



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Iyyar/Sivan 5783

May 2023



Photo courtesy of Viv Shein

## ENRICHING THE "GARDEN" OF CDT

Stacey Chacker



We moved to Watertown in November, and I am now the main custodian of a big yard which needs a lot of work. I immediately started prepping garden beds — layering cardboard with leaves and piled with cement blocks to kill weeds and enhance the soil over the winter. I learned about this technique, "lasagna gardening," from CDT member (and gardener extraordinaire, I'll add) Janet Penn. I am

excited to plant and tend my veggies, raspberries, and flowers, as well as to expand with new beds.

While CDT is a well-established, healthy, and beautiful "garden," we continue to build and enrich our community and benefit from the fruits of our joint labor and love. In this next year, we will be conducting a strategic planning process — looking forward to where we want to go and what our needs will be to meet this vision. This will include looking at our programming, communications, and culture, as well as needs for space, staffing, and more. While we are seeking a small committee to guide this process, it will include us all — members and staff — and it will be firmly grounded in our evolution to be an anti-racist congregation and to be diverse and supportive in a myriad of other ways.

I shared in January that we have a group working on a self-assessment process for racial diversity, equity, and inclusion at the congregational level, guided by Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Reconstructing Judaism's

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. As recommended by RJ, our leadership group, intentionally small and white, went through a four-part process to "experience the entire community through the eyes of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color." We looked at our space, our website, our White and/or Ashkenazi Privilege (using the Union for Reform Judaism's "White-Ashkenazi Awareness Checklist: Examining Privilege," available as an online PDF), our hospitality, and more. We identified several short-term and longer-term actions we plan to take. Some examples include developing a "What not to say/What to say [to each other]" list, presenting/processing this list at our June 11th members meeting, developing a protocol for feedback — delivered from the heart — for when any of us cause unintended harm, incorporating anti-racism trainings into Board meetings on an ongoing basis, decorating our CDT space, updating our website, and more! I look forward to our learning, unlearning, and growing together.

These processes will be guided by our Board and other volunteers. I hope you can join us at the final Members' Meeting of the year on Sunday afternoon, June 11. Among other things, we will be voting on a new Board slate as well as celebrating our departing Board members (we still have a few seats open — and welcome participation!). I will be entering my fourth year on the Board, and my second as president. I joined to serve our community, which has been a cornerstone of my life for the past 22 years, and a foundation for my daughter's Jewish education. What I did not necessarily expect was the ties that I would develop serving on the Board, especially with members with school-aged kids who, at my stage in life, I have been less likely to meet. Pictured above are "future president of CDT" (or the U.S., who knows!) Avigail Lipton-

Harris, our Co-VP of Membership Marjorie Salvodon, and me. I love teasing Avigail's parents, Ayelet and David, about her future leadership role, and holding her whenever I can greedily grab her. Ayelet has reminded me that she can't quite read yet...

Speaking of developing relationships, I'd like to put in a plug for our upcoming CDT Retreat. I have attended every CDT retreat since 2005, except the last one when I was away for a family event, and coordinated one with Corinne Lofchie. I have so many fond, touching, and hysterical memories from retreats, and have made lasting deep connections and friendships, whether while taking a dunk in the lake, over coffee, or on a stroll. Ariane, my daughter, also loved them. In fact, when she was nine, she collected over 100 signatures demanding Rabbi Toba and President Katz to hold the retreat annually — and that was at a retreat where it rained most of the weekend! At 22, she is considering attending this year. She, like many of you, asked, "Why is it only one day this year?" Unfortunately, Camp Yavneh (our regular spot) is not renting their space for overnights again this year, and we did not have sufficient time to secure another weekend location. We hope to be back there (or in a new, fun place) in two years for our regular weekend-long retreat. In the meantime, I hope to see you on Saturday, June 3rd at Frank A. Day Camp. It will be FUN — whether you come with kids or without!

And now back to my garden...



*The CDT group working on anti-racism self-assessment process*

## 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,  
[m.farmer@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:m.farmer@dorsheitzedek.org)  
 Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon,  
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 Administrative Assistant: Alistaire Webbe,  
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 Inclusion Coordinator: Jess Green,  
[j.green@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:j.green@dorsheitzedek.org)  
 Rabbinic Intern: Akiva Nelson,  
[a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org)

### 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

### 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.

The office will be closed for Shavuot on Friday, May 26 and for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29. Alistaire will be out of office in the last two weeks of May (exact dates TBA).

## 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 produced by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, photos, and questions to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org) by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Volunteer Staff for this issue: Haralie Alpert (interviewer), Debby Saltzman and Sue Lanser (copyeditors), and Viv Shein (photographer). Please let us know if you'd like to join the team!



## From the Board

### SAVE THE DATE: FINAL CDT MEMBERS MEETING OF 5783!

*Sunday, June 11, 4:30-6:30 pm  
CDT (60 Highland St) and Zoom*

We hope that at least one adult member of each CDT household will join us for this important Members Meeting, where we will vote on a new Board slate and budget for 5784, thank outgoing Board members, and hear important updates!

### NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY!

*Ezra Hausman and Janice Cole, Nediv Lev Co-Chairs*

If you have not already done so, perhaps now would be an excellent time to put down this

newsletter and participate in the Nediv Lev campaign? Nediv Lev – giving from the heart – is a core value of our congregation, and represents a crucial part of CDT's operating budget. These voluntary donations allow us to maintain a dues structure that is accessible to everyone and consistent with our values as an inclusive and welcoming community.

Donations to the Nediv Lev campaign come in all sizes, and any contribution that works for you will be appreciated! Please note that Nediv Lev is intended to support day-to-day operations, so it is separate from the "Fund for the Future" gifts celebrating our anniversary last year, and also from any specific funds like the Camp Havaya Fund and the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

You can make online pledges and payments to Nediv Lev, or schedule payments for future

dates, through our website by clicking the "Giving" button in the top right corner of the page. CDT can also accept gifts of appreciated securities, providing additional tax benefits to the donor; please contact Jen Levine-Fried at [jenlevinefried@gmail.com](mailto:jenlevinefried@gmail.com) if you would like more information about this option.



Thank you so much for any gift you are able to offer and for all of the other ways you support our congregation!

## Interview of the Month

### BARRY INGBER SPEAKS ABOUT ECONOMIC JUSTICE AWARENESS AT CDT

*Haralie Alpert*

Barry Ingber is part of CDT's Economic Disparity Group. I was able to interview Barry soon after he spoke about the group's goals at the Members Meeting in March.

#### **Why did you join this Reconstructionist synagogue? Has CDT helped you meet your personal goals?**

I've been a member for over 15 years. The reason I've only been a member for that long is because CDT was so far away from me, but nothing else was working for me. I knew I was a Reconstructionist when I heard Rabbi Arthur Green speak about 25 or 30 years ago. I visited the two *chavurot* in Newton, but Newton was too far from Medford. I didn't join, but when nothing else was working and my daughter was in Hebrew School, I just knew it was a good fit. It was a good fit for me theologically and politically. And it was a good fit socially for me too. So despite the distance, I knew it was a place I needed to be.

I found my connection to CDT has deepened and clarified my connection to Judaism as well as being an important community in my life.

#### **Why did the Economic Disparity Group start, and when did you become a member?**

Back in 2015, there was some tension bubbling over around class and economic issues. Rabbi Toba pulled together a small group (Lisa Schneier, Mark Paley, and Mark Farber) to try to talk through these tensions in the congregation. And out of that they decided to convene a larger group, a total of 10 of us. That was in early 2017. I was brought in at that time.

#### **What goals does the Economic Disparity Group have and what work has begun on these goals?**

A lot of it is learning how to break the silence and talk about how economic inequity and economic hierarchies have affected us at CDT and in the world in general, and also how we might address these issues constructively at CDT. A lot of it is interpersonal work. The group came to the conclusion that the use of the words diversity and difference whitewash the

situation. Different members of our species have different amounts of melanin in our skin; that's diversity. Having different amounts of wealth is not diversity; it's injustice. We never want to take our eyes off of that reality.

My talk at the March 2023 CDT Members Meeting focused on one particular issue: the fees that we charge for extra things not covered by dues, like retreats or classes, and ways of dealing with them that are not hurtful. Even though the congregation has always been committed to making sure that everyone is included in everything, the approach used to be, "This class costs \$60. We don't want the cost to be a barrier, so if you have a problem with that, call the rabbi or the treasurer and we can help you." That's a sincere effort to be inclusive, but it is problematic.

The group has recommended a new approach which is not yet completely institutionalized. That is to say, "This retreat will cost the congregation \$240 per person. We don't want to exclude anybody, so pay what is comfortable for you. And if you can afford more than \$240, please put in a little extra to cover the costs of those who need to pay less." This both spares people the embarrassment

## Interview of the Month (cont.)

of having to ask for help, and the dilemma of trying to figure out what it means to be able to afford something.

Another issue is there are difficulties around visiting each other's homes and the shame people feel around having a very large and expensive home or of having the opposite. How do people feel about other people coming into our space? How do we judge people when going into their space? We came up with guidelines for meeting in people's

homes and also created a *bracha* that we could recite when entering a home and which we shared with the congregation and which may be ritualized as a CDT practice.

### What would you like to say to the congregation about the ideas presented in CDT's Economic Disparity Group?

Don't assume that other folks at CDT have financial situations similar to yours in terms of their options around housing, travel,

education, childcare, and even the costs associated with being an active CDT member. Ultimately, at CDT and in the world, we can't address economic inequality until we bring it into the open and share our stories honestly, empathically, and with the anger they raise directed properly at the systems that put us where we are.



## 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, May 5 & June 9, 6:00-8:00 pm*  
CDT (60 Highland St, West Newton); the May service beginning at 6:45 pm will be accessible on Zoom

On May 5, we will be celebrating the Jewish learning of Kitot Gimel & Dalet, our 3rd & 4th grade Religious School classes. All are invited to join Rabbi Toba and Kitah Gimel at 6 pm for candle lighting and Shabbat blessings, followed by a catered dinner. At 6:45 pm, Kitah Dalet will be co-leading the Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Toba! Oneg Shabbat follows the service at approximately 7:30 pm.

### KABBALAT SHABBAT WITH CDT SINGS!

*Friday, May 19, 6:30-9:00 pm*  
CDT (60 Highland St, West Newton); the service beginning at 7:30 pm will be accessible on Zoom

We'll begin this special evening at 6:30 pm with candle-lighting and a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner; please bring a salad or main dish to share (enough for 6-8 people); drinks

and dessert will be provided. At 7:30 pm, all are invited to join Rabbi Toba and CDT Sings, under the leadership of its new conductor Rikki Morrow-Spitzer, for a musical erev Shabbat service! Bring a friend and get ready to sing along as well as enjoy some beautiful choral arrangements. This service is adult-oriented, but all are welcome.

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

#### 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. We will also be remembering CDT founder Jill Volk on the occasion of her 16th yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.

#### Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai & Kitah Hey Siyyum

*Saturday, May 13, 10:00 am-12:00 pm*  
CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba & Kitah Hey, our 5th grade class, for Shabbat morning services as we celebrate their learning! We will close our reading of the book of *Vayikra/Leviticus*. Kiddush lunch follows services.

#### Shabbat Bamidbar & Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Gan

*Saturday, May 20, 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 Ruby Gan to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah!

*We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our daughter, Ruby Hazel Gan, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Ruby is a 7th grader at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton. She enjoys fostering dogs, reading, playing basketball and softball, and performing in*

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

her school's plays and musicals. As part of her tikkun olam project, Ruby has been creating arts and crafts projects for kids to enjoy while they go through cancer treatment at Dana Farber. We are very proud of her!

— Valerie Graf & Doron Gan

### SHAVUOT

#### Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 25, 8:00 pm-Friday, May 26, 4:00 am

384 Harvard St, Brookline

Shavuot, the "Festival of Weeks," comes seven weeks after Passover and marks the mythic moment of receiving Torah on Mount Sinai. The evening of the holiday is traditionally marked by late-night Torah study, and the

idea that at midnight the heavens open, and we each receive the Torah, the learning, that is destined for us this year. We are glad to once again be joining with other local synagogues for an all-nighter of learning and more! For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/Shavuot-23>.



#### 2nd Day of Shavuot

Saturday, May 27, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary & Zoom

On this final Shabbat of May, we will mark the Shavuot holiday with the singing of Hallel and a Yizkor service.

### MINDFUL MORNINGS

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

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](mailto:mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org). The Zoom link can be found on the CDT calendar.

## CDT Groups and Events

### 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 (in-person only)



*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 screening of the movie followed by a 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](http://www.afatherskaddish.com). Please register to attend at [www.dorsheitzedek.org/event/afatherskaddish](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/event/afatherskaddish).

### AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, May 9, 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).

#### MOURNING AT CDT

A community-made brochure on mourning is available at [dorsheitzedek.org/mourning](http://dorsheitzedek.org/mourning).

### 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. This happened at least once and sometimes as often as 4 times a year. Most of these were Erev Shabbat dinners, but Saturday Havdalah dinners also became popular.

We are reviving the tradition with a round of Friday and Saturday evening dinners on May 12 and 13! You can sign up by visiting [dorsheitzedek.org/signups](http://dorsheitzedek.org/signups) or by finding "Signups" on the Members drop-down menu. This year, as a precaution, we ask that all guests and hosts take a COVID test on the day of the dinner. If hosts have any further requests of their guests, these will be noted on the sign-up sheet. Depending on the weather, we may or may not be able to eat outside, but keeping a few windows open should be possible.

In May, there will be dinners happening in Boston, Cambridge, Dedham, Newton, and Watertown. We are looking for hosts for our next round of potluck dinners, and hope to



## CDT Groups and Events (cont.)

have them at a variety of locations. We're especially interested in having families with young and school-age children participate in the next round of dinners. If you are interested in hosting in the future, or have any questions related to the May potlucks, please contact Marjorie Salvodon at [msalvodon@gmail.com](mailto:msalvodon@gmail.com).

### CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, May 13, 8:00-9:00 pm  
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of *Golden Voices*! Watch the film on your own on Kanopy any time before the discussion, and look for the Zoom link on the CDT Calendar. Contact [filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org) with questions and film suggestions, if you'd like to lead the discussion about a particular film, or to be put on our mailing list.

*Golden Voices* (1 hr 28 mins, 2020): Raya and Victor built a shared career as the Soviet Union's most beloved film dubbers. As the USSR collapses, the couple must immigrate to Israel and start anew by putting their vocal talents to unexpected use in the underground economy. A charming comedy about disrupting old dynamics, starting anew, and rediscovering yourself in the most unexpected places, *Golden Voices* is also a stirring tribute to the redemptive power of cinema.

Visit [www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club) to learn more about the CDT Film Club and to see future movies and dates.

### CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, May 15, 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.

### CDT MAH JONG GROUP

Mondays, 4:00-6:00 pm  
Contact Diana Fisher Gomberg for 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.

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE CDT ONE-DAY RETREAT!

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

**Bottle Rockets! Climbing Wall! Serious Schmoozing with friends! COME ONE, COME ALL FOR A FABULOUS DAY ON June 3rd, 2023!**

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](mailto:retreat2023@dorsheitzedek.org). We can't wait to see you there!

## Learning

### JUDAISM DISRUPTED WITH R. MICHAEL STRASSFELD

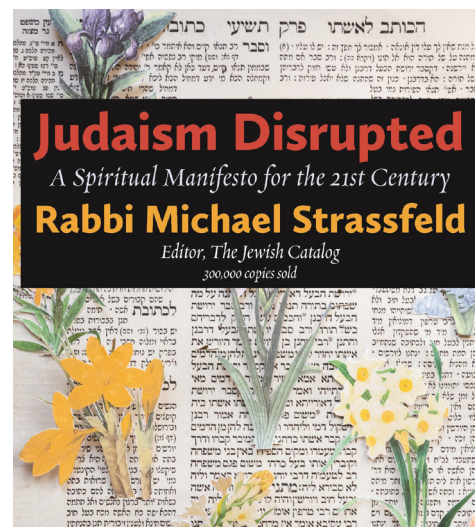
Tuesday, May 2, 7:30-9:00 pm  
Zoom

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 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

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

*Earnest Arky Solomon*

As we finish up the 5783, 2022-2023, school year we are looking ahead to the fall. Our Religious School is thriving AND we have room to grow! As I walk down the halls during these final weeks of Religious School, I see students busy creating their own creative *midrashim* (Torah interpretations) with art and theatre, finishing up paintings and poetry for the prayers they have learned, enjoying the friendships that have formed and deepened this year, and so much more! Our school is a vibrant and caring place and I am excited for it to continue to grow! Do you know any families looking for a supportive, progressive, and inclusive community for their child's Jewish education? We offer programming for children and families ages 3 through B'Mitzvah. We are especially looking to grow our 4th grade and younger classes. Program details can be found on our website's "Religious School" page under "Youth and Families." Prospective families are encouraged to reach out to me at [e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org) to learn more about our community. Please help us grow our Religious School by spreading the word about our wonderful program!

There are a few upcoming ways for Dorshei Tzedek members of all ages and prospective families to connect with the Religious School community. The All-Ages Erev Shabbat on Friday, May 5th will be catered, and ritual will be led by our Kitot Gimel (3rd grade) and Dalet (4th grade) students. On Saturday, May 6th, our Kitah Vav (6th grade) students will lead Shabbat morning services and on Saturday, May 13th Kitah Hey (5th grade) will lead. All are welcome to join All-Ages Erev Shabbat on June 9th, with a special program for children 5 and younger at 5:30 pm. On June 17th at 4:00 pm, come celebrate Pride in the Park on Shabbat with the Religious School community at Cabot Elementary.

On May 7th, we will celebrate the final day of Religious School and the first entirely in-person year since the pandemic. It was a year of reweaving the web of in-person Religious School community. From creating a recipe for an inclusive and welcoming Jewish learning community on opening day, to imagining we all stood at Mt. Sinai to receive Torah, to building our own *mishkan* (sanctuary)

where each member contributed a symbol representing a quality or gift they contribute, we have been acknowledging the power and importance of each member of our school – students, grownups, teachers, and staff – to bring our CDT values to life. At our closing day on May 7th and at our upcoming siyyumim (final services) on May 5th, 6th, and 13th we will be celebrating all of the learning, friendship, and dedication of our Religious School community. I look forward to celebrating with you soon!

## CDT/HBT TEEN YOUTH GROUP LAG B'OMER BONFIRE

*Sunday, May 7, 6:30-8:30 pm*

*Jamaica Plain, MA (address shared upon registration)*

Join Dorshei Tzedek's High School Youth Group for an end of the year Lag B'Omer bonfire and social event! We will gather in Jamaica Plain near Stony Brook station (address shared upon registration) for pizza, smores, games, and Lag B'Omer connection around a bonfire. This event is open to all CDT teens grades 7-12; we will be joined by Temple Hillel B'nai Torah teens.

**Please register on the CDT website by Friday, May 5 at 5:00 pm.** There is a participation fee of \$18, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. We can't wait to see you there!

## SHORASHIM SHABBAT & SHABBAT CHILDCARE

*Saturday, May 20, 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.

## FRIDAY NIGHT SHORASHIM SHABBAT AND DINNER

**For families with children 5 and younger**

*Friday, June 9, 5:30-6:45 pm*

*CDT (60 Highland St)*

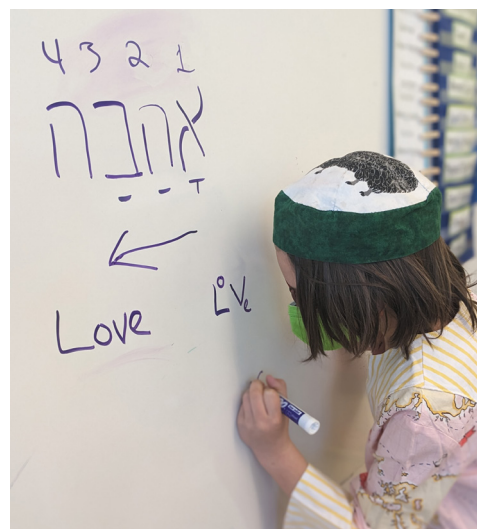
Shorashim families are invited to join Morah Devora for a young children oriented Shabbat service at 5:30 pm. Afterwards, Shorashim will come together with the rest of the community for a Shabbat potluck at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to stay for All-Ages Erev Shabbat services at 6:45 pm, but we understand it may be bedtime! This is a great opportunity for families considering the Religious School to connect with CDT members and meet our wonderful Shorashim leader, Morah (teacher) Devora Rohr. For more information, please contact Education Director Earnest Arky Solomon: [e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org).

## PRIDE IN THE PARK SHABBAT CELEBRATION

*Saturday, June 17, 4:00-5:30 pm*

*Cabot Elementary Park (229 Cabot St, Newton)*

Celebrate Pride with Dorshei Tzedek! Current and prospective Religious School families and CDT members of all ages are invited to gather for Pride-themed activities at Cabot park. We will celebrate our LGBTQ+ inclusive and affirming synagogue with games, stories, activities, and community! This is a great opportunity for families considering the Religious School to connect with CDT members and meet our Education Director, Earnest Arky Solomon.



## Community

### "LEAVES TELLING STORIES" STILL ON VIEW!

Stop by the CDT Sanctuary Gallery to visit "Leaves Telling Stories," an exhibit of monoprints by Naomi Lev. The prints are created by rolling ink on a piece of plexiglass, rolling other colors of ink on leaves or pieces of leaves and arranging the leaves on the plexiglass plate, and then running the plate through an etching press. Each leaf is an individual and a representative of its species, but can also be combined with other leaves to depict trees, animals, or people.

### MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Rose Naumburg and her family on becoming Bat Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Caroline Chauncey & Richard Thal on the birth of their granddaughter, Dora Tirzah Borgenicht Thal, on March 12! Dora is welcomed by her brother Rafi and moms Aliza Levine and Rebecca Thal.

Mazel tov to Wendy Gedanken & Joaquim Branco on their retirement and move to Maine! Wendy has been a member for over 30 years, just a few months after CDT was founded, and

she will be dearly missed by the community. We wish her luck and happiness on this next journey!

Mazel tov to Ellen Pashall and to CDT "graduate" Sam Pashall and his spouse Rebecca on the birth of Ada Maya Remis Pashall, who came into the world on March 12!

### TODAH RABAH

Thank you so much to Tatjana Meschede, Linette Liebling, Elaine Landes and Lisa Samelson for their organizing efforts and personal sharing for the "Reparations and Societal Teshuvah: The German Experience" and Yom Hashoah programs.

Thank you to those who provided Kiddush in March:

Emily Mathis, Tobey Aumann, and Deb McEwan

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush in April:

Debbie Isenberg, Bill Shorr (in memory of Bernie Shorr), Janet Rickles, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Janice Cole, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Dianne Lior, Helaine & John Carroll, Roy

Edelstein, Jay & Jenny Leopold, Nina Cohen, Sara Ulanet, Mark Schafer, and Doug Hersh

Thank you to Rosalyn Negron, Nina Cohen, and Judah Axe, for volunteering for Door Duty during Sunday Religious School in April!

### REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

### YAHARZEIT

This month we remember CDT founder Jill Volk, whose 16th yahrzeit falls this year on May 2. We will be remembering Jill at Shabbat morning services on May 6. May her memory be for a blessing.

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Jeff Marcus on the death of his mother, Barbara Nathan Marcus, mother-in-law of Susan Nitkin, and grandmother of Caleb, Noah z"l, and Joanna. May her memory be for a blessing.

## Tikkun Olam

### FROM INCARCERATION TO COMMUNITY: FOLLOWING UP ON THE NO NEW WOMENS PRISON CAMPAIGN

Monday, May 1, 7:00-8:00 pm  
Zoom

Join T'ruah organizer Michaela Caplan and CDT members to hear current updates about the NoNewWomensPrison campaign, including the status of the Prison Moratorium legislation and the path it will take through in the State House. We will then talk through the many ways folks can plug into the campaign and support the directly affected communities leading it.

*This event has been rescheduled from Monday, April 10; please use the updated Zoom link on the CDT calendar to access the meeting.*

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

Sunday, May 14, 8:00-10:30 am  
Town Field Park (1520 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester)

The CDT team will be gathering at the 2nd base of the baseball diamond in front of the stage. Together we will listen to the program before setting out on the walk at approximately 8:30 am. Look for the CDT banner and feel free to text Abby if you need any assistance: 617-216-3540. And, feel free to wear purple, the color of the Institute!



Starting and Ending Point:  
Town Field Park  
1520 Dorchester Ave  
Dorchester, MA 02122

The entire walk is 4.3 miles, with an estimated walk time of 1.5-2 hours.

7:00 AM (Registration)  
8:00 AM (Program)  
8:30 AM (Kick off)  
10:00 AM (Closing Rally)

### COVID Statement:

We ask that all walkers wear their masks and maintain a six-foot social distance from participants outside their party. Thank you!

**For complete details, please visit the MDW4P webpage at [dorsheitzedek.org/mdw4p](https://dorsheitzedek.org/mdw4p).**



### ECONOMIC DISPARITY GROUP

**Follow-up from March Members Meeting**  
*Amy Mazur*

Thank you to all who participated in person and virtually during the Economic Disparity Group's presentation at our March Members' Meeting. We were so pleased that many of you were willing to break the silence and to share your stories related to economic disparity.

We were also so pleased that so many of you expressed interest in continuing with this work. Below are some ways we have started to do that, or you can do that:

1. Watch for additional information that will be posted on the CDT website, where information about events and programs will be shared, and articles and books will be suggested that will focus on issues of class disparity. **The blessing for the home will also appear soon on the website for you to access.**
2. If you are connected with any aspect of adult education or learning at CDT, watch for ways that issues of class disparity will be addressed. **Conversations have begun and we thank Earnest for initiating that process.**
3. Read *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. This book makes a "provocative and compelling" (NPR) argument about why poverty persists in America: because those of us who are not poor benefit from it. While we are not currently setting up a book talk/group, stay tuned for ways that congregants can connect around class disparity and its intersection at all phases of life. **Special thanks to Alan Epstein for this book suggestion.**

We hope to infuse class disparity work into the fabric of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, further fulfilling our mission as seekers of justice, and "acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness)."

### IN THE DEEP SOUTH

*Laura Katz, Tony Broh, Meryl Epstein, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Trish Nuzzola, Abby Cohen, and Dan Rome*

***This article has been condensed for publication; read the entire piece at [dorsheitzedek.org/understanding-racism](https://dorsheitzedek.org/understanding-racism).***

In March, seven white CDT members traveled to Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham, and Atlanta as part of Reconstructing Judaism's "Reckoning Together: A Reconstructionist Pilgrimage Towards Racial Justice." Bringing together 200 Jews from around the US including a cohort of 15 Jews of Color, this Pilgrimage was an outgrowth of the movement's 2021 formal commitment to "join and lead Jewish efforts to dismantle systemic racism and advance racial diversity, equity and inclusion within the Reconstructionist movement." On the first night of our journey, we engaged in thoughtful text study, reflecting on the distinction between a "sightseeing" vacation and a sacred pilgrimage of mind, body and spirit.

At the Equal Justice Institute's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, we viewed the comprehensive history of the impact of slavery in the US. Entering the first hall, we stood before a larger-than-life video screen of the raging ocean waters. The first exhibit tells of the roots of slavery, from the capturing and kidnapping of Africans to the horrific

conditions on the trans-Atlantic journey, including the 2 million people killed at sea due to illness and inhumane conditions on the ships. Despite a prior knowledge of this history, seeing this image of the water, coupled with the narration, touched us deep inside in a new way. The museum vividly depicted countless stories of enslavement, the Jim Crow era, the terrorism of lynchings used to enforce racial hierarchy and modern day mass incarceration.



On the final day, our group attended services at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church which in the words of Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock continues to bear "spiritual witness" from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement to today. How serendipitous that they were also celebrating the 137th Anniversary of Ebenezer and were joined by Rabbi Peter Berg and the congregation of The Temple, the oldest temple in Atlanta. The joyous singing, many instruments, and the joining of the Baptist and Jewish choirs was gorgeous, uplifting, and emotional. We began our journeys home, committed to continued learning, grateful to all who shared their wisdom and experiences.

## Jewish Community Events

### 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE: ISRAEL AT A CROSSROADS

*Sunday, June 11, 10:00 am-12:00 pm*  
*Temple Israel of Boston (477 Longwood Ave, Boston)*

Join former Israeli Consul General to New England and current J Street Israel Director Nadav Tamir and New Israel Fund VP of Public Engagement Libby Lenkinski for a program exploring the vision of Israel as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people at peace with its neighbors, including Palestinians, and what

we in the American Jewish community can do to support that vision in the face of current realities. We will hear from Israelis working to promote justice and democracy at home and American political leaders working to ensure U.S. diplomacy supports the same goals.

# 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). 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.

## JOINING CHESED

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 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.

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 signup from other CDT mailing lists, so please go to [dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup](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](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).



[dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup](https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup)  
[chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto: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

Zachary Rubenstein — *In memory of Eve Shulak*

### GENERAL DONATIONS

Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman

Irv Gottschalk — *In memory of my father, Albert Gottschalk, on his 6th yearzeit*

Sheree Galpert — *In memory of David Grodsky, father of Ora Grodsky, father-in-law of Jonathan Rosenthal, grandfather of Sasha and Zoe*

Prina Lahav — *In honor of Fran Malino*

Cindy Marshall — *In memory of my father, Arthur Marshall, on his 14th yearzeit*

### NEDIV LEV

Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr

Allison & Ezra Hausman

Diana Fisher Gomberg & Richard Gomberg — *In honor of LilyFish Gomberg being accepted to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College*

Diana Becker

Laura & Joel Katz

Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa

Reesa & Irv Gottschalk

Tom Brown & Chagit Steiner

Miriam Bronstein

James Kaplan & Erica Streit-Kaplan — *In honor of Earnest, Jess, and Akiva for their education and leadership*

Jodie Siegel

Hope Kellman

Jamie & Susana Wurzel — *In memory of Steve Adler Golden*

Bob Warren & Meg Wilcox

Joann Breuer

Thea Breite

Carol & Robert Hausman

Jonathan Weisberg

Joseph Bayes & Lynda Goldberg — *In memory of Arthur Bayes, Rose Bayes, and Arthur Goldberg*

Amy Mazur — *In memory of my parents, Rhoda Himmel Mazur & Marvin Irwin Mazur*

Jo Ann & Michael Feldstein

Amy Dain

Susan Leslie Kaufman

Barry Ingber

Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan

Janet Rickles & Arthur Young

Karen Leitner & Noah Rumpf

Phyllis Glazerman

Jacqueline Fleischman

Marvin Brotman

Annette Jacobs

Judith Hersh

Carol Sklar

Ellen Pashall

Harriet Budd — *In honor of Linda Kramer who gave up 3 hours to schlep me around MGH! Such a mitzvah!*

Ora Gladstone — *With thanks to Rabbi Toba and the tikkun "olamn timers," who make CDT a most wonderful home for me*

Barbara Beck & Robert Bahn — *In memory of my sister Louise Beck (my beloved rascal), my father Irving Beck, my mother Edith Beck, and my brother Stephen Beck, who died way too young*

Karen & Reinhard Engels

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joseph Bayes

Phyllis Glazerman — *In memory of Al Glazerman*

# May 2023 • Iyyar/Sivan 5783

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30 Iyyar 9</b> <b>24th Day Omer</b> 9:30am Kitah Bet Family Ed 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am Making Shabbat Ritual Meaningful with R. Intern Akiva: Part 2 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth El/ Or Atid	<b>1 Iyyar 10</b> <b>25th Day Omer</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group 7:00pm From Incarceration to Community: Following up on the NoNewWomensPrison Campaign	<b>2 Iyyar 11</b> <b>26th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm <i>Judaism Disrupted</i> : Book Talk & Conversation with Rabbi Michael Strassfeld	<b>3 Iyyar 12</b> <b>27th Day Omer</b>	<b>4 Iyyar 13</b> <b>28th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Is Your Home Someone's Workplace? Domestic Workers' Rights and Your Responsibilities as an Employer	<b>5 Iyyar 14</b> <b>Pesach Sheni</b> <b>29th Day Omer</b> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat and Kitah Dalet Siyyum	<b>6 Iyyar 15</b> <b>30th Day Omer</b> <b>Emor</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services and Kitah Vav Siyyum
<b>7 Iyyar 16</b> <b>31st Day Omer</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 9:30am Nitzanim Sunday Religious School 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs B'nai Shalom 6:30pm CDT/HBT Teen Youth Group Lag B'Omer Bonfire 7:00pm <i>A Father's Kaddish</i> Screening & Discussion	<b>8 Iyyar 12</b> <b>32nd Day Omer</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>9 Iyyar 13</b> <b>33rd Day Omer</b> <b>Lag B'Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Avelut	<b>10 Iyyar 14</b> <b>34th Day Omer</b>	<b>11 Iyyar 15</b> <b>35th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>12 Iyyar 16</b> <b>36th Day Omer</b>	<b>13 Iyyar 17</b> <b>37th Day Omer</b> <b>Behar-Bechukotai</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services and Kitah Hey Siyyum 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: <i>Golden Voices</i>
<b>14 Iyyar 18</b> <b>38th Day Omer</b> 8:00am 27th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace	<b>15 Iyyar 19</b> <b>39th Day Omer</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	<b>16 Iyyar 20</b> <b>40th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>17 Iyyar 21</b> <b>41st Day Omer</b>	<b>18 Iyyar 22</b> <b>42nd Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>19 Iyyar 23</b> <b>43rd Day Omer</b> 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat with CDT Sings!	<b>20 Iyyar 24</b> <b>44th Day Omer</b> <b>Bamidbar</b> 9:30am Shorashim Shabbat & Shabbat Childcare 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services & Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Gan
<b>21 Sivan 1</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Sivan</b> <b>45th Day Omer</b> 10:00am CDT Men's Softball Game: Tzedekmen vs Beth Elohim	<b>22 Sivan 2</b> <b>46th Day Omer</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>23 Sivan 3</b> <b>47th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>24 Sivan 4</b> <b>48th Day Omer</b>	<b>25 Sivan 5</b> <b>49th Day Omer</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 8:00pm Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot	<b>26 Sivan 6</b> <b>Shavuot – First Day</b> <b>Office Closed for Shavuot</b> 12:00am Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot	<b>27 Sivan 7</b> <b>Shavuot</b> <b>Yizkor</b> <b>Nasso</b> 10:00am Second Day Shavuot Shabbat Morning Services
<b>28 Sivan 8</b>	<b>29 Sivan 9</b> <b>Office Closed for Memorial Day</b> 4:00pm Mah Jong Group	<b>30 Sivan 10</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>31 Sivan 11</b>	<b>1 Sivan 12</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>2 Sivan 13</b>	<b>3 Sivan 14</b> <b>Beha'alotcha</b> 9:00am CDT Retreat!





**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



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



**SCAN ME**

**BOTTLE ROCKETS! CLIMBING WALL!  
SERIOUS SCHMOOZING! COME ONE,  
COME ALL FOR THE FABULOUS ONE-  
DAY 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!

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