



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Tevet/Shevat 5784

January 2024



THE WAY FORWARD

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



As I write this column, the war in Gaza continues to rage. At least 130 of the Israelis held hostage have yet to be released, and their families fear for their lives. Over 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed – half of them children – and tens of thousands more wounded. Eyewitness accounts of Gaza tell of unspeakable devastation and the threat of widespread disease. While I harbor some hope that by January there will be a significant pause in the fighting, a release of hostages, and a massive influx of aid into Gaza, it is hard to see beyond the pain and suffering of this moment.

As we begin the new year of 2024, we are also entering a new book of the Torah — Exodus/*Shemot*, our "master narrative" of the Israelites' liberation from slavery. As I reflect on current events, I am reminded of a powerful commentary on the Exodus story by Aaron Samuel Tamares (1869–1931), an Orthodox rabbi, teacher, and writer who lived in Poland. Tamares was a pacifist, and he had a unique reading of the final plague that resulted in the release of the Israelites from bondage — the slaying of the firstborn of Egypt. The Israelites are warned to mark their doorposts with blood and stay inside on that fateful night, "for YHVH, when going through to smite the Egyptians, will see the blood on the lintel and the doorposts and will pass over the door, and not let the destroyer enter and smite your home" (Exodus 12:23).

What, exactly, is this "destroyer" that the text is referring to? Tamares explains that God took vengeance on behalf of the Israelites, without

their active participation, "in order not to give permission to the destroyer within them, for once having permission there will be no distinguishing between righteous and wicked, and from 'defender' one becomes in the end 'aggressor' ... Your abstention from any participation in the vengeance upon Egypt will prevent the plague of vengeance from stirring the power of the destroyer which is in you yourselves."

Tamares goes on to say, "Now obviously the Blessed Holy One could have given the Israelites the power to avenge themselves upon the Egyptians, but God did not want to sanction the use of their fists for self-defense even at that time; for, while at that moment they might merely have defended themselves against evildoers, by such means the way of the fist spreads through the world, and in the end the defenders become the aggressors. Therefore the Blessed Holy One took great pains to remove Israel completely from any participation in the vengeance upon the evildoers, to such an extent that they were not permitted even to see the events."

These words feel profoundly prophetic as I watch Israel's need for self-defense turn into devastating aggression, and as the "way of the fist" obscures a path forward that will lead to true security and wellbeing for both Israelis and Palestinians. It is rather easy to feel helpless and despairing watching these events from afar. But I believe we here in the American Jewish community have a role to play not only in trying to affect U.S. policy, but by supporting the incredible people on the ground who share Tamares' understanding of the power of the "destroyer" within, and the need to create alternatives to violence and destruction.

There are three groups whom we at CDT have been connected to for many years that bring Israelis and Palestinians together in transformative ways. **Combatants for Peace** (<https://cfpeace.org/>) is an Israeli-Palestinian anti-occupation organization founded by former fighters committed to nonviolence, acting together to create a new narrative in both of their communities. **Parents Circle Family Forum** (www.theparentscircle.org) is a group of bereaved Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones to the violence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They have put out a call to "remember that the only way forward is through peaceful dialogue, diplomacy, and a commitment to finding common ground. It is a call to action for leaders, communities, and individuals alike to seek solutions that prioritize reconciliation, justice, and lasting peace." On the West Bank, **Roots/Shorashim/Judur** (www.friendsofroots.net) brings together Jews who live in settlements and local Palestinians for the transformative work of "envisioning a social and political reality that is founded on dignity, trust, and a mutual recognition and respect for both peoples' historic belonging to the entire Land."

Inside Israel, a number of Jewish-Arab organizations are working to support survivors of the October 7 attack and maintain solidarity in the face of rightwing incitement against Israel's Palestinian minority, even as they seek to build a truly shared society. These include the grassroots movement **Standing Together** (www.standing-together.org/en), **Givat Haviva: The Center for Shared Society** (www.givathaviva.org), and **The Abraham Initiatives** (<https://abrahaminitiatives.org>). In addition, there are the wonderful Hand In Hand schools, which Earnest shares about on page 7. We have an opportunity to meet three leaders of these and related organizations on January 3 (see page 6 for details).

These are only some of the many groups and individuals dedicated, even in the most difficult time, to rejecting the "way of the fist" and promoting a new vision. They cannot afford to despair, and neither should we. May they be an inspiration to us, and may we rededicate ourselves in 2024 to a vision of peaceful thriving for Israelis and Palestinians, for all who dwell in the promised land.

From the Office

JANUARY 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.*

Earnest Arky Solomon is on parental leave until Tuesday, January 16.

TAX LETTER NOTICE

Tax letters are being prepared by the CDT office for contributions made in the 2023 calendar year. Letters will be emailed out no later than January 20, with a PDF attached, to the email address listed in ShulCloud. If you have not received emails from us lately, please check your spam folder and mark CDT email as "safe." You can also log into your ShulCloud account and verify your email address. Anyone needing a paper copy can print the PDF attached to the email, or contact the office for a physical letter to be mailed to you.

CDT is grateful to everyone who makes a donation to the congregation. When making a donation from a donor advised fund, please ensure your name is included with the donation, either on the check or in the letter. If you believe you are missing a donation in your account, please contact Margaret in the CDT office. For donations to be included in your 2023 tax statement, please contact the office by January 10.

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
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, January 5 and February 2
6:00 pm Candle-lighting & Dinner
6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
CDT (60 Highland St)

We come together at 6 pm for candle-lighting and Shabbat blessings, followed by a vegetarian dinner, and a fun, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service appropriate for adults and kids of all ages 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!

The dinner will be **catered in January** (apologies for incorrect information in the December newsletter) and **potluck in February** (please bring a salad or main dish to share; drinks and dessert will be provided).

TU B'SHVAT DINNER & SHABBAT SHIRA MUSICAL SERVICE WITH CDT SINGS AND SPECIAL GUEST YONI BATTAT

Friday, January 26, 6:30-9:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

Join us for a catered, Tu B'Shvat-themed Shabbat dinner, celebrating the "new year of the trees" and the seven species of the land of Israel, beginning with candle-lighting at 6:30 pm. Then at 7:30 pm in honor of Shabbat Shira (the Shabbat of Song), we'll gather for a special, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, featuring beautiful music from CDT Sings and special guest Yoni Battat! The dinner and program will be adult-oriented, but all are welcome.



Yoni is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer, celebrating his Ashkenazi and Mizrahi ancestry through music. Over the past 15 years, Yoni has been immersing himself in *maqam*, the musical mode system of Arab music. As part of our service, he will perform original and traditional pieces related to Tu B'Shvat and Shabbat Shira, teaching about this rich culture and speaking about his personal experience of finding healing within his fragmented identity. Come ready to sing, to listen, and to dance!

Please register for the dinner by Wednesday, January 24 to help us better estimate how much food to order — please go to the calendar page of the service for the registration link.



Yoni Avi Battat (he/him) maintains an active performance schedule across the country and internationally, playing violin, viola, and oud (middle-eastern lute) in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects spanning a wide range of styles. In 2015, Yoni founded his own Yiddish-Jazz band called *Two Shekel Swing*, which has since released their debut album "Pocket Change." These efforts gave way to his 2022 debut album "Fragments," which explores his Iraqi-Jewish identity by pairing *maqam* music with lyrics in Arabic, Hebrew, English, and Yiddish. Yoni now lives in Boston, MA, working locally and nationally towards his mission of bringing Arab music into the soundscape of American Jewish life. www.yonibattat.com

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Shabbat Shemot

Saturday, January 6, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

We kick off the new year with a new book of the Torah, *Shemot/Exodus*! 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 Marty Bresnick on the occasion of his 23rd yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Shabbat

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

We will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Got Shabbat"-style, with a morning filled with activities for all ages! All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom for morning songs and blessings, beginning at 10 am. Then, in addition to services and a special poetry exploration in the sanctuary (and on Zoom), you can choose from these alternative (in person) activities:

- A special celebration with Morah Devora Rohr for kids aged 0-7 and their grown-ups
- Art and more with Rabbi Emily Mathis for kids aged 8 and up
- Liberatory Yoga for older kids and adults
- "More Than a Dream" — an opportunity to engage with other words of Dr. King through meditation and the arts

We'll gather back together for a creative Torah reading with Laurie Goldman and Cindy Rivka Marshall, closing blessings, and Kiddush lunch.

Shabbat and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

Shabbat Bo Contemplative Service

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Akiva Nelson and members of CDT's Mindful Mornings group for a morning of chant, song, and guided & silent meditation beginning at 10 am, and Torah study beginning at 11 am. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Shira

Saturday, January 27, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

This "Shabbat of Song" gets its name from this morning's Torah portion, when the Israelites cross to freedom and sing the Song of the Sea. All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for Shabbat morning services, Torah reading, and discussion. We will be remembering Mara Gibbs on the occasion of her 7th yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch will follow services.

Refugee Shabbat with Special Guests

Saturday, February 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

HIAS' Sixth Annual Refugee Shabbat is an invitation for congregations, organizations, and individuals to express their solidarity with the global Jewish movement for refugee

protection and welcome. At this special service, we will be lifting up the recent work of CDT's Immigration Support project, helping to welcome recent refugees from Haiti. We will hear from **Dr. Geralde Gabeau** (pictured below), the Founder and Executive Director of the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA). Dr. Gabeau is a steadfast advocate for immigrants' rights with an unwavering commitment to social justice. We are also honored to be joined by **Rev. Ray Hammond** and **Rev. Gloria White-Hammond**, the pastors of Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain. We are partnering with Bethel AME to support eight recently arrived Haitian families whom they are hosting.

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.

CDT SHEPHERDING GROUP

Marion Ross

What brings you a sense of spiritual aliveness? Is it joining your voice with others in song? Is it standing in awe outdoors at sunrise? Is it a moment of discovery while learning with others? Or dancing? Or prayer?

Rabbi Toba posed this question to CDT members who met last summer for a conversation about the spiritual life of our community. With energy and purpose the group explored experiences that enliven us, that create a sense of transcendence and a greater intimacy with the divine. Charged with the task of generating activities that would nourish the spirit of the CDT community, members brought forward programs embracing nature, movement, music, creativity, art, poetry, and meditation. Some were new programs and some highlighted or expanded the enlivening aspects of existing programs.

"Forest Bathing" drew new members and old to experience a glorious autumn day in the Arnold Arboretum where Andrew Sofer and Lisa Hirsh guided an experience of nature, creativity and community. Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson has led musical adult-oriented Friday night services, and Matthew Valleau along with Janet Penn have invited others to join them in singing together at Shabbat Kiddush lunch.

A Shepherding Group has been formed to guide the process of creating programs, activities, and events that will enrich the spiritual life of our community. If you are interested in contributing your reflections on this endeavor or if you have some ideas about activities that will open our hearts and enliven our spirits, please contact Akiva Nelson (a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org) or Marion Ross (marikal50@hotmail.com).



CDT Groups and Events

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, January 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 and Dianne Lior at avelut@dorsheitzedek.org.

A community-made brochure on mourning is available at dorsheitzedek.org/mourning.

CDT FILM CLUB

Discussion of *Brownsville Black and White*
Saturday, January 13, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of *Brownsville Black and White*! 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.

Brownsville Black and White (2002, 1 hr 24 min, Kanopy): This film examines some of the most troubling and perplexing issues facing America and its cities and raises a multitude of discussable questions. This is a stirring, unsentimental examination of group cooperation, social conflict, urban

change and more than 60 years of Black/Jewish relations in the working-class Brooklyn community of Brownsville.

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

Monday, January 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. Please contact Dan Rome at dan.rome.md@gmail.com for more information.

Learning

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, January 6 and February 10, 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!

MEDIEVAL JEWISH & ARABIC POETRY WITH DR. JONATHAN DECTER

Note: This program was rescheduled from December

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00-8:30 pm
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.*



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

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Tuesdays, January 16, January 30, February 6, and Thursday, February 15, 7:00-8:30 pm [please note the one Thursday class]
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. While this class was planned well before October 7, the current debates about Israel roiling the American Jewish community make this conversation more important than ever.

In order to create a brave space where participants can share openly and honestly, we ask that you commit to coming to all of the classes if possible (it is fine to miss one).

LEYN LIKE A LEGEND

With Chayim Herzig-Marx

Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, and 28 (optional 7th class), 7:00-8:30 pm
CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

Do you love hearing Torah chanted at Shabbat services? Do you wish you could enhance the beauty of Shabbat services by leyning? CDT founder and leyning master Chayim Herzig-

Learning (cont.)

Marx is offering a beginners Torah trope class. The only requirement is that you are a relatively strong reader/decoder of Hebrew (comprehension not required). In this class you will learn the trope marks, their sounds, and other essential leyning skills.

Please register on the CDT calendar or by emailing Akiva Nelson by January 10; please also reach out to Akiva with any questions (a.nelson@dorsheitzedek.org).

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

With Erica Streit-Kaplan

Sundays, January 21, February 11, March 10, and April 28, 10:15-11:45 am

*Cabot Elementary School (229 Cabot St, Newton)
Fee: \$100 (financial assistance is available)*

In this 4-week class, we will empower participants with parenting strategies and texts derived from Jewish and secular sources on the following topics: Shalom Bayit (cultivating a peaceful home environment), Shmirat Lashon (teaching children compassionate communication), Chesed (fostering an ethic of kindness and caring), and Lech Lecha (how to help your children build resilience). The topics have been selected to be relevant and helpful for parents of both young children and tweens.

Please register with the link on the CDT calendar by January 14. Childcare for young

children is available upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rabbinic Intern Akiva.

LUNCHTIME ZOOM STUDY WITH AKIVA NELSON

*Mondays, January 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 4 and 11, 1:15-2:15 pm
Zoom*

Join Akiva for an exploration of Jewish liturgy and other texts from our tradition that inform how and why we pray. For those who enjoyed last year's Learner's Minyan and those who want to engage more deeply in studying Jewish prayer, liturgy, and spiritual practice, this class is for you!

Reconstructing Judaism Movement

HOLDING ON TO HOPE

Three Israeli-Palestinian Organizations Working on Shared Society/Coexistence as the Only Path Forward

Sponsored by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Reconstructing Judaism

Wednesday, January 3, 12:00-1:00 pm

Zoom (register on the CDT calendar page)



At this moment, when so much feels lost and possibilities for peace and coexistence seem further away than ever, connecting with Israelis and Palestinians on the ground

is essential. In this webinar, we will meet representatives from three shared-society organizations continuing to work across communities to lay a foundation for peace:

- **Mohamad Kundos**, Principal of the Hand in Hand School, Kfar Saba
- **May Pundik**, Israeli CEO of A Land for All
- **Alon-Lee Green**, National co-director of Standing Together

Youth and Family Programming

CDT YOUTH JOIN MOSAIC INTERFAITH YOUTH ACTION FOR MLK SERVICE LEARNING DAY

Monday, January 15, 2:00-5:00 pm

Jamaica Plain (address provided upon registration); registration for the event can be found on the CDT calendar

Youth ages 12-18 years are invited to join in a free workshop focusing on Housing Justice!



MOSAIC
INTERFAITH YOUTH ACTION

Youth will hear from leaders in the field, learn about lobbying, and participate in hands-on service learning benefiting a local nonprofit focused on providing necessities to individuals experiencing homelessness.



Youth and Family Programming (cont.)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Earnest Arky Solomon

In our final weeks of the fall semester, we have taken time at Religious School to learn about the Hand in Hand Schools in Israel: multicultural schools for both Jews and Palestinians who live in Israel and East Jerusalem. The students learned that most kids in Israel go to either Arab or Jewish schools, learn in separate languages, and live in separate towns. What makes Hand in Hand schools special is that students learn in both languages in integrated classrooms with Jewish and Arab teachers.

We watched a video of students giving a tour of their school and sharing about what makes it special. We learned from Cindy Shulak-Rome, Hand in Hand board member, that every family returned to school after October 7th. In the midst of so much grief and difficulty, the Hand in Hand community members are choosing each other and their vision for a shared society. We celebrate this model of connection across differences. Cindy let us know that the school has a need for raising tuition scholarships for families who have lost work due to the war. Our students made crafts that amplify the values of Hand in Hand to sell at Religious School on January 7th. All are welcome to come on by Cabot Elementary at



Hand in Hand school values

11:50 am to purchase a craft, or you can make a donation on venmo @DorsheiTzedek labeled Hand-in-Hand if you would like to contribute! You can learn more about Hand in Hand at www.handinhandk12.org.

In our older grades, we discussed the challenges Hand in Hand schools face at this moment. Students who wanted to share their thoughts, feelings, and questions about the war had an optional space to do that. Our students showed great compassion and respect as they shared their questions and hopes.

We also had the wonderful opportunity of welcoming Sahar, a Muslim parent in Newton, who with a Jewish neighbor has created interfaith welcoming yard signs. Sahar shared her hopes that neighbors talk with one another, break bread together, and join together around values of respect and compassion. Sahar invited the kids to think of what they would put on a sign to make someone of a different faith have a better day.

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. We offer each other gestures of practical comfort, kindness, and caring to acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times.

Find out about the work of the Chesed committee, resources and inspirational articles on the 'Chesed: Caring Community' page

at www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community. One of our favorite articles is "How Not to Say the Wrong Thing." It presents the 'Ring Theory' of kvetching. "The first rule is comfort in, dump out."

When you have a need for Chesed, please contact the Chesed Coordinators at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org, and get announcements of Chesed volunteer opportunities at <https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup>.



Community

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members Michal Rubin & Alon Rotem and their children Geffen and Stav, and to Sandy & Tony Bartone and their children Maddie, Vito, and Beverly!

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Matthew Valleau & Michael Gnozzio on the birth of Zachary Michael!

Mazel tov to Eytan Shore and his family on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Caroline Fine & Jerry Friedman on the marriage of CDT "graduate" Nina Friedman to Ryan Lammie!

Mazel tov to Jenny & Jay Leopold on the marriage of their daughter Rachel Leopold Bliss to Willy Bliss!

Mazel tov to Sophie Siegel-Bernstein, child of Jodie Siegel and Susan Bernstein, on joining the Avodah Service Corps in August after earning her BSBA in Marketing at American University!

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush, ushered, Zoom-Greeted, and made our Chanukah Party/Latke Extravaganza possible in December:

Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Rebecca Pomerantz, Michele Arons & Michael Brann, Sheryl Koenigsberg, Angela Vierling-Claassen, Robin Bernstein, Matt Fried (in memory of Arthur & Judy Fried), Michael Jablon, Susan LaDue, Eileen Morrison, Lisa Schneier, Emily Cowan, Joel Auslander & Phoebe Cushman, Becca & Aisling Ó Murchadha, Lauren & Andrew Stefano, Rachel Adler-Golden, Lynne Brandon, Suzi Dargon-Hart, Diana Fisher Gomberg & Richard Gomberg, Emily Shumsky, Ellie & Judah Axe, Rebecca & Shawn Bact, Rebecca Ellis, David & Elana Cutler, Bruce Miller & Laya Steinberg, Lindsey Silver, Jonathan Weisberg, Joann Breuer, Mark Farber & Sherry Katz, Cheryl & Jeff Sacks, Annette Jacobs, Amy Dain, Zelda Gamson, Barry Ingber, Trish Nuzzola, Liz Reisberg, and Rob Greenly.

Yasher koach to the CDT band, under the leadership of Ayla Kobi, for adding their music to the Chanukah celebration: Lia Kobi, Maya McCarthy, Helena Gates, Neo Goldbarg, Sam Aghassi-Springer, and Sammy Auslander.

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

YAHRZEIT

This month, we remember CDT member Marty Bresnick, whose 23rd yahrzeit falls on January 9. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 6. May his memory be for a blessing.

We also remember CDT member Mara Gibbs, whose 7th yahrzeit falls on January 21. We will be remembering Mara at Shabbat morning services on January 27. May her memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Stuart Snyder on the death of his father, Jason Snyder, father-in-law of Abby Cohen and grandfather of Isabel and Celia Snyder. May his memory be for a blessing.

Tikkun Olam

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT UPDATE

Pam Katz

December 21, 2023 marked the 2-year anniversary of the arrival of the Kohistani family in Massachusetts; they are the Afghan family that CDT has been supporting in the resettlement process. There is much to celebrate — most importantly that their application for asylum in the United States was granted! Kudos to Steve Katz and the entire Fish and Richardson team for their tireless and generous efforts representing the family on a pro bono basis. Since asylum was never assured, Steve and his team pursued every immigration avenue in a dizzying avalanche of paperwork. This work ensured that the family always maintained their documented status, allowing Mohammad Wasim to keep his job and everyone to remain eligible for critical public benefits. These 2 years have been such

a success — everyone is healthy, Mohammad Wasim is thriving at work, both kids are enrolled in excellent education programs, Khalidah is excelling at school and expecting a new baby very soon. It has been such a pleasure to get to know the family and watch their hard work and effort pay off for them. It has truly taken a village — or a congregation — to make it all happen; more than 30 CDT congregants have generously supported the family on an ongoing basis and countless others have provided financial and in-kind donations!

Our work is not done! CDT continues to honor the Jewish value of welcoming the stranger with our current efforts to help support the many migrants who have recently arrived in Massachusetts, working with the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI). So far, CDTers have donated nearly 800 items including: 133 coats, 117 sweaters, 52 pairs of pants and many other items for cold weather such as hats,

gloves, scarves, pajamas, socks, boots, etc. Thank you especially to the Religious School families. We have had a request from IFSI for baby clothes if anyone has any gently used items. We plan to deliver the first pallet of diapers to IFSI very soon. Finally, seven families have settled with the Bethel AME Church and we are providing support to their resettlement effort. Please visit the Immigrant Support web page to find out how you can get involved in this work, and join us on February 3 for Refugee Shabbat as we honor our volunteers and meet some of the leaders of these efforts!

GBIO UPDATE

In-District meetings continue in January as GBIO moves forward with its affordable housing campaign! To find out if there is an IDM happening for your state reps, go to www.dorsheitzedek.org/gbio and see the relevant links there.

Chanukah 5784



January 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.

JANUARY 5 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Kiddush Team: Shael Brachman, James Kaplan, Zoe Stark, Susie Tanchel, Matthew Valleau, Denise Yurkofsky

JANUARY 6 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Ellie Goldberg

Kiddush Team: Naomi Lev, Emily Sper, Rebecca Gutman, Jeff Green, Beth Green, Linda Katz

Zoom Greeter: Trish Nuzzola

JANUARY 13 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Annette Jacobs

Kiddush Team: Pamela Blau, Liz Reisberg, Stephen Zisk, Andrew Sofer, Bonnie Tenneriello

Zoom Greeter: Pauline Coderre

JANUARY 20 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Mark Schafer

Kiddush Team: Janet Rickles, Noah Rumpf, JoAnn Feldstein, Michael Feldstein, Lisa Hirsh

Zoom Greeter: Rebecca Matloff

JANUARY 27 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Elaine Landes

Kiddush Team: Lisa Keshet, Dianne Lior, Sue Lanser, Lauren Gibbs, Jo Radner, Corinne Lofchie

Zoom Greeter: Rob Greenly

**Kiddush duty dates have been
assigned for January through June!**

Please check your email for your date!

Nediv Lev

Camp Havaya: CDT is once again raising money for the Camp Havaya Scholarship fund. In 2023, everyone who applied was able to receive a scholarship. This ensured that 5 children from 4 different families were able to attend Camp Havaya because of the generosity of CDT members. We are grateful to you for making this happen. Please feel free to make a contribution through the CDT donate page and choose "Camp Havaya" if you would like to continue to support this wonderful cause.

CDT is grateful to everyone who contributes to Nediv Lev, the annual CDT giving campaign. We will begin the 5784 campaign in March. Contributions to Nediv Lev help close the financial gap between dues raised and operating expenses and allow us to enrich programming for the community. A few examples, funded by your generosity: the Madrichimot program which pays teens for working in the religious school, providing catered food at programs, and building the Sukkah in a public place. Every contribution, no matter the size, enriches CDT.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

GENERAL DONATIONS & NEDIV LEV

Caroline Chauncey & Richard Thal — *In memory of Henry Chauncey*

Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman — *With thanks to the wonderful CDT members who provided friendship and support through our recent losses*

The Karp Family

Rob & Ricky Greenly

Sheryl Koenigsberg & Webster Pilcher

Joel Reider — *In memory of my dad, Raphael Reider*

Judy Pollack

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT FUND

Paul Hattis & Elizabeth Samelson

Stacey Chacker & David Schatz — *In honor of Our CDT leaders in immigrant support*

Susan Dargon-Hart

Tony Broh & Jennifer Hochchild

Judith & Tim Havens

Deborah Waber

Steven & Pamela Katz

Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola — *In honor of DB Reiff & Lisa Hirsh*

Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

Judy Hersh

Dianne Lior

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper — *With thanks to Steffi & Eric Karp*

Janet Bogulsaw & Howie Kaufman, Alex Kaufman, and Daniel Kaufman — *In memory of Wanda Boguslaw and Rachel Lavin, and with gratitude to Rabbi Toba for all her support*

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper — *In memory of Isaac Paris, Dorothy Paris, and Steven Paris*

Stuart Snyder — *With thanks to Rabbi Toba for leading the shivah in honor of my father*

Margaret Montgomery — *With thanks to Leslie & David Quinn, in honor of Leila Quinn's affirmation*

January 2024 • Tevet/Shevat 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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> 12:00pm Holding on to Hope: Working on a Shared Society	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
7 <i>Tevet 26</i> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 5:30pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	8 <i>Tevet 27</i>	9 <i>Tevet 28</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Avelut	10 <i>Tevet 29</i> 7:00pm Medieval Jewish & Arabic Poetry with Jonathan Decter	11 <i>Shevat 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Shevat 8:30am Mindful Mornings	12 <i>Shevat 2</i>	13 <i>Shevat 3</i> Vayera 10:00am Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday "Got Shabbat" 1:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: <i>Brownsville Black and White</i>
14 <i>Shevat 4</i>	15 <i>Shevat 5</i> 2:00pm CDT Youth/Mosaic Interfaith Youth Action: MLK Service Learning Day 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	16 <i>Shevat 6</i> Chanukah 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School: Rosh Chodesh 7:00pm Zionism and Beyond: Ideals, Debates, and Counter-narratives	17 <i>Shevat 7</i> 7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	18 <i>Shevat 8</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	19 <i>Shevat 9</i>	20 <i>Shevat 10</i> Bo 10:00am Contemplative Shabbat Morning Services
21 <i>Shevat 11</i> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:15am Parenting Through a Jewish Lens 5:30pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	22 <i>Shevat 12</i>	23 <i>Shevat 13</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:00pm GBIO Delegates Assembly	24 <i>Shevat 14</i> 7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	25 <i>Shevat 5</i> Tu B'Shvat 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	26 <i>Shevat 16</i> 6:30pm Tu B'Shvat Dinner & Shabbat Shira Service with CDT Sings and Yoni Battat!	27 <i>Shevat 17</i> B'shalach 10:00am Shabbat Shira Morning Services
28 <i>Shevat 18</i> 9:30am Sunday Religious School	29 <i>Shevat 19</i> 1:15pm Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	30 <i>Shevat 20</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:00pm Zionism and Beyond: Ideals, Debates, and Counter-narratives	31 <i>Shevat 21</i> 7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	1 <i>Shevat 22</i> 8:30am Mindful Mornings	2 <i>Shevat 23</i> 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	3 <i>Shevat 24</i> Yitro 9:30am Shorashim Shabbat & Shabbat Childcare 10:00am Refugee Shabbat Morning Services with Special Guests!



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Address correction requested



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

