



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Shevat/Adar I 5784

February 2024



## PROVIDING SANCTUARY

Pam Katz, VP of Tikkun Olam



This month we are celebrating Refugee Shabbat, organized by HIAS, the world's oldest refugee agency. Originally incorporated as the Hebrew Aid Society in 1903, HIAS was the successor to many other efforts to support Jews fleeing pogroms in the 1880s and 1890s in Russia and Eastern Europe. HIAS Refugee Shabbat falls during the reading of the book of Exodus, a tale of authoritarian governance, religious oppression and enslavement, of packing only

the most important items to quickly flee for your lives, of crossing a dangerous sea, and enduring hardship, of creating new lives and identities, of praying for grace and sustenance — all in the hope that you, your children, and your children's children have a chance not just for a better future, but any future.

This heritage is both uniquely Jewish and increasingly universal. Our recent history suggests this harrowing journey is the path for so many — from Syria to Ukraine, from Afghanistan to Ecuador, from Venezuela

to Haiti. War and climate change, oppression and intolerance, violence and poverty — far too many have no choice but to wander in search of a place of safety and hope. Unfortunately, in the modern exodus tale, arriving at the new place can be only the beginning hardship, not the redemptive moment of entering the promised land. In the US, refugees need to find a job and a house, learn English, and navigate the immigration system — "Were you really fleeing for your life from one of our approved categories of persecution?" They do not find a land of milk and honey, but too often outright hostility and prejudice.

Meanwhile, the Torah is clear about the Jewish obligation toward the stranger. Repeatedly, Jews are instructed not to harass the immigrant because we know too well their pain. That pain has been integral to the Jewish story from the beginning: Abraham was commanded to become an immigrant (Genesis 12:1). We are commanded to love the foreigner in our midst (Deuteronomy 10:16) and to resist oppressing or perverting justice for them in any way. Ultimately, Judaism teaches that all human beings are created *b'tzelem Elohim* — in the image of God — and that acknowledging the dignity of each human being honors God's presence in the world.

CDT has long recognized the centrality of this obligation, and congregants have joined together to protect the stranger. Starting in

2017, for more than two and a half years, over 80 CDT members volunteered with the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Committee (NSSC) housing a Guatemalan mother and her two children at the Parish of St. Paul to prevent their deportation. When the family finally departed from Sanctuary, the mother wrote movingly of the difference CDT congregants and other members of the NSSC made to her life: "Your presence allowed me to sleep with peace and tranquility because I knew I was not alone. You are part of our lives and we are part of yours. I feel you love me, and I love you, I will never forget you." In addition to the Sanctuary work, CDT congregants participated in interfaith prayer walks to show solidarity with those mistreated by an inhumane immigration system. CDT members also volunteered with Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network, answering a hotline for those incarcerated, raising money for bond, providing accompaniment to court or to a medical appointment, housing our immigrant neighbors coming out of detention, and helping in many other ways.

In 2021, a small group of CDT congregants saw the chaos in Afghanistan and stepped forward to help resettle a family fleeing an authoritarian government, crossing an ocean, and landing in a new place. CDT congregants generously donated \$50,000, and more than 30 congregants worked to help them settle in Cambridge. Many more donated items the family needed to make a home here. More recently, CDT has worked to create a warmer welcome for the many migrants from Haiti seeking shelter in Massachusetts by partnering with the Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) to provide warm winter clothing, diapers, and sanitary products and supporting Bethel AME Church's efforts to resettle eight families. Finally, our newest effort, the Trans Relocation Support Project, is welcoming people fleeing policies in other states that ban access to necessary healthcare and safe participation in public life so that they are met by a friendly face and a helping hand.

All of this work has not only affected the lives of the people we have helped and welcomed, but it has shaped who we are as a Dorshei community. When people work together to repair what is broken in the world, it creates new friendships and powerful connections. This work allows us to learn together and to lean on each other, to celebrate our successes and to commiserate when change does not come fast enough. And ultimately, the work becomes a part of the history of our congregation — lifting up and shining a light on our values. *See page 4 for more information about Refugee Shabbat and page 9 to learn about our current immigration-related activities*

## From the Office

### FEBRUARY 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.*

Margaret will be away from February 6-9. Alistaire will be out of the office on February 19. Rabbi Toba will be out of town from February 19-26; during this time, please be in touch with Margaret or the Chesed coordinators ([chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org)) for support or to get in touch with an "on call" rabbi, and be in touch with the shivah coordinators ([shivah@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:shivah@dorsheitzedek.org)) to make any arrangements for shivah observances.

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. Please let us know if you'd like to join the team! We thank our volunteers for this month: Sue Lanser (copyeditor)

## 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

[e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org)

Administrative Assistant: Alistaire Webbe

[a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org)

Inclusion Director: 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

VP Finance/Treasurer: 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 Ó Murchadha

Chesed: Gail Pressberg

Nediv Lev: Ezra Hausman

Ritual: Peter Katz

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Executive Director of Operations Liaison:

Linette Liebling

Education Director Liaison: Lissy Medvedow

Space: Steve Siegel



# From the Board

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

At the November Members Meeting, the newly-created Strategic Planning Committee introduced the process they will follow for about a year to help CDT think about current and future opportunities, issues, and needs. The members of the Committee are: John Carroll (Chair), Stacie Garnett, Sheryl Koenigsberg, Linette Liebling, and Richard Thal.

The Strategic Planning Committee was created by the CDT Board to develop a plan to prepare CDT for the next decade and engage congregation members in having their voices heard. There is no current issue or crisis, but it has been over 15 years since the last strategic planning process — much has changed within the congregation and in the world around us. During the Members Meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee provided a brief history of CDT, including our growth in membership and staff, and the spaces we have used. The Committee then facilitated a breakout session with groups of 6-8 members both in person at the meeting and over Zoom, each of which discussed three questions: What brought you to CDT? What keeps you here? And What are your hopes for CDT in the future? Each breakout group had a note-taker who shared their notes with the Committee.

The Committee appreciates the enthusiastic participation of about 150 members during these conversations, and thanks the note-takers for their diligent assistance. We have received many comments indicating that

members liked hearing some of the history of CDT and appreciated the opportunity to express their thoughts about CDT.

As a brief summary of the many interesting comments from the Members Meeting, we offer the following observations:

1. Many of our members see CDT as inclusive, welcoming, and supportive. They find a good fit with their values, often mentioning Tikkun Olam and progressive social activities. They find friends and community at CDT. They value Rabbi Toba, the Reconstructionist connection, and the spiritual and musical qualities of services. They also value the many activities and opportunities for learning. The opportunities to further their kids' education and values are also important.

2. Members hope that CDT will keep the many things they like, but also grow carefully and seek improvement in some areas. We have a very diverse congregation and need to make everyone feel welcome, but also seek more cohesion across many dimensions of difference, including age, school participation, income, race, and spiritual preferences. Importantly, attracting more young adults and young families, creating both activities for groups with different needs and activities that bring different kinds of people together, and developing the next generation of leaders were mentioned as key challenges.

3. There is little apparent consensus about our possibilities for changing the spaces that CDT uses for services, school, and other activities. The Committee noted that members live in a range of locations, some very inconvenient to

CDT (distance or lack of public transportation) or accessible only on Zoom. Whereas some members would like CDT to own a building or to have fewer spaces, others like the current spaces and wonder if investing in a building would highlight economic differences among members.

This was an early step in the strategic planning process. More data collection and discussion will take place over the next several months. Anyone who was not at the Members Meeting, or anyone else for that matter, should feel free to contact the committee at [strategicplanning@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:strategicplanning@dorsheitzedek.org). The Committee looks forward to continuing these conversations and helping CDT think about our history, our identity and traditions, and our future.

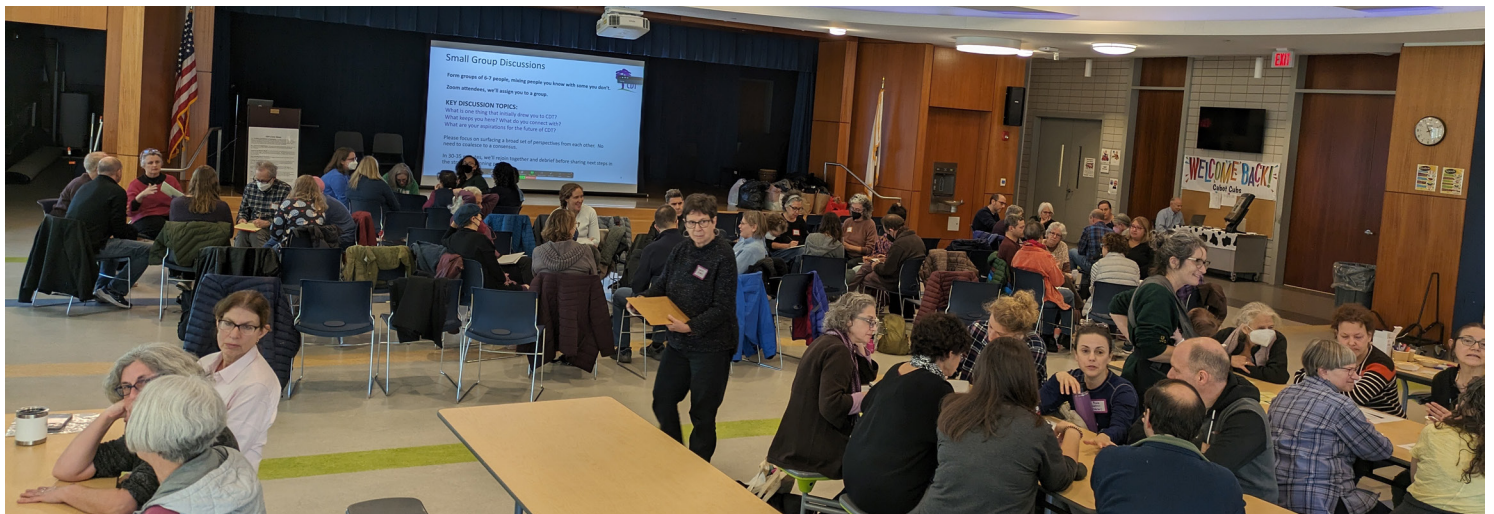
## CDT MEMBERS MEETING

*Sunday, March 17, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Zoom and CDT Religious School at Cabot Elementary (229 Cabot St, Newton)*

Each CDT household is encouraged to send at least one representative to our second Members Meeting of 5784. Come learn, discuss, schmooze, meet new friends and reconnect to old ones!

## 5785 BOARD NOMINATIONS

CDT Board nominations for 5785 are open! The link to the form can be found on the Members page of the CDT website; please note that **you must be logged in** to access this page.



# Shabbat and Spiritual Practice

**HEALTH 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 is a mask-only section reserved in the CDT sanctuary. We ask that anyone exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness 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](http://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, February 2 and March 1

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 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 **potluck in February** (please bring a vegetarian salad or main dish to share; drinks and dessert will be provided) and **catered in March**.

## FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES, DINNER, AND SONG

Friday, February 23, 6:30-9:00 pm

Fisher Gomberg Home (Auburndale, MA)

All are welcome to join Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson for a home-based, Friday night gathering at the Fisher Gomberg home. Festivities will include a potluck vegetarian dinner (no fish or meat please) followed by a Shabbat evening service, and dessert. The evening will be adult-oriented, but all are welcome. Reach out to Akiva with any questions. Please register in advance and sign up for food to bring to the potluck on the CDT calendar.

### Save-the-Date: Shabbat Home Dinners on March 8 and 9

Save the date for Shabbat Home Dinners on March 8 and 9! CDT members will be hosting each other in their homes for gatherings filled with connection and yummy food. **We're looking for hosts for the event.** Dinners can have a theme or shared interest (like Wise Aging, Singing & Music, Kid-friendly Games) or not. If you're interested,

let Akiva, Melanie Adler ([madler@edc.org](mailto:madler@edc.org)), and Rebecca Byard ([rebeccacceber@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccacceber@yahoo.com)) know by February 11. Sign-ups will be live by February 18.

## SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

### Refugee Shabbat with Special Guests & Shorashim Shabbat

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**, 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, as well as Bethel leaders **Carl Racine** and **Ashley Lanfer**. We are partnering with Bethel AME to support eight recently arrived Haitian families whom they are hosting. At 9:30 am, families with young children are also invited to **join Morah Devora Rohr and friends for Shorashim Shabbat**, followed by childcare at 10:30!

### Shabbat Mishpatim & Rosh Chodesh Adar

Saturday, February 10, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom as we celebrate Shabbat

and welcome the new month of Adar with the singing of Hallel! We will also be remembering CDT member Francis Greenberg on the occasion of his 19th yahrzeit. Kiddush lunch follows services.

### Shabbat Terumah

Saturday, February 17, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

At this Shabbat morning service, as we read about the instructions to the Israelites to bring their materials and their skills to build the *Mishkan*, the sanctuary in the desert, we will be celebrating the adult bat mitzvah of CDT member Phyllis Kantor, who will share about her many decades of creating Jewish ritual fabric art. Kiddush lunch follows services.



Woven fabric art by Phyllis Kantor — see page 8 for more about Phyllis' work

### Shabbat Tetzaveh

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Akiva Nelson and CDT member-leaders for Shabbat morning song, prayer, and Torah discussion! Kiddush lunch will follow services.



# Shabbat and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

## **SPECIAL PROGRAM: Contemplative Shabbat Mini-Retreat**

*Saturday, March 2, 10:00 am-1:30 pm  
CDT (60 Highland St) and Zoom*

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba, Akiva Nelson, and members of Mindful Mornings for all or part of this contemplative Shabbat half-day of music, silence, mindful eating, and more. We will be exploring, through meditation and song, some of the nature metaphors for the Divine from Rabbi Toba's book, *God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine*, including Rock and Water. No meditation experience necessary!

Schedule (both in-person and Zoom):

10:00-11:10 am — Contemplative service, including chant and silent & guided meditation

11:10 am-12:00 pm — Torah study and concluding blessings

In-person only:

12:00-12:30 pm — Mindful Kiddush lunch

12:30-1:00 pm — Walking meditation (with instruction)

1:00-1:30 pm — Closing sit

## **D'var Torah on Tahara & Hevra Kadisha**

*Saturday morning, March 16*

What's the one mitzvah that can't be repaid? Participating in a tahara, the Jewish ritual for preparing our dead for burial. Far from being a morbid experience, people who assist with tahorot experience it as an honor and a blessing. It is a uniquely powerful and lovely experience to join in community to take care of someone who can't pay you back, to express the ultimate kindness – kavod hamet (honoring the dead) – through Jewish ritual.

Interested in knowing more about this ancient ritual that lives on in the Boston area with the support of CDT and the participation of several of its members? Come to Shabbat morning services on March 16 when Elaine Landes

and Mark Schafer will give the D'var Torah on what it's like to do a tahara. They will also talk about the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston (CHKGB), a group of volunteers who are on call to prepare a deceased person for burial according to time-honored Jewish traditions, which CDT has been a synagogue sponsor of since its founding ten years ago. After services, there will be a dedicated table at Kiddush where you can continue the conversation with Elaine, Mark, and CHKGB Executive Director (and former CDT Director of Congregational Learning!) Rabbi Shahar Colt.

## **MINDFUL MORNINGS**

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

All are welcome to join us for guided and silent meditation, twice a week or whenever you can! Contact Karen Arnold and Carole Slipowitz at [mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org).

# CDT Groups and Events

## **DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL**

### **TZEDEKMEN RECRUITMENT**

Interested in playing softball for the CDT Men's Softball Team? Registration for the 2024 season is now open to CDT men over the age of 25 — members, sons of members, and non-member husbands are all eligible. All rookies, free agents, or veterans considering coming out of retirement are welcome to join.

CDT's Men's Softball Team is a member of the Men's Shul Softball League. The MSSL ([www.msslonline.com](http://www.msslonline.com)) has roughly 35 teams



throughout Greater Boston, divided into 4 Divisions. The Tzedekmen play an 8 or 9 game schedule on Sunday mornings from mid-April through June. Games start at 10:00 am and are usually over by 11:30. The top 4 teams in each division qualify for the playoffs, earning each team an opportunity to compete for the prestigious Kiddush Cup, the MSSL championship trophy. The 2023 Tzedekmen finished last year with a 4-4 record, made the playoffs but lost in the 1st round.

Our home field is Forte Park in Nonantum, which is very convenient to West Newton and Watertown. Playing on the CDT Softball team is a great way to meet and connect with other men of CDT.

Check out the MSSL website ([www.msslonline.com](http://www.msslonline.com)) for information about the league and to register online to be on the team.

For more information, contact head coaches Elliot Pittel ([epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net)) and Bruce Miller ([perrystop@gmail.com](mailto:perrystop@gmail.com)).

## **CDT FILM CLUB**

### **Discussion of *Oppenheimer***

*Saturday, February 10, 8:00-9:00 pm  
Zoom*

Please join us for a discussion of *Oppenheimer*! 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](mailto:filmclub@dorsheitzedek.org) to learn more and to sign up for our mailing list, and 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.

*Oppenheimer* (2023, 3 hr): During World War II, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves Jr. appoints physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Oppenheimer and a team of scientists spend years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history.

## CDT Groups and Events (cont.)

### AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, February 13, 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](mailto:avelut@dorsheitzedek.org).

### CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, February 19, 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](mailto:dan.rome.md@gmail.com) for more information.



Torah covers woven by Phyllis Kantor — see page 8 for more about Phyllis' work

## Learning

### MORNING PRAYER AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

**Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson**

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

Join Akiva for an exploration of the wondrous morning liturgy called Birchot HaShachar (Blessings of the Dawn). We'll study how these prayers can help us cultivate the beneficial character traits of humility, gratitude, a sense of wonder, and more. Using these prayers as a starting point, we'll also discuss frameworks that will allow prayer to feel more authentic and beneficial. 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! Please register on the CDT calendar, and you'll have access to Zoom details upon registration.

### SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

**With Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

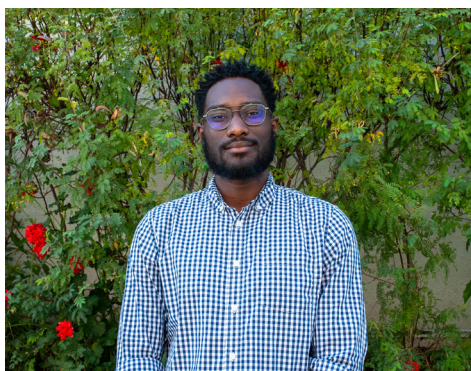
Saturdays, February 10 and March 16, 9:00-9:45 am  
CDT (60 Highland St); in-person only

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!

### IGBO JEWS HISTORICALLY & TODAY WITH YEHUDAH WEBSTER

Thursday, March 7, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Zoom

Yehudah will share about the history of the Igbo Jews through the lens of his Igbo Jewish lineage by way of the forced enslavement and conversion of his ancestors in Guyana.



*Spiritual activist and community organizer Yehudah Webster works to animate and integrate anti-racist behaviors and culture in communities, supporting the collective organizing, advocacy and direct service efforts to dismantle racism systemically. As the Program Director and Faculty at Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project, Yehudah equips communities with the daily concrete spiritual tools of Mussar to subvert racism within ourselves and others through facilitating workshops, consulting with organizations, and building a community of*

*anti-racist practice. Yehudah is a graduate of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice's Grace Paley Organizing Fellowship, Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Program, Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project's Ovdim Fellowship, and a recipient of the Pomegranate Prize through the Covenant Foundation.*

### ALEPH-BET, NO SWEAT!

**With Akiva Nelson**

Sundays, March 3, 10, 24, 31, and April 7, 11:00 am-12:00 pm  
CDT Religious School at Cabot Elementary (229 Cabot St, Newton)



Join Akiva for an opportunity to improve your confidence, self-esteem, and comfort-level recognizing, reading, and writing Hebrew letters, which is a big step toward more deeply engaging with Judaism. We'll be starting from the beginning and building our way toward the goal of learning all of Hebrew's consonants and vowels. Participants will be asked to purchase a workbook, but if purchase of the workbook is a financial barrier, we will happily cover it. This class will take place during Sunday Religious School hours, but it is also open to the broader CDT community, not just Religious School parents! **Please register by February 25 on the CDT calendar.**

# Community

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members Janet Kaplan and Penina Adelman!

## MAZEL TOV

Mazal tov and *mabrouk* to the Kohistani family on the joyous and healthy birth of Haya Kohistani!

Mazel tov to Mark Schafer on being awarded a 2024 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship to translate 24 previously-untranslated stories by the gay Cuban author Virgilio Piñera, among other translations and revisions!

## TODAH RABAH

Thank you to Lisa Hirsh, Sue Lanser, Esther Kohn, Devora Rohr, and R' Emily Mathis for leading the activities for our MLK Day Got Shabbat!

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush, ushered, and Zoom-greeted in January: James Kaplan, Jen Kaplan, Matthew Valleau, Mark Yurkofsky, Trish Nuzzola, Jeff Green, Rebecca Gutman, Linda Katz, Naomi Lev, Alice Markowitz, Emily Sper, Ellie Goldberg, Annette Jacobs (in memory of my mom, Ada

Jacobs), Pamela Blau, Liz Reisberg, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Stephen Zisk, Pauline Coderre, Mark Schafer (in honor of "Hebrew 2" [David Huerta]), Jo Ann & Michael Feldstein, Lisa Hirsh, Janet Rickles, Noah Rumpf, Jeff Arnold, Sandy Goodman & Sue Weil, Danielle Klainberg, Ilana Mainelli, David Roll, Elaine Landes, Lauren Gibbs (in memory of Mara and Pat Gibbs), Lisa Keshet, Sue Lanser, Dianne Lior, Corinne Lofchie, Jo Radner, and Rob Greenly.

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to Jaime Wurzel, Emelia Webbe, Harriet Budd, Sandy Goodman, Liz Gray, and Beth Green.

## YAHREZEIT

This month, we remember CDT member Francis Greenberg, whose 19th yahrzeit falls on February 10. We will be remembering Francis at Shabbat morning services on February 10. May his memory be for a blessing.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Ellen White on the death of her mother, Selma White. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Miriam Bronstein on the death of her father, Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, grandfather of Lev Kling-Bronstein. May his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Dan Halbert on the death of his mother, Edith Halbert, mother-in-law of Carole Slipowitz, grandmother of Adam and Jesse Halwitz. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Alissa Leonard on the death of her mother, Judith Elkin, mother of Susannah Zisk z"l, mother-in-law of Stephen Zisk, and grandmother of Sarah, Talia, Abigail, and Sam. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Lauren Gibbs on the death of her parenting partner, Steve Flax. May his memory be for a blessing.

## MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the literature table in our sanctuary and on our website at [dorsheitzedek.org/mourning](https://dorsheitzedek.org/mourning).

# 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.

## CHESED SIGNUP 5784

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. Members participate by being both receivers and givers of Chesed.

To get announcements of Chesed volunteer opportunities, sign up at [dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup](https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup). 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](https://www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community).

When you have a need for Chesed, please contact the Chesed Coordinators at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

## Chesed Sign Up 2024 [dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup](https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup)





## Artist of the Month

### PHYLLIS KANTOR

I have been working with fibers since the age of 6 — taught by my grandmother. In 1972, I discovered my love of weaving. I made tallitot for my family, and I experimented with challah and matzoh covers. In 1980, I began to weave Judaica for sale and by commission. 30 years later, after a great many sales and commissions, I moved to Brookline and gave up my studio and giant looms. Since then, I've done occasional small pieces of Judaica, particularly by bead-weaving, but have retired from the bulk of my business. I still play with fibers, and have a small loom I sometimes use to weave small pieces.

I sometimes miss my studio and looms, but I'm happy with Brookline and CDT, so it's a good retirement on the whole.



*Phyllis' work is on display now in the CDT gallery in a joint exhibit with Jamie Tessler and Jodie Siegel!*

## Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)

### ANYA RHODES FIGHTS FOR MA BILL H.4096, SO EVERYBODY CAN MOVE

February is **Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)**! CDT Kitah Gimmel student Anya Rhodes was diagnosed with bone cancer at 7-years-old and lost part of her leg in April 2022. Now, she is joining the fight for H.4096, "an Act to improve outcomes for persons with limb loss and limb difference." The bill would authorize insurance coverage for athletic prosthetic devices. This is her testimony:

"Hi, I'm Anya and I'm 9-years old. Two years ago I got bone cancer in my leg so they had to amputate it. My first prosthetic was really heavy and hard to move around with. I hated it! I couldn't keep up with my friends and it was hard to watch them run around. I didn't want to go to recess and it made me hate school all last year in second grade. But this year school has been so much better since I got my running blade. I can run around with my friends and jump high again. This bill is really important because having a running prosthetic has changed my life and all kids that need one should have one. Actually, all

people, not just kids. Please pass this bill so everyBODY can move. We can make this world better!"

#### Learn more and get involved:

- Learn more about H.4096: <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputee-prosthetic-insurance-so-everybody-can-move-2024/>
- Learn more about JDAIM: [www.reconstructingjudaism.org/article/jdaim-february-2024/](http://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/article/jdaim-february-2024/)

## Black History Month

### BLACK JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

As we mark Black History Month, here are some opportunities to learn more about Black Jewish history and culture — as they say in the Talmud, "go and learn!"

From the Dorot Foundation in 2016, celebrating African-American Jewish authors: [www.nypl.org/blog/2016/02/11/celebrating-african-american-jews](http://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/02/11/celebrating-african-american-jews)

Also from 2016, in Tablet Magazine "Black Jews You Should Know," by Mah Nishtana:

[www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/black-jews-you-should-know-part-1](http://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/black-jews-you-should-know-part-1)

And compiled in 2020, "Twenty Books by Black Jewish Authors You Should Read:" [www.heyalma.com/20-books-by-black-jewish-authors-you-should-read](http://www.heyalma.com/20-books-by-black-jewish-authors-you-should-read)



# Youth and Family Programming

## KYLE LUKOFF — AUTHOR TALK AT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL!

Sunday, February 4, 10:30 am  
Cabot Elementary School



Kyle Lukoff is an acclaimed Jewish and trans author of many books for young readers. His novel *Too Bright to See* received a Newbery honor, a Stonewall Book Award, and was a National Book Award Finalist. Kyle is visiting Dorshei Tzedek Religious School! After Kyle speaks with the students, adults are invited to join Kyle in a conversation about his latest project: his first Jewish novel!

Join Kyle and the CDT Religious School for what is sure to be an exciting conversation about writing trans characters, what makes a story Jewish, and what Jewish stories still need to be written. Bring copies of your Kyle Lukoff books to be signed! Adults will talk for 45 minutes with Kyle and then are welcome to enjoy bagels, coffee, and good company.

## CAMP HAVAYA FUND

The CDT's Camp Havaya Scholarship is again being offered to those interested in attending Camp Havaya! Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from January 15-March 1, with final awards being announced no later than March 10. Look on the Youth and Families page on the CDT website for the application form.

## OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER WITH CDT TEENS AND THEIR FAMILIES

After some informal discussion, a group of families with teens welcome others to join us in low-key volunteering every 1-2 months! The initial idea is that interested families will divide up the planning of group-oriented volunteering events. Examples include park clean-ups, Cradles to Crayons, helping at food pantries, etc. Some events might require an RSVP whereas others (e.g. card-making for Birthday Wishes) could be drop-in. We hope this will be a nice chance for families in this post-religious school phase to stay connected while engaging in meaningful activities with teens. Interested? Feel free to contact Sara Dash at [saracoen3@aol.com](mailto:saracoen3@aol.com).

# Tikkun Olam

## GBIO UPDATE — THE LATEST!

Louise Enoch, GBIO Liaison

Thank you to all our donors who made this year's Impact Fund so successful! We surpassed last year's giving by a considerable amount. Also, thanks to all of you who attended In District Meetings with your Senators and Representatives. Your presence at these meetings has shown your legislators that GBIO really wants to get its Housing Justice agenda passed. As we move into the final months of this legislative session, we want to move that agenda over the line. GBIO is planning a very large event on March 3 with, hopefully, many significant state officials, to make that final push. **WE WILL NEED YOU TO TURN OUT!** So please **mark your calendars for 3:00 pm on March 3.**

Here at CDT, your team is planning to host a fun Zoom event on February 4 at 3:00 pm — we're calling it "CELEBRATE, INITIATE, AND AGITATE!" We will thank our donors, introduce you to some new, up-and-coming Core Team leaders, and get you excited about the March 3 event. We hope you will join us for some fun! Bring your own drinks and snacks! Contact Louise Enoch ([lpenoch@gmail.com](mailto:lpenoch@gmail.com)) with any questions you might have.

## WISHING FAREWELL TO A PARTNER AND FRIEND IN ALL OF OUR IMMIGRATION WORK!

Pam Katz, VP of Tikkun Olam

***This is an excerpt; to read the full article, please visit [dorsheitzedek.org/tikkun-olam](https://dorsheitzedek.org/tikkun-olam).***

After 12 years as head of synagogue organizing at JCRC, Rachie Lewis is moving on to work at Keshet. Rachie has been instrumental in helping us navigate all of CDT's immigration efforts and has given us the tools we needed to be successful. We honor her commitment to social justice and express deep gratitude for all her guidance. Here are many of the ways in which we carry on Rachie's incredible efforts:

### 1. GBIO and Housing Justice

All of CDT's work with immigrants is made more difficult by broken public systems, and on top of that list in the Boston area is housing. This is why CDT's work with GBIO is so important.

### 2. The Trans Relocation Project

CDT has recently convened a Trans Relocation Project to support transgender individuals who are newcomers to the local area. If you are interested in participating in this effort,

please contact Rebecca Bact ([rebecca.bact@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.bact@gmail.com)).

### 3. The Immigrant Family Services Institute

CDT's Immigrant Support Project partners with IFSI in Mattapan, a non-profit organization serving primarily Haitian immigrants through advocacy and material support. If you are interested in how you can help please contact Janet ([janetpenn559@gmail.com](mailto:janetpenn559@gmail.com)).

### 4. Bethel AME's Haitian Refugee Support

CDT has partnered with Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain to supply household items to recently arrived Haitian refugees. We hope to deepen collaboration with our fellow GBIO congregation in this effort.

### 5. Third Annual Culture Day at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC)

The Kohistani family represented Afghanistan at the 3rd Annual Culture Day at the ISBCC in Roxbury. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu even stopped by to meet Mohammad Wasim and his daughter!

### 6. Helping Migrants In Large and Small Ways!

In the fall of 2023, 16 Haitian families were temporarily located in Arlington. When a CDT member learned of the need she put out a request on CDT-share, and we collected over 15 suitcases!

# February 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.

## FEBRUARY 2 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

**Kiddush Team:** Michele Arons, Misha Dudnik, Judy Hersh, Cindy Marshall, Kathy Pillsbury, Michal Rubin

## FEBRUARY 3 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Leila Quinn

**Kiddush Team:** Helaine Carroll, John Carroll, Caroline Chauncey, Shahar Colt, Darya Mattes, Richard Thal

**Zoom Greeter:** Rob Greenly

## FEBRUARY 10 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Jodie Siegel

**Kiddush Team:** Jan Fogel, Allison Hausman, Ezra Hausman, Terri Kasper, Sue Kline, Jennifer Sartori

**Zoom Greeter:** Sara Dash

## FEBRUARY 17 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Miriam Bronstein

**Kiddush Team:** Jerry Friedman, Jeff Kichen, Jonathan Magaziner, Karen Wasserman

**Zoom Greeter:** Ben Dash

## FEBRUARY 24 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Michael Brann

**Kiddush Team:** Robin Bernstein, Rick Glassman, Phyllis Glazerman, Laura Katz, Joel Katz

**Zoom Greeter:** Tim Havens



# 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:**

## GENERAL DONATIONS & NEDIV LEV

Rabbi Toba Spitzer — *In honor of our amazing CDT staff*

Harriet Budd & Joyce Traister — *With thanks to Dan, the Chesed group, and all of the CDT community who came to our aid during 36 hours of hell with no power! You are too numerous to name. We are extremely grateful for all of your kindness.*

Mark & Phyllis Kirschner

Ellie & Judah Axe — *With thanks to the community for holding complexity during polarizing times*

Amy Brodesky — *In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

Ellie Goldberg — *In loving memory of my Father-in-Law Sampson Goldberg and my aunt Leola Michaels*

Richard Thal & Caroline Chauncey — *In memory of Rolf J. Thal and Rita Thal*

## IMMIGRANT SUPPORT FUND

Annie Spanel

Tony Broh — *In memory of Edith Halbert, mother of Dan Halbert*

Tobey Aumann

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Peggy Stafford & Mike Shapiro

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx — *In memory of Stuart Snyder's father*

Miriam Bronstein — *With many thanks to Rabbi Toba for her support after the death of my father*





# February 2024 • Shevat/Adar I 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>28 Shevat 18</b>  9:30am Sunday Religious School + Nitzanim	<b>29 Shevat 19</b>  7:00pm GBIO In District Meeting: Senator Creem	<b>30 Shevat 20</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:00pm GBIO In District Meeting: Senator DeDomenico 7:00pm Zionism and Beyond: Ideals, Debates, and Counter-narratives	<b>31 Shevat 21</b>  7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	<b>1 Shevat 22</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>2 Shevat 23</b>  6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	<b>3 Shevat 24</b>  <b>Yitro</b> 9:30am Shorashim Shabbat & Shabbat Childcare 10:00am Refugee Shabbat Morning Services with Special Guests!
<b>4 Shevat 25</b>  9:30am Sunday Religious School 3:00pm GBIO: Celebrate, Initiate, and Agitate!	<b>5 Shevat 26</b>  1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	<b>6 Shevat 27</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:00pm Zionism and Beyond: Ideals, Debates, and Counter-narratives	<b>7 Shevat 28</b>  6:30pm CDT Board Meeting 7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	<b>8 Shevat 29</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>9 Shevat 30</b>  <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar I</b>	<b>10 Adar I 1</b>  <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar I</b> <b>Mishpatim</b> 10:00am Shabbat & Rosh Chodesh Morning Services 1:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: <i>Oppenheimer</i>
<b>11 Adar I 2</b>  9:30am Sunday Religious School + Nitzanim 10:15am Parenting Through a Jewish Lens	<b>12 Adar I 3</b>  1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	<b>13 Adar I 4</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:15pm GBIO In District Meeting: Senator Rausch 7:30pm Avelut	<b>14 Adar I 5</b>  7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	<b>15 Adar I 6</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>16 Adar I 7</b>	<b>17 Adar I 8</b>  <b>Terumah</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
<b>18 Adar I 9</b>	<b>19 Adar I 10</b>  8:00pm CDT Men's Group	<b>20 Adar I 11</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>21 Adar I 12</b>  7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	<b>22 Adar I 13</b>  <b>Purim Katan</b> 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm CDT Sings Rehearsal	<b>23 Adar I 14</b>  6:30pm Home-based Friday Night Services, Dinner, and Song	<b>24 Adar I 15</b>  <b>Tetzaveh</b> 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
<b>25 Adar I 16</b>	<b>26 Adar I 17</b>  1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	<b>27 Adar I 18</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	<b>28 Adar I 19</b>  7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	<b>29 Adar I 20</b>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	<b>1 Adar I 21</b>  6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	<b>2 Adar I 22</b>  <b>Ki Tisa</b> 10:00am Contemplative Shabbat Mini-Retreat



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

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Address correction requested



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

