



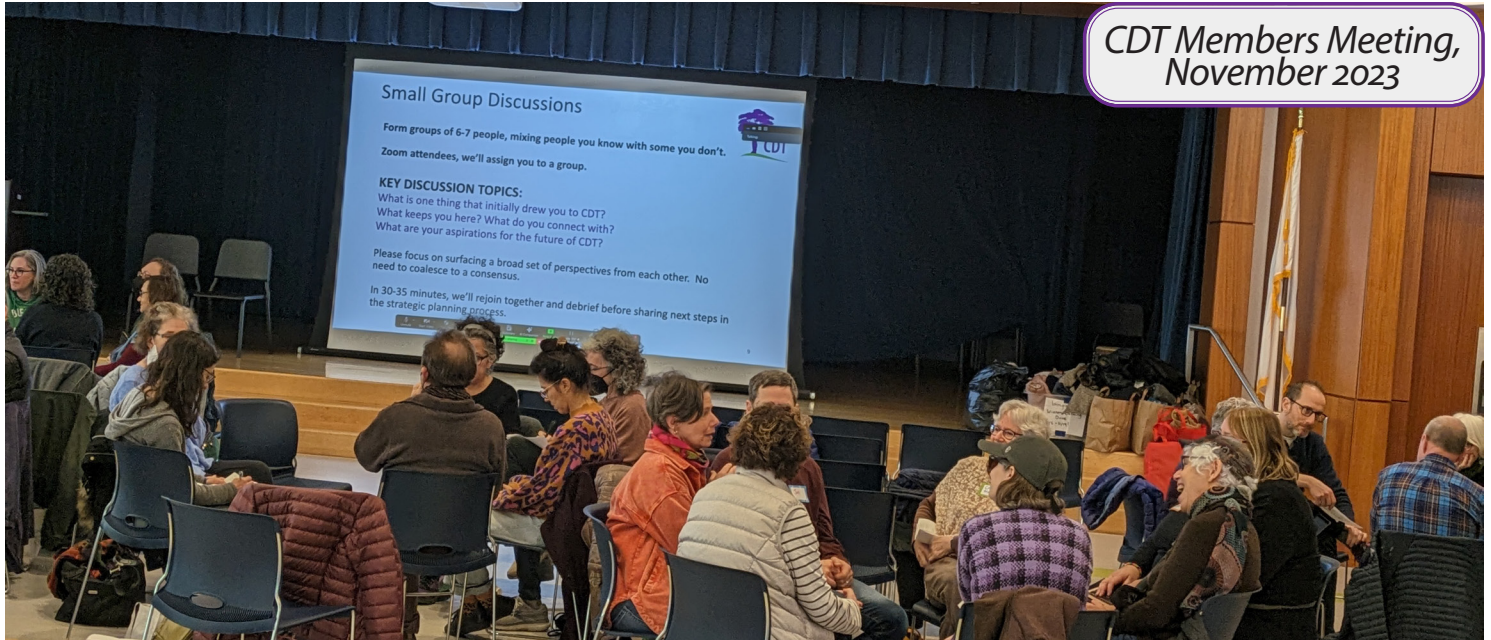
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
617.965.0330 | www.dorsheitzedek.org | info@dorsheitzedek.org

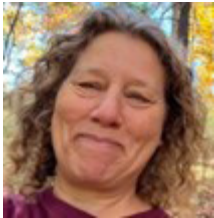
Kislev/Tevet 5784

December 2023



LEANING INTO COMMUNITY AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Stacey Chacker, CDT President



In my October article, I noted my high from celebrating Rosh Hashanah with CDT — "the warmth and connection, reflection together, singing, and dancing." Little did we know the horror, grief, and heartbreak that was so soon to follow. Since October 7th, our community

has provided educational programs, spaces to process and comfort one another, and resources for action and donations. They represent the multiplicity of perspectives about Israel/Palestine that our members hold. And both formally and as community members, we will continue to do so — on our two listservs — Keshet Yisraeli and Israel-Palestine Peace — and on our website. Rabbi Toba shared at the November 19th Members' Meeting, "This moment might be the greatest collective spiritual challenge we will face as an American Jewish community," and "While holding this incredible diversity [of perspectives] is excruciatingly hard, I would like to think we will be better for it...because we can't possibly expect Israelis and Palestinians who are on the frontlines of this suffering...to engage with people they see as the enemy, for the sake of peace, justice, and security, if we can't even remain in community with one another." I am optimistic that we can. Again and again, I am grateful for CDT and Rabbi Toba, and have heard many members echoing that they don't know how they would be surviving this moment without the strong, caring, and thoughtful CDT community and our incredible rabbi.

In early November, we were honored to have Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and CEO of Reconstructing Judaism (RJ), speak at Shabbat services and other times throughout the weekend. She lifted up RJ's approach, core commitments, and values, including "our love for Israel exists alongside our desire to seek a just and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians." Rabbi Waxman also spoke about the challenges faced by congregations during this current crisis, making it clear that we need to prioritize care for our communities with empathy and open hearts.

And so, we continue to "tend to" our CDT community. At our Members Meeting, after Rabbi Toba shared her wise words about Israel and Gaza/Palestinians, our fabulous Strategic Planning Committee (Sheryl Koenigsberg, Richard Thal, Linette Liebling, and John Carroll) kicked off an overdue planning process (thank you, COVID). Centering on community voices, we jointly seek to plan for CDT's next ten years, including ideas and plans for the next three years.

Approximately 130 members attended the Members' Meeting, where the SP Committee first grounded us in a snapshot comparison of CDT from 2006 to today — focused on growth in membership, staff, budget, geographic diversity, and age ranges. They then had us participate in small group discussions. While the Strategic Planning Committee will analyze what members articulated and build on them for next steps, I want to elevate some themes that emerged. In response to "What drew

you to CDT?" and "What keeps you here?," our members lifted up the following: We experience CDT as a "big tent" that encompasses many ways of "being Jewish," and CDT embraces interfaith households and LGBTQ people, is economically diverse, and provides access for people with various levels of Jewish learning and knowledge. We value CDT as spiritually fulfilling, and as a Jewish home for our children; our Religious School is incredible. There is little pretense at CDT, and much warmth, support, and friendship. Our Tikkun Olam work is an important avenue for working towards justice. And of course, members mentioned their appreciation for Rabbi Toba's leadership — many times over!

We also jointly reflected on wishes for our future. We acknowledged the increased spread across generations, with younger members and those of us who are "graying." There are hopes for attracting more younger members, increasing younger leadership, making sure that both families with younger children and older members feel more included in programs and activities, and increasing avenues to support intergenerational relationships. We have ongoing aspirations to continue our journey to being an anti-racist congregation. We have questions about our future needs and physical home for CDT and our Religious School.

Again, the Members Meeting was the beginning of this process and above is the "tip of the iceberg" from our group discussions. We hope that you will continue to share your ideas as our strategic planning process evolves. We plan for CDT to be here as a spiritual home – a source of connection, learning, support, growth, joy, and so much more – long into the future.

I am looking forward to the light of the Hanukkah candles in these dark days and celebrating with CDT, and I am praying for just and lasting peace.

From the Office

DECEMBER OFFICE HOURS AND CLOSURES

The administrative offices at CDT are open Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. *Please note that the building doors will be locked at 4:30 pm by the Second Church office staff if there are no scheduled events for a given evening.* The Education Director's office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 am-4:30 pm.

The office will be closed on Monday, December 25, and will be open virtual-only for the remainder of that week.

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 produced by the office and published monthly (with a July/August summer issue). Email articles, events, photos, and questions to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Please let us know if you'd like to join the team!

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Staff & Board

Staff:

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, t.spitzer@dorsheitzedek.org
Executive Director of Operations: Margaret Farmer, m.farmer@dorsheitzedek.org
Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon, e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org
Administrative Assistant: Alistaire Webbe, a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org
Inclusion Director: Jess Green, j.green@dorsheitzedek.org
Rabbinic Intern: Akiva Nelson, a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org

Executive Committee:

President: Stacey Chacker
First VP: **Vacant — nominate yourself or a friend!**
VP Finance: Jen Levine-Fried
Secretary: Dan Rome

Vice-Presidents:

VPs Membership: Carole Slipowitz and Marjorie Salvodon
VPs Engagement: Melanie Adler and Rebecca Byard
VP Tikkun Olam: Pam Katz

Board Members—at-Large:

Meryl Epstein, Abby Cohen, Esther Kohn, Jonathan Lewis, Tatjana Meschede, and Jennifer Nichols

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 of Operations Liaison: Linette Liebling
Education Director Liaison: Lissy Medvedow
Space: Steve Siegel

Shabbat and Spiritual Practice

COVID PROTOCOLS: We strongly encourage those attending our services and programs to be fully vaccinated, and we are **mask-optional**. Masks are not required, but all should feel comfortable wearing a mask at our programs; we will continue to have masks available, and there will be a mask-only section reserved in the CDT sanctuary. We ask that anyone exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 please refrain from attending, even if testing negative, and that CDC guidelines be followed for those who have tested positive in recent days. For our current COVID policy, please go to www.dorsheitzedek.org/covid-19-resources.

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, December 1 and January 5
6:00 pm Candle-lighting & Dinner
6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
CDT (60 Highland St)

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a evening of good food, prayer, and community! We come together at 6 pm for candle-lighting and Shabbat blessings, followed by a vegetarian dinner, and a fun, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service beginning at 6:45 pm. We close the evening with a special Oneg Shabbat dessert at approximately 7:30 pm. Come to all or part of the evening!

There will be a **catered dinner on December 1** and a **potluck dinner on January 5** (please bring a salad or main dish to share; drinks and dessert will be provided).

KABBALAT SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE

Friday, December 15, 6:30-9:00 pm
Shulak-Rome Home (West Newton)

All are welcome to join Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson for a home-based, Friday night gathering at the Shulak-Rome residence in West Newton (their address can be found in the Member Directory on the CDT website). Festivities will include a potluck veggie dinner followed by the Shabbat evening service, dessert, and a song share, where we'll share Jewish songs, including niggunim and zemirot, which are traditional Shabbat table songs. The evening will be adult-oriented, but all are welcome!

Please register in advance; the link can be found in the members-only section of the CDT website.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Shabbat Vayishlach

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services, Torah reading, and discussion. We will be remembering CDT member Susannah Zisk on the occasion of her 12th *yahrzeit*. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Chanukah and Bar Mitzvah of Eytan Shore

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join us as we celebrate the Chanukah holiday with the singing of Hallel, and as we call Eytan Shore to the Torah as a bar mitzvah! We will also be remembering Alex Fried on the occasion of his 16th *yahrzeit*. Kiddush lunch follows services.

We invite the CDT community to celebrate with us as our son, Eytan, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Eytan is a 7th grader at Kennedy Middle School in Waltham. He loves playing soccer and basketball, pickleball matches with his grandparents, getting better than his parents at ping pong, playing in the ocean with his sister and cuddling with his best dog friend, Ry.

— Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore

Shabbat Miketz

Saturday, December 16, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

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

services, Torah reading and discussion. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Vayigash Contemplative Service

Saturday, December 23, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a morning of chant and song, guided and silent meditation, and Torah study. Torah study will begin at approximately 11am; come for all or part of the morning! No meditation experience required. Kiddush lunch will follow services.

Shabbat Vayechi Zoom-only Service

Saturday, December 30, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Zoom

All are invited to join CDT member-leaders for a Zoom-only Shabbat morning service, as we close the book of *Bereshit*/Genesis in addition to closing the secular year.

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. The Zoom link can be found on the CDT calendar.

Chanukah

Chanukah is perhaps the most "Reconstructionist" of holidays, its roots in ancient solstice festivals, connected to a story of Jewish resistance from the year 168 B.C.E. and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, and transformed by the rabbis of the Talmud into a spiritual celebration of the "miracle of the oil" (with later additions of presents and fried foods!). **Join us in person and/or online as we celebrate Chanukah at CDT:**

CDT CHANUKAH PARTY!

Sunday, December 10, 4:30-6:30 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Society (1326 Washington St, West Newton); parking available at the Second Church lot

Join us for this intergenerational night of celebration! We will gather at 4:30 pm to light the Chanukah candles together — bring your *chanukiah* (menorah) and five candles as we celebrate the 4th night of Chanukah! We'll begin with Chanukah songs and candlelighting, followed at 5 pm by a variety of activities for all ages, including:

- Israeli dancing with Pazit Lahav of Brookline Folk Dancing
- Sufganiot (donut) making

- Text study for teens and adults
- Dreidel extravaganza
- Chanukah arts & crafts

Activities will be followed by the Latke Dinner at 6:00 pm! Latkes are provided by an incredible team of CDT cooks; please bring a vegetarian side dish or salad as a potluck contribution to share to accompany the latkes — green salad, pasta, veggie, quinoa, tuna or egg salad, etc. (please avoid nuts). Drinks and desserts will be provided.

Fair trade chocolate Chanukah gelt and Sindyanna olive oil will be available for sale from our Religious School's Kitah Hey (via check, cash, or Venmo)

Afterparty: Chanukah Party Tisch

Calling all music lovers, instrumentalists, and appreciators of Jewish music: Join Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson at the end of the Chanukah party (around 6:45 pm) as we gather around a communal table to share songs, drinks, and dessert. If you'd like, bring a song to share, Jewish or otherwise, connected to a Chanukah theme!

CDT LIGHTS

December 7-8 and 11-14, 5:30-5:45 pm

Zoom

All are welcome to join together in the Zoomiverse for candle lighting on the first two and the final four nights of Chanukah. Each night we'll share a bit of Chanukah music from around the world, hear a story from a CDT member about what they are dedicating themselves to this Chanukah season, and light our candles together. Come join us, and have your *chanukiah* (menorah) ready!



Youth and Family Programming

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

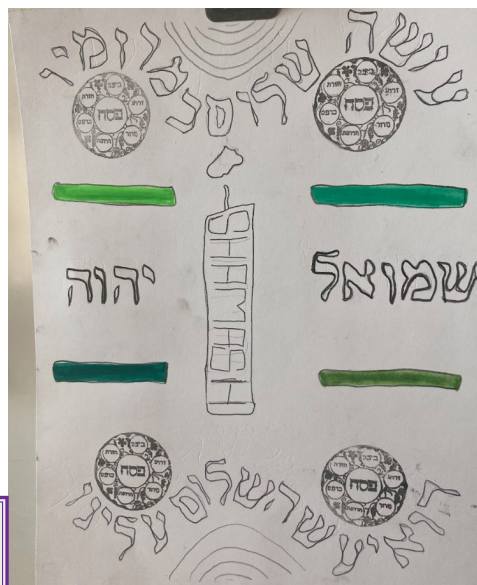
Earnest Arky Solomon

The first day of Religious School landed during parashat (portion of Torah) Noah. We began our year with a retelling of the story that emphasized the rainbow *brit* (covenant), the promise that humanity would always remember to treat one another as though they were made *b'tzelem elohim* (in the image of the divine). In the following weeks, we explored how to keep the rainbow covenant in concrete ways as a Religious School community. It is an honor to practice living out covenantal community with Dorshei's youngest members. In this article, I want to

give you a window into some of the exciting things happening in our classrooms!

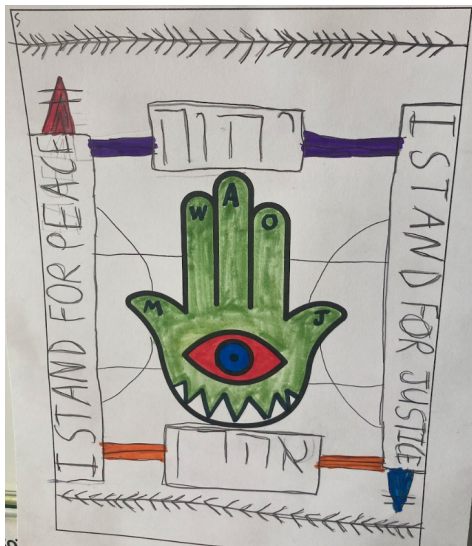
In Kitah Vav (our sixth grade class), students were visited by CDT artist Sharon Gorberg who led them in creating *shivitis* — a Jewish visual artform, often made up of words and symbols, used for meditation. The students chose verses and phrases to incorporate in their art and a Jewish symbol to center the work around. They used tracing paper, stamps, and pencils to create their designs. As the students enter a year of exploring what *bnei mitzvah* means from a

Shiviti made by Sammy, Kitah Hey student



Youth and Family Programming (cont.)

Reconstructionist perspective, they will use these shivitis to designate a place in their home as sacred. When they study for their B'Mitzvah, they can sit near their shiviti to designate their preparation as set apart from mundane studying. Throughout the year, students will study and create other Jewish ritual items to explore the themes of bnei mitzvah. Kitah Vav is led by rabbinical student and MSW, Hannah Limov.



Shiviti made by Aaron, Kitah Vav student

Kitah Hey interviewing Jonathan Rosenthal and Gillian Goddard



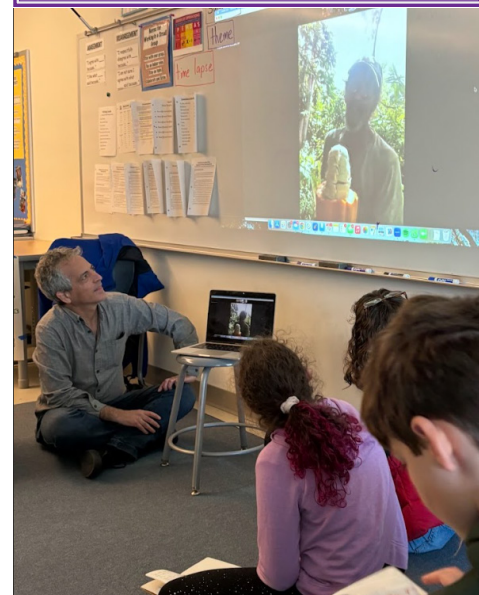
Sharon Gorberg showing Kitah Vav examples of traditional shivitis

In our Kitah Hey (fifth grade class), teacher Adira Rosen is using her background in directing theatre to guide the students in studying the book of Exodus through the art of storytelling. Each year Kitah Hey sells fair trade gelt and makes connections between injustice in the book of Exodus and contemporary worker rights issues. CDT member and co-founder of Equal Exchange and Oke USA, Jonathan Rosenthal, has visited Kitah Hey for many years to teach about fair trade chocolate and business. This year, Jonathan arranged for Gillian Goddard – co-owner, grower, and producer of Sun Eaters Organics chocolate – to join the class from Trinidad via Zoom! Gillian

even had her co-worker show the class the cacao trees in the rainforest they cultivate and steward. As part of their exploration of storytelling, the students used the style of interview to ask questions and take notes about Gillian and Jonathan's stories. What a treat it was to learn about worker-owned businesses as the kids prepared to create their own gelt business! You can visit Kitah Hey at the Chanukah party on December 10th to purchase Divine Chocolate, fair trade gelt!

It is such a gift to collaborate with CDT members on projects. If you are interested in bringing your gifts to our school community, please reach out!

Sun Eater Organics farmer teaching Kitah Hey about Cacao trees and pods!



Community

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members Cheryl Weber & Alan Mattes and Maya Shwayder & Nick Quaranto!

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush, Ushered, and Zoom-Greeted in November: Judith Havens, Tim Havens, Barry Gilbert, Dan Halbert, Janell Rothenberg, Shawn Samuel, William Weinreb, Elaine Landes, and Nancy Bohan-Broderick.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, Harriet Budd, Jacqui Bloomberg, and Jeff Arnold.

YAHARZEIT

This month, we remember CDT member Susannah Zisk, whose 12th yahrzeit fell on November 28. We will remember Susannah at Shabbat morning services on December 2; may her memory be for a blessing.

We also remember CDT member Alex Fried, whose 16th yahrzeit falls on December 5. We will remember Alex at Shabbat morning services on December 9; may his memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Howard Kaufman on the death of his sister, Rachel Kaufman Lavin, sister-in-law of Janet Boguslaw and aunt of Alex and Daniel. May her memory be for a blessing.

Learning

MEDIEVAL JEWISH & ARABIC POETRY WITH JONATHAN DECTER

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00-8:30 pm

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

Jewish culture thrived in medieval Islamic Spain. Among the great intellectual hallmarks, alongside works of philosophy, theology, and biblical commentary, is a body of Hebrew poetry written after the style of contemporary Arabic poetry on themes secular and sacred. In this talk, Jonathan Decter will teach about the prosodic and thematic features of this beautiful poetry, which still resonates with audiences today.

Jonathan Decter

is the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic studies at Brandeis University. His research focuses on Jews in the Islamic World, Spain, and the broader Mediterranean during the medieval period, and in Sephardic Studies more generally. Some of Professor Decter's course offerings include *Jews in the World of Islam*; *Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*; *Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain*; and *Judeo-Arabic literature*.



REPARATIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

With Rabbi Toba and members of CDT's Undoing Racism group

Thursday, December 14, 7:00-8:30 pm

Zoom

In this final session of our reparations class, we will explore possibilities for action both as individuals and as a community. To view recordings of the first four classes and see class materials, go to www.dorsheitzedek.org/reparations-fall23.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, December 16 and January 6, 9:00-9:45 am

CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for an exploration of the weekly Torah portion, through the lenses of commentary both ancient and modern. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

ZIONISM AND BEYOND: IDEALS, DEBATES, AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Tuesdays, January 16, 23, 30, & February 6, 7:00-8:30 pm

Zoom

In this class, we will revisit the expansive debates in the Jewish world about Zionism before the founding of the state of Israel, and explore the ways in which our own lives have been shaped by Zionism and its discontents. What has Zionism meant to each of us? How has our perspective changed? What does it mean to call oneself a Zionist, anti-Zionist, post-Zionist? Starting from the assumption that there has always been complexity to the Zionist project, we will explore the ways in which American Jewish identities have interacted with this epoch-defining development in Jewish history.



Recent Highlight

FOREST BATHING AND HAIKU WRITING WITH ANDREW SOFER AND LISA HIRSH

On the unseasonably warm afternoon of October 28, CDT members gathered at the Arnold Arboretum for a spiritually rejuvenating session of forest bathing, haiku writing, and nature drawing facilitated by Andrew Sofer and Lisa Hirsh.

A Haiku by Louise Enoch

*Arms lifted skyward
Ginkgo yellow everywhere
Pray for us humans*



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 SIGNUP

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, a Chesed coordinator contacts them to ask if they would like a gesture of Chesed love. It could be a Shabbat dinner, a weekday meal or a food basket, a ride, an errand, or a visit. These gestures of practical comfort, kindness and caring acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times.

Then the Chesed Coordinator uses the Lotsa Helping Hands website to send out an email to alert volunteers. You can make CDT a more caring community by signing up to

get announcements of Chesed volunteer opportunities at dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup.

Need some Chesed inspiration? Visit our webpage for articles that describe the feelings that sometimes get in the way of participating in Chesed, as a giver and as a receiver. We encourage you to read these articles as part of our ongoing effort to build connections for a caring community. We hope these articles will inspire you to participate in Chesed.

If you have a need for Chesed or are interested in joining the Chesed Committee, please contact the Chesed Coordinators at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Chesed@DorsheiTzedek.org



Thanks to everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed.

OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT NEWLY ARRIVING HAITIAN FAMILIES

Janet Penn

Scores of Haitian families are arriving in the Boston area every week and are being housed temporarily in motels throughout the state. The Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) is collecting clothes and personal care items to help meet their immediate needs.

The most urgent requests include:

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Personal care items (feminine hygiene pads, tylenol, band aids)

Also needed:

- Gently worn winter coats, hats, mittens, boots (all sizes)

We will be placing a large box outside of Margaret's office and would appreciate your donating what you are able. Our planning effort is just getting started, so stay tuned for more details! Feel free to email me at janetpenn559@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

Janet (on behalf of the planning committee: Paul H, Tony B, Danielle K, Annie S, Ellie G, Lisa H, DB R, Bob W, Meryl E, Trish N, Bonnie T, and Liz R)

CALL TO REPAIR: JUSTICE, HEALING, AND REPARATIONS IN MA

Sunday, December 3, 2:00-4:00 pm
Zoom

CDT is working with the MA Reparations Interfaith Coalition, a primarily white group of faith and ethically based communities. Join us along with various communities and congregations from across MA to discuss the progress of the reparations movement locally and how we can further it. Distinguished national and local Black leaders will speak to the spiritual and ethical practice of reparations. The event will provide actionable ideas for education, advocacy and material reparations. Our very own Rabbi Toba will speak along with other faith leaders

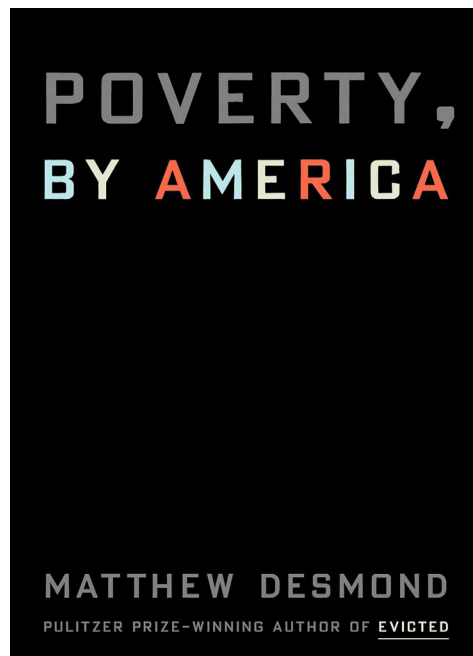
about how our faith tradition supports the importance of reparations. We hope to see many of you there (on Zoom!). Please reach out to Linda Kramer or Sue Lanser, our reps on the event planning committee, if you have any questions or would like to get involved. You can register for the event at tinyurl.com/MAInterfaithReparations.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY GROUP

Poverty, By America: A Discussion

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30-9:00 pm
Zoom

Matthew Desmond's newest book, *Poverty, By America*, unpacks two major questions: "Why is there so much poverty in America?" and "What can we do to eliminate it?" The Economic Disparities Committee is inviting you to join us for an evening where we introduce the book and hear from Matthew Desmond himself during a video interview he did with the Washington Post.



During the evening we will watch a video (approximately 30 minutes) that will provide a foundation of the ideas in the book. We will have time afterward to share impressions and discuss what, if any, next steps people would be interested in pursuing together. There is no expectation of having read the book or even

of prior knowledge of the subject matter, only an interest in exploring these questions.

If you have any questions, please contact Abby Cohen at abby.cohen@verizon.net or 617.216.3540.

GBIO NEWS FLASH!

Louise Enoch, GBIO Liaison

Your GBIO CDT Core Team is getting ready to launch two major efforts that we want you to know about. The MA legislature will be continuing to deliberate on the Housing Transfer Fee bill, on the Bond Bill amount to address needed funds for Public Housing renovation, on laws pertaining to housing and IDs for citizens returning from incarceration, and on training money for (particularly BIPOC) individuals to work in the fields of mental health and substance use. These are issues that touch many of GBIO's members across our many neighborhoods, racial groups, and class backgrounds. We want to show our power by hosting In District Meetings with our elected officials. We will meet with Senators and Reps to make our voices heard to ask that they support our agenda. This is a fascinating process that takes place in meetings behind the scenes and eventually at a large event with constituents.

Here are the IDM dates that have been set up so far: Senator Friedman, December 6 at Hancock Church, Lexington; Senator Jehlen, December 10 at Reservoir Church, Cambridge; Senator Brownsberger, December 12 at Beth El Temple Center, Belmont; Senator Barrett, December 10 at Hancock United Church of Christ, Lexington; Senator Creem, January 29 at Union Church, Waban at. You can register directly at gbio.org/idms.

Our team will also be starting up the annual GBIO Impact Fund. CDT (you) did very well last year in helping GBIO raise funds to hire three new organizers, to pay them a decent wage, and to support the work in general. Thanks for your past donations, and we hope you will consider once again giving generously to this very worthy cause. You will be hearing more from our Core Team members about how and where you can give.

CDT Groups and Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Discussion of *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song*

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

Please join us for a discussion of *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song*! Watch the film on your own any time before the discussion, and look for the Zoom link on the CDT Calendar. Contact filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org to learn more and to sign up for our mailing list.



Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song (1 hr 55 min, 2022, Prime, Apple TV, iTunes, Vudu, Netflix): A definitive exploration of singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen as seen

through the prism of his renowned hymn, "Hallelujah."

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

CDT MEN'S GROUP: FAMILY ESTRANGEMENT AND RECONCILIATION IN *BEREISHIT* AND BEYOND

With Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson

Monday, December 11, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

Join CDT Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson for the final session of text study and discussion for the CDT Men's Group, focusing on the topics of family estrangement, conflict, and reconciliation. We'll look primarily at the stories of Jacob and Esau and Joseph and his brothers, while also reading and discussing contemporary texts about family estrangement and reconciliation.

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, December 12, 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 and Dianne Lior at avelut@dorsheitzedek.org.

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 literature table in our sanctuary and on our website at dorsheitzedek.org/mourning.

Kiddush Signups

KIDDUSH SIGNUPS ARE OPEN FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE!

Please sign up by Monday, December 18 to be able to choose your own date; after that, we will begin to randomly assign folks to dates, at which point each member will be responsible for finding someone to take their date if they are not able to make the one that they've been assigned to.

If you have any questions about the signup process, please visit our Kiddush FAQ page at www.dorsheitzedek.org/kiddush-faqs or email Alistaire at a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org.

Scan the QR code to the right or visit www.dorsheitzedek.org/kiddush



December Kiddush Assignments

Kiddush Note: The complete Kiddush and holiday assignment schedule can be found on the Kiddush page of the website (under the Members section) or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/KiddushTrackers5784>. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in Kiddush, and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up!

Parents of students in grades 5, 6, and 8, who primarily help out with B'nei Mitzvah Kiddushim, can typically find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

DECEMBER 1 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Kiddush Team: Ami Gordon, Jonathan Gordon, Rebecca Pomerantz, Erika Simmons

DECEMBER 2 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Angela Vierling-Claassen

Kiddush Team: Robin Bernstein, Matt Fried, Michael Jablon, Susan LaDue, Eileen Morrison, Lisa Schneider

Zoom Greeter: Emily Cowan

DECEMBER 9 — BAR MITZVAH OF EYTAN SHORE

Kiddush Team: Joel Auslander, Phoebe Cushman, Becca Ó Murchadha, Aongus Ó Murchadha, Lauren Stefano, Andrew Stefano

Zoom Greeter: Marion Ross

DECEMBER 10 — CHANUKAH PARTY

Setup Team: Rachel Adler-Golden, Lynne Brandon, Suzi Dargon-Hart, Diana F Gomberg, Richard F Gomberg, Emily Shumsky

Latke Crew: Ellie Axe, Judah Axe, Rebecca Bact, Shawn Bact, Rebecca Ellis

Cleanup Team: David Cutler, Elana Cutler, Bruce Miller, Lindsey Silver, Laya Steinberg, Jonathan Weisberg

DECEMBER 16 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Joann Breuer

Kiddush Team: Mark Farber, Jan Fogel, Sherry Katz, Cheryl Sacks, Jeff Sacks

Zoom Greeter: Ellen Hemley

DECEMBER 23 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Annette Jacobs

Kiddush Team: Irena Fayngold, Zelda Gamson, Barry Ingber, Trish Nuzzola, Joel Reider, Liz Reisberg

Zoom Greeter: Rob Greenly

DECEMBER 30 — SHABBAT MORNING

Zoom Greeter: Sivan Nasoff



Nediv Lev

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses; monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program) and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. **We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:**

AFGHAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Ethan Bolker & Ann Hulsing

GENERAL DONATION

Cindy Bailen & Greg Reibman

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT FUND

Lisa Schneider

Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore

Liz Carver & Bryn Austin

Ilana Mainelli & Daniel Seidman

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan

Marjorie Salvodon — *In honor of my parents,*

Luce Attignol & Jean Léon Salvodon

Lidia Prunte

Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx

Diana Fisher Gomberg & Richard Gomberg

Miriam Bronstein

Nina Cohen

Laura & Joel Katz

Sue Weil & Sandy Goodman

Sue Lanser & Jo Radner

NEDIV LEV

Sue Fischlowitz & David Roberts — *In memory of Milly Guberman Kravetz*

Nancy Kummer

Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman

Caroline Chauncey & Richard Thal

To make a donation online, please visit
www.dorsheitzedek.org/giving.

December 2023 • Kislev/Tevet 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 <i>Kislev 13</i>	27 <i>Kislev 14</i> 8:00pm CDT Men's Group: Family Estrangement and Reconciliation in Bereishit and Beyond	28 <i>Kislev 15</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Lessons Learned In the Search for Israeli-Palestinian Peace	29 <i>Kislev 16</i> 12:30pm Lunchtime Study with Rabbi Toba	30 <i>Kislev 17</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Reparations: Where Do We Go From Here? 7:00pm New Challenges to Shared Society: Building Bridges in the Midst of War	1 <i>Kislev 18</i> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	2 <i>Kislev 19</i> Vayishlach 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
3 <i>Kislev 22</i> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 2:00pm Call to Repair: Justice, Healing, and Reparations in MA 5:30pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	4 <i>Kislev 21</i>	5 <i>Kislev 22</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Economic Disparity Group Program: <i>Poverty, By America</i>	6 <i>Kislev 23</i> 12:30pm Lunchtime Study with Rabbi Toba	7 <i>Kislev 24</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting	8 <i>Kislev 25</i> Chanukah 5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting	9 <i>Kislev 26</i> Chanukah Vayeshev 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services and Bar Mitzvah of Eytan Shore 1:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: "Hallelujah"
10 <i>Kislev 27</i> Chanukah 4:30pm All-Ages Chanukah Party & Candlelighting	11 <i>Kislev 28</i> Chanukah 4:30pm All-Ages Chanukah Party & Candlelighting 8:00pm CDT Men's Group: Family Estrangement and Reconciliation in Bereishit and Beyond	12 <i>Kislev 29</i> Chanukah 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School: Rosh Chodesh 5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting 7:00pm Medieval Jewish & Arabic Poetry with Jonathan Decter 7:30pm Avelut	13 <i>Tevet 1</i> Chanukah Rosh Chodesh Tevet 5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting	14 <i>Tevet 2</i> Chanukah 8:30am Mindful Mornings 5:30pm CDT Lights: Chanukah Candlelighting 7:00pm Reparations: Where Do We Go From Here?	15 <i>Tevet 3</i> Chanukah 6:30pm Adult Kabbalat Shabbat	16 <i>Tevet 4</i> Miketz 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study With Rabbi Toba Spitzer 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
17 <i>Tevet 5</i> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 5:30pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	18 <i>Tevet 6</i> 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	19 <i>Tevet 7</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	20 <i>Tevet 8</i>	21 <i>Tevet 9</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	22 <i>Tevet 10</i>	23 <i>Tevet 11</i> Vayigash 10:00am Contemplative Shabbat Morning Services
24 <i>Tevet 12</i>	25 <i>Tevet 13</i> Office Closed	26 <i>Tevet 14</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	27 <i>Tevet 15</i>	28 <i>Tevet 16</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	29 <i>Tevet 17</i>	30 <i>Tevet 18</i> Vayechi 10:00am Zoom-only Shabbat Morning Services
31 <i>Tevet 19</i>	1 <i>Tevet 20</i> Office Closed	2 <i>Tevet 21</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	3 <i>Tevet 22</i>	4 <i>Tevet 23</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	5 <i>Tevet 24</i> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	6 <i>Tevet 25</i> Shemot 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study With Rabbi Toba Spitzer 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested



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

*Join us on December 10 at 4:30 pm
for our 5784 Chanukah Party and
Latke Extravaganza!*



Do you have any photos of a CDT event or committee meeting?
We'd love to feature them! Email us at dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org.