit falls this year on April 1. We will remember Bill at Shabbat morning services on April 1; may his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member and teacher Lesley Chapman, whose 14th yahrzeit falls this year on April 4. We will remember Lesley at Shabbat morning services on April 8; may her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Stan Fleischman, whose 3rd yahrzeit falls this year on April 5. We remembered Stan at Shabbat morning services on March 25; may his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Steve Adler-Golden, whose 1st yahrzeit falls this year on April 12. We will remember Steve at Shabbat morning services on April 15; may his memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Polly Crozier on the death of her father, William Crozier, father-in-law of Jessica Keimowitz and grandfather of Hannah and Miriam. May his memory be for a blessing.

We also extend our condolences to Ora Grodsky on the death of her father, David Grodsky, father-in-law of Jonathan Rosenthal, grandfather of Sasha and Zoe. May his memory be for a blessing.

And we extend our condolences to Elaine Pollack on the death of her brother, Carl Michael Friedlander. May his 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.

AN EVENING WITH MIGRANT JUSTICE

Monday, April 24, 7:30-9:00 pm

Temple Shalom (175 Temple St, West Newton; in-person only)

CDT is co-sponsoring this event in which we will learn about farmworker organization Migrant Justice and their Milk with Dignity campaign. Immigrant dairy workers are traveling across the Northeast this spring to connect with supporters and take action for Milk with Dignity! Migrant Justice is calling on grocery chain Hannaford supermarkets to source its store-brand milk from farms where workers' human rights are independently monitored and protected, and the long-term interests of farm owners are supported. Join us to learn more about the rampant abuses that workers face on dairy farms and the powerful organizing they are doing to improve conditions and protect their rights. During this organizing meeting, you will hear directly from farmworkers, learn about the Milk with Dignity Program, take collective action, and gain the tools you need to join this inspiring struggle for human rights.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY GROUP: MEMBERS MEETING FOLLOW UP

Thank you to all those who attended our March 2023 Members Meeting! We appreciated the opportunity to hear from CDT's Economic Disparity Group and discuss moments where issues of economic disparity were personally experienced. Below are some sample quotes from feedback on the breakout discussions:

"I wanted to let the committee know how much I appreciated the wonderful program you all created. It was so thoughtfully conceived of and implemented: heart-opening and reflective."

"My take away words were 'tender awareness' and I'm so appreciative of this wonderful program that you organized."

"I think everyone appreciates the complexity of these issues and appreciated that your committee offered the time and space for such conversation. People left hoping this was the beginning of more and deeper conversations."



Rabbi Toba at GBIO's Rally on the Statehouse Steps, March 2023
(Katie Lannan, GBH News)

"...it seemed like everyone felt safe and comfortable sharing and... People expressed their appreciation for the group and about the process...I think folks are hungry to explore this more."

Thank you to the members of the Economic Disparity Group for providing these quotes: Susan Bernstein, Abby Cohen, Mark Farber, Lisa Goodman, Audra Karp, Barry Ingber, Linette Liebling, Amy Mazur, and Lisa Schneier. A special thank you as well to our breakout session facilitators who helped with this activity. Stay tuned to hear more about economic disparity and how you can get involved; to share your interest in further work, complete our survey at tinyurl.com/CDTEconDisp.

27TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday morning, May 14

Once again we are getting a CDT Team together to participate in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace and support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute created by Chaplain Clementina Chéry, who recently spoke at CDT Shabbat services.

Stay tuned for further details regarding starting location and Religious School involvement!

For those who would like to join the walk, there is a \$25.00 fee to register in addition to an opportunity to make a donation to the

organization. Here is the link to the event: www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Once on the website, click to register individually and indicate on your registration that you are part of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's team.

Other ways to support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute:

- Make an online donation toward the Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace
- Become a Peace-vestor with monthly gifts
- Donate by check, please write your team name on the memo line and mail it to:
The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
15 Christopher St
Dorchester, MA 02122

Our 2023 theme is **"Cultivating Cycles of Peace."** Like a blooming flower, cycles of peace flourish when carefully cultivated, and we have the agency to cultivate these cycles.

27TH ANNUAL
**MOTHER'S DAY
WALK FOR PEACE**

05.14.2023



Cultivating Cycles of Peace

Reconstructing Judaism



COMING TOGETHER FOR ISRAEL'S 75TH

Sponsored by Progressive Israel Network

Thursday, April 20, 1:00 pm

Zoom

Reconstructing Judaism, as part of the Progressive Israel Network (PIN), invites members of Reconstructionist congregations to an energizing gathering marking the

75th anniversary of Israel's founding. We're coming together as a movement of Jewish organizations to honor the moment, reflect on this milestone, and commit to building a better future for everyone in the region. Join us online for conversations with American, Israeli and Palestinian leaders and activists, for music and community, for discussion and connection. Stay tuned for Zoom info and details!

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. 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 to get in touch with "on call" rabbis.

CHESED SIGN-UPS

Ellie Goldberg

Our community values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness. When a member has a life event such as a birth or adoption, an injury or illness, or death in the family, CDT members volunteer to provide a Shabbat dinner, a weekday meal or 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.

Everyone in our community can sign up to receive notifications of Chesed volunteer 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 announcements and coordinate these opportunities. It's a separate sign-up from other CDT mailing lists, so please go to <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup>.

If you have a need for Chesed or 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.



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

Lauren Gibbs — *In memory of Eve Shulak, who shared her light with Cindy Shulak-Rome and Elana Rome Cutler and shaped their gifts of joyous learning and growth to Dorshei Tzedek and Camp Havaya youth*

GENERAL DONATIONS

Sharon Gorberg — *In memory of my beloved father, George L. Gorberg*
Lynn Graf — *In honor of Ruby Gan*

Marjorie Field & Michael Fein — *In memory of William Crozier, beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather*

NEDIV LEV

Stacey Chacker — *In loving memory of my parents, Ruth and Fred Chacker*
Peter & Linda Katz
Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola — *In honor of Stacey Chacker's vibrant leadership*
Bob Warren

Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp
Tony Broh
Chayim & Judy Herzig-Marx

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judy Rosenberg — *In memory of Elaine Pollack's brother Carl Michael Friedlander and Ora Grodsky's father David Grodsky*

April 2023 • Nisan/Iyyar 5783

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Nisan 4 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Kitah Vav Family Ed 10:00am Making Shabbat Ritual Meaningful with R. Intern Akiva: Part 1 7:00pm Reparations & Societal Teshuvah: The German Experience	27 Nisan 5 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	28 Nisan 6 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School: Rosh Chodesh 7:00pm <i>God Is Here</i> Book Talk with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	29 Nisan 7	30 Nisan 8 8:30am Mindful Mornings	31 Nisan 9 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	1 Nisan 10 Tzav 10:00am Shabbat Learner's Minyan Redux 10:00am Shabbat Hagadol
2 Nisan 11 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Nitzanim Sunday Religious School 9:30am Kitah Hey Family Ed 10:00am Preparing for Passover Workshop with Earnest Arky Solomon 5:00pm April CDT & HBT Youth Group Collaboration!	3 Nisan 12 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	4 Nisan 13 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	5 Nisan 14 First Night Seder	6 Nisan 15 Office Closed for Pesach	7 Nisan 16 Pesach 1st Day Omer	8 Nisan 17 2nd Day Omer 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services 10:00am Shabbat Learner's Minyan Redux 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: "Three Minutes" & "Uncle Chatzkel" (double-feature)
9 Nisan 18 3rd Day Omer 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am Beyond the 10 Plagues: God in the Passover Story with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 11:00am Parent Cafe Affinity Space: Parents and Caregivers of GLaNTs with Jacob Weinberg and Shawn Bact	10 Nisan 19 4th Day Omer 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	11 Nisan 20 5th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Avelut	12 Nisan 21 Pesach 6th Day Omer Office Closed for Pesach 9:30am 7th Day of Passover Service	13 Nisan 22 7th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings	14 Nisan 23 8th Day Omer	15 Nisan 24 9th Day Omer Shmini 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services with Special Guest Pnina Lahav
16 Nisan 25 10th Day Omer	17 Nisan 26 11th Day Omer 4:00pm Mah Jong Group 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	18 Nisan 27 Yom HaShoah 12th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:30pm Yom Hashoah Program	19 Nisan 28 13th Day Omer	20 Nisan 29 14th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 1:00pm Coming Together for Israel's 75th	21 Nisan 30 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 15th Day Omer	22 Iyyar 1 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 16th Day Omer Tazria-Metzora 10:00am Shabbat Learner's Minyan Redux 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
23 Iyyar 2 17th Day Omer	24 Iyyar 3 18th Day Omer 1:30pm Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Service 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	25 Iyyar 4 19th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School: Rosh Chodesh	26 Iyyar 5 20th Day Omer	27 Iyyar 6 21st Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 6:00pm Kulam: 8th Grade Program	28 Iyyar 7 22nd Day Omer	29 Iyyar 8 23rd Day Omer Achrei Mot-Kedoshim 9:30am Shorashim Shabbat & Shabbat Childcare 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Rose Naumburg
30 Iyyar 9 24th Day Omer 9:30am Kitah Bet Family Ed 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am Making Shabbat Ritual Meaningful with R. Intern Akiva: Part 2	1 Iyyar 10 25th Day Omer 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	2 Iyyar 11 26th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm <i>Judaism Disrupted</i> : Book Talk & Conversation with Rabbi Michael Strassfeld	3 Iyyar 12 27th Day Omer 7:00pm GBIO Core Team Meeting	4 Iyyar 13 28th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings	5 Iyyar 14 Pesach Sheni 29th Day Omer 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat and Kitah Dalet Siyyum	6 Iyyar 15 30th Day Omer Emor 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services and Kitah Vav Siyyum



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



SCAN ME

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CDT RETREAT!

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

We're so excited to come together again for the 1-day CDT Retreat on June 3rd, 2023! Registration is open; sign up today from the homepage of the CDT website or by scanning the QR code to the left!

This all-day event will be at Frank A. Day Camp in East Brookfield, MA. We will celebrate Shabbat together and have a variety of activities for all different interests, activity levels, and ages, including learning, music, arts, sports, archery, climbing wall, Israeli dancing, and nature-based activities.

If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Retreat Coordinators Suzi Dargon-Hart and Rebecca Byard at retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org. We can't wait to see you there!