



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Adar I/Adar II 5784

March 2024



## SERVICE OF THE HEART

Rabbi Toba Spitzer



Many years ago, I was on a retreat for rabbis sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality that integrated mindfulness practices like meditation and yoga with more traditional Jewish practices like prayer and text study. While I already had a fair bit of experience with Buddhism-based meditation, it was new for a lot of my colleagues on the retreat. During the opening session, one of the participants, a congregational rabbi known for his social justice work, asked: "I am wondering why I would want to meditate inside a burning building?"

His question assumed that meditation is of necessity something that takes us away from the world, from the "burning building" of real life. In this view, spiritual practice is at best a waste of time, and at worst an amoral retreat from our human responsibilities.

I knew his question was off, but in the moment I couldn't quite put my finger on why. I realized later that if I had been the instructor, and

had had my wits about me, I would have responded: the point of this practice is to achieve an ability to respond wisely in all situations. It is intended to develop our capacities so that, when we encounter the burning building, we are able to help put out the fire and rescue the people inside, rather than cause chaos or more distress. It is to ensure that we ourselves are equipped to survive the fire.

I was thinking about this recently in the context of our communal exploration of what, for lack of a better word, we have been calling the "spiritual life" of the congregation. Back in the summer, a group convened over Zoom to discuss what our tradition calls *avodah sh'balev*, "service of the heart." While the Talmudic rabbis equated this kind of "service" with prayer and song, the phrase suggests to me a much broader sense of practices that nourish our spirits and fortify our hearts. It also suggests that whatever those practices might be, they must, of necessity, be "in service" to something greater than ourselves. That Something might be understood as God/liness, or it might be more mundane, like our relationships with others. Our spiritual practice might be in service to being better able to respond in a wise, helpful way to the many, many ways in which our world is broken.

Viewed this way, I have come to see the many aspects of our communal life at CDT as mutually beneficial kinds of service. When we participate

in Shabbat and holiday services or Mindful Mornings, we affirm the importance of reflection and prayer, song and silence, to our inner wellbeing. When we engage in Torah study or learning about reparations or the history of Israel/Palestine, we affirm the importance of wrestling with texts ancient and modern for the sake of deeper understanding and wisdom. When we take action with GBIO or our immigration initiatives or in other ways, we are in service to building a better world. When we attend a shivah minyan or cook a Chesed meal, we are in service to deepening relationships and providing healing for others.

Ideally, if we understand the connections between all of these things, the barriers between them begin to soften, so that work for justice is also an opportunity for serving the Divine, and meditation is a space for fostering community, and learning becomes a way to transform the world. And it is an invitation to let go of the self-definitions that perhaps keep us from experiencing the many ways in which we can serve. I know that many CDT members say "I'm not religious" or "I don't believe in God," and therefore don't even consider that a Shabbat morning service might be an inspiring or nourishing experience. Others say "I'm a bad meditator," so never give it a try. Others might assume that Jewish learning isn't for them, or that those announcements about shivah gatherings are intended for someone else.

So consider this an invitation to exploration! Maybe there's a kind of "service" you'd be willing to experiment with in the months to come. Or maybe you know that certain practices are beneficial, but you haven't been able to make the commitment to make time and space for them. I invite all of us to reflect on the ways we can be of service, in even the smallest ways, and to appreciate those opportunities. And may we all find those practices that truly sustain us, inspire us, that give us the grounding to keep the building from burning down.

## From the Office

### MARCH 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.*

Rabbi Toba will be out of town attending the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association convention in Atlanta from March 3-6. Please contact the CDT office or the Chesed coordinators ([chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org)) for pastoral coverage while she is away. Margaret will be on vacation from March 4-8, and Earnest will be on vacation from March 12-15.

## From the Board

### CDT MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, March 17, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Zoom and CDT Religious School at Cabot Elementary (229 Cabot St, Newton)

Join us for the CDT Members Meeting on Sunday, March 17 at the Cabot School or on Zoom where we will continue our discussions about strategic planning for CDT, vote for a First VP (to be next year's Co-President), and more. Reminder, we ask that at least one adult member from each household participate! See you there.

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!

## 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



# Shabbat, Holidays, 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, March 1 and April 5*

6:00 pm Candle-lighting & Dinner

6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

CDT (60 Highland St)

We come together at 6:00 pm for candle-lighting and Shabbat blessings, followed by a vegetarian dinner and a fun, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service beginning at 6:45 pm. Services end at 7:30 pm with Oneg Shabbat dessert. All are welcome to this wonderful all ages event — come to all or part of the evening!

The **March dinner will be catered**, and **April will be potluck** (feel free to pick up a pizza or other prepared food; home-cooking not required!).

## SHABBAT HOME DINNERS

*Friday-Saturday, March 8-9*

*Home-based — Exact locations TBD*



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. Dinners may have a theme or shared interest such as Wise Aging, singing & music, kid-friendly, or games. Check the CDT website and our weekly emails for additional details about who is hosting, whether or not there is a theme, and where/how to sign-up for a dinner. Let Akiva, Melanie Adler ([madler@edc.org](mailto:madler@edc.org)), or Rebecca Byard ([rebeccacceber@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccacceber@yahoo.com)) know if you have any questions!

## SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

### 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, guided meditation, 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

### Shabbat Shekalim

*Saturday, March 9, 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 with song, prayer, and Torah reading and discussion. We will also be remembering CDT members Gina Fried, Al Glazerman, and Marion Weinberg on the occasion of their yahrzeits.

### Shabbat Afternoon Sing

*Saturday, March 9, 12:45-2:00 pm*

CDT (60 Highland St; in-person only)

All are invited to join Rikki Morrow-Spitzer, director of CDT Sings, and Rabbi Toba for an opportunity to join together in communal song based on the erev Shabbat liturgy. In the style of the Rising Song Institute, this requires no musical knowledge and does not involve written music. It is an opportunity to explore harmony and connect through song. All are welcome, older kids as well as adults. Feel free to come first for Kiddush lunch at noon!

### Shabbat Pekudeh with Mindful Movement & Learning about Tahara

*Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am-12:00 pm*

CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

At 10 am, there are two wonderful options: you can join Rabbi Toba in the CDT sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services, or join CDT member (and yoga instructor) Jenny Leopold for a Mindful Movement option (think gentle yoga). Come wearing comfortable clothes, and if you have one, bring a yoga mat (there will be spares available). Jenny will be offering accessibility options so that folks who don't feel comfortable doing traditional yoga poses can still participate.

At approximately 11:15 am, after the Torah reading, we will all gather back together as Elaine Landes and Mark Schafer – participants in the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston (CHKGB), a group of volunteers who are on call to prepare the deceased for burial – will share about the ancient Jewish ritual of *tahara*. Far from being a morbid experience, *tahara* is a powerful, moving experience, both an honor and a blessing. It is a unique way to express the ultimate kindness – *kavod hamet* (honoring the dead) – a kindness that can

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

not be repaid. All those who are interested are then invited to continue the conversation during Kiddush lunch with Elaine, Mark, and CHKGB Executive Director (and former CDT Director of Congregational Learning!) Rabbi Shahar Colt.

## Shabbat Zachor

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

As we prepare for Purim festivities, all are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT Sanctuary and on Zoom for Shabbat morning services. Kiddush lunch will follow services.

## Shabbat Parah

Saturday, March 30, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
CDT Sanctuary and Zoom

All are invited to join Akiva Nelson and CDT members for Shabbat morning services and Torah discussion! Kiddush lunch follows services.

## Shorashim Erev Shabbat

Friday, April 5, 5:30-6:00 pm  
CDT (60 Highland St)

Celebrate Shabbat with Morah Devora and Shorashim friends! At 5:30 pm, join us for Shabbat songs, stories, and movement. At 6 pm, all are invited to potluck Shabbat dinner

with the CDT community (please bring a vegetarian main dish or salad to share - pizza or prepared food is fine!), followed by an all-ages erev Shabbat service at 6:45 pm.

## 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).

## AVODAH SH'BALEVI/ SERVICE OF THE HEART

Marion Ross

As Rabbi Toba describes in her column, in the summer a group of congregants began an exploration of the spiritual life of our community, both within and far beyond the confines of the CDT sanctuary. From those conversations emerged the Shepherding Group, a group of CDT members who, with Rabbi Toba and Akiva, help support and guide a variety of activities that nurture our spirits, from home-based Kabbalat Shabbat programs to the "forest bathing" experience this fall to creative endeavors during Shabbat morning services and more. In this column, we hope to share experiences of "service of the heart," a moment or a practice that enlivens, inspires, creates a sense of connection.

Annette Jacobs shares a recent experience during Shabbat morning services:

*This Shabbat at services in the sanctuary, I had an experience that I always have when I attend services in person. After the Torah reading is completed and it is time to wrap the Torah and return it to the Ark, someone steps up to the bimah and has the honor of lifting the Torah, and with the columns of text revealed, turns the scroll toward the gathered community. No matter how often I have been present for this, I am always awestruck with wonder, amazement, and gratitude. Here am I, in my synagogue, viewing the story of my people in its script penned by hand. This story has been viewed by my people for thousands and thousands of years, and on this morning, along with me and my fellow congregants, it is being viewed by Jews all over the world. I am bound to the Jewish community through time and across geography. I feel myself being lifted spiritually along with the Torah. It never fails that each week my eyes fill with tears.*

We invite you to share a moment you experienced in your home, in the woods, at the ocean, in the sanctuary, at a concert, walking, marching, praying, grieving, or sitting with a child, something that opened your heart in new or surprising ways, that comforted you, inspired you, strengthened you, or gave a sense of Wow! Email Marion at [marikalso@hotmail.com](mailto:marikalso@hotmail.com) if you'd like to contribute to this column or find out more about the Shepherding group.

## PURIM CELEBRATION!

Saturday, March 23, 7:00-9:00 pm

Cabot Elementary School (229 Cabot St, Newton)

Rav Tiffany says, "It's time to party!" Adults and kids of all ages are invited to enjoy Purim davvening with Rav Tiffany, megillah reading, the Purim spiel, and dancing — don't miss it! Tell your friends! This event will be in person (please note the new location). Here is the schedule of the evening:

- 7:00 pm – Purim Davvening with Rav Tiffany
- 7:20 pm – Costume parade (prizes for kids and adults!)

- 7:30 pm – Megillah reading & Purim songs (have your gragger ready!)
- 8:00 pm – Hamentaschen break and the Spiel!
- 8:30 pm – Dance the night away!!

### Purim Party Teen Space

Join the Dorshei Tzedek community as we gather at Cabot Elementary for a playful, silly, and joyous Purim Party and Spiel! We invite teens to join us for the evening, and for a special teen program full of games, shmoozing, pizza, and fun. Please register to let us know you will join by Sunday, March 17 on the CDT Website. Contact coco rosenberg at [corine.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:corine.rosenberg@gmail.com) and/or Earnest with any questions.

## SUNDAY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: PURIM PARTY! (NITZANIM OPEN HOUSE)

Sunday, March 24, 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Cabot Elementary School (229 Cabot St, Newton)

This Nitzanim Purim program is open to the public! Families with kids aged 3-5 are invited to join the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School for a fun, Purim-filled morning. Come in costume for the Purim story, carnival, crafts, and treats! This is a great day to invite your friends and spread the word about our school!

## 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.org](http://www.msslonline.org)) 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 *Magic Men*

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

Please join us for a discussion of *Magic Men*! 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.

*Magic Men* (2014, Israel, 1 hr 40 min, stream at Israel Film Center, Tubi, ChaiFlicks, Amazon): Avraham Kofinas, an elderly Israeli Jew of

Greek origins, and his estranged Hasidic rapper son Yehuda embark on a road trip from Israel to Greece, searching for an old magician who saved Avraham's life during World War II. Their journey leads to unexpected encounters, ultimately bringing them to a final confrontation between father and son.

#### AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

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

#### CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, March 18, 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.

## Learning

#### IGBO JEWS HISTORICALLY & TODAY WITH YEHUDAH WEBSTER

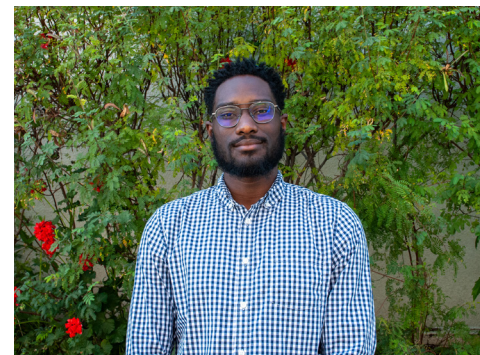
Thursday, March 7, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Zoom

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.*





## Learning (cont.)

### 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!

### SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

**With Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

Saturdays, March 16, April 13, and May 18, 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!

### WHAT IS MY LEGACY?

Thursday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 10, 7:00-8:15 pm

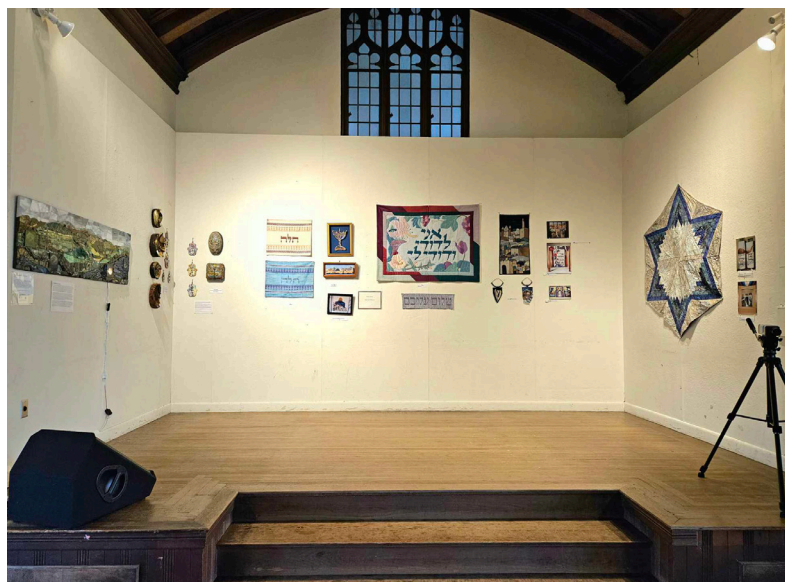
Zoom

All CDT members are invited to join Rabbi Toba, Dan Rome, and Ezra Hausman for a conversation about the legacy we hope to leave behind. The first session will focus on what Jewish tradition calls an "ethical will," a statement of values and commitments that we leave for family and others who remain after us. At the second session, we will explore the alignment of our material legacy with our values, and consider – with whatever economic resources we may have – how we can create an enduring expression of those values.

## Sanctuary Gallery Exhibit

### JOINT EXHIBIT BY PHYLLIS KANTOR, JAMIE TESSLER, AND JODIE SIEGEL

Visit the CDT sanctuary during our office hours or Shabbat services to view a variety of incredible work by three very talented CDT members!





# Youth and Family Programming

## SHORASHIM SHABBAT & SHABBAT CHILDCARE

Saturdays, February 3 and March 16, 9:30 am-12:00 pm

CDT (60 Highland St)

Celebrate Shabbat with Morah Devora Rohr and Shorashim friends! At 9:30 am, kids and their grownups are invited to join us for Shabbat songs, stories, and movement. Childcare is available at 10:30 am with experienced CDT teens, enabling grownups to join the adult service. Everyone is invited to Kiddush lunch at 12 pm!

## CAMP HAVAYA FUND

**Visit the Youth and Families page of the CDT website to apply for a scholarship amount between \$100 and \$500 per child — every child is eligible! Decisions will be made no later than March 10.**

### We love Camp Havaya!

Jeff Klein & Rachel Shuler

Summer camp was a big part of my and Rachel's lives growing up, and it's important to us for our two kids to get to experience the relationships and excitement that can only happen at a place as magical. Last year, we enrolled them in three weeks at Camp Havaya and they came back as entirely different kids, in the best way. Our older child is writing to camp friends and was excitedly planning out her next summer before school even restarted. And though I don't want to jinx it by writing it down, they're even making their own beds!

What's more, Havaya is the perfect antidote to our overly digital world. Where some camps have leaned into technology with gaming rooms and programming activities, Havaya has intentionally kept our kids unplugged. What does downtime look like without screens? Card games on the cabin floor... looking up at the stars and talking to friends about real things... making up incredibly silly cabin cheers... And then there's the activities! Canoeing and waterskiing and foam fights and archery and ropes courses and so much more. CDT's generosity helped make their experience possible, and we're so grateful for CDT's help in ensuring our happy kids

have gotten to enjoy Havaya and are looking forward to more years of fun and growth!!

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Andrea Kamens, CDT Kitah Bet lead teacher

Puppies, peace, sunsets, hearts, and Hebrew are being stitched together in Kitah Bet (second grade)! Teacher Andrea Kamens is a Senior Educator Leadership Fellow (SELF cohort 3) this year through the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. For her fellowship project, she's been scaffolding skills on studying together as *chevruta*, traditional Jewish learning partners, through word games, interview questions, and collaborative art.



Working in pairs, children created panels for a fabric mural on the word *Olam*, which they will tell you means the universe/expanse of

time and space, and is prominent in prayers for boundless love. They co-created for weeks with each other, their madrichimot, and a professional mural artist, Jennifer Bloomer, via Zoom from Radici Studios in California. Volunteers from the congregation have started the sewing process so that the complete work can hang proudly at the synagogue for years to come.



If you'd like to help sew, or want more information about the project or Pardes learning, you can email [andrea@kamens.us](mailto:andrea@kamens.us).



## Community

### MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Allison & Ezra Hausman and CDT "graduate" Julia (Hausman) McCaffrey & Pat McCaffrey on the birth of Josie Monroe McCaffrey, on February 13!

### TODAH RABAH

Thank you to Emelia Webbe for lending their expertise in technology and graphic design!

Thank you to all those who provided Kiddush, ushered, and Zoom-greeted in February:

Michele Arons & Michael Brann, Misha Dudnik, David Roll, Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Michal Rubin, Leila Quinn, Helaine & John Carroll, Caroline Chauncey & Richard Thal, Shahar Colt & Darya Mattes, Marjorie Salvodon, Janet Rickles, Rob Greenly, Jodie Siegel (in memory of all those who lost their lives in Israel and Palestine this year), Jan Fogel, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Terri Kasper, Sue Kline, Jennifer Sartori, Sara & Ben Dash,

Miriam Bronstein, Jerry Friedman, Jeff Kichen, Jonathan Magaziner, Karen Wasserman, Robin Bernstein, Rick Glassman, Phyllis Glazerman (in memory of Al Glazerman on his 2nd yahrzeit), Laura & Joel Katz, and Tim Havens.

### REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

### YAHREZIT

This month, we remember CDT rebbetzin Gina Friend, whose 8th yahrzeit falls on March 6. We will be remembering Gina at Shabbat morning services on March 9; may her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Marion Weinberg, whose 27th yahrzeit falls on March 14. We will be remembering Marion at Shabbat morning

services on March 9; may her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Al Glazerman, whose 2nd yahrzeit falls on March 15. We will be remembering Al at Shabbat morning services on March 9; may his memory be for a blessing.

### CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Terry Traub on the death of his mother, Marilyn Traub, mother-in-law of Rebecca Pomerantz, grandmother of Malka Pomerantz. May her memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences to Jo Ann Share on the death of her brother, Lawrence Share, brother-in-law of Rochelle Weichman. May his memory be for a blessing.

## 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 IS MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Ellie Goldberg



**Chesed Basics.** Our community values acts of loving-kindness. We offer each other gestures of comfort, kindness, and caring to acknowledge each other's life transitions or stressful times when a member has an event such as the arrival of a child, a death, or an injury or illness.

**How does Chesed work?** Members participate by being both receivers and givers of Chesed. The Chesed Committee uses the website LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) to organize volunteers for Chesed requests.

First, you or a family member can notify Rabbi Toba or send an email to the Chesed Coordinators at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org). Then you will get a call or email from a

Coordinator to discuss details to include in the Chesed post, such as food preferences or allergies for a meal or Covid precautions for a ride. Next, all CDT volunteers receive an email when the Coordinator posts the new task. If there is a long term need, the Coordinator can help set up a personal LHH community to include a broader list of friends.

**Sign Up.** All members are invited to sign up for the CDT Chesed Caring Community volunteer list. Go to [dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup](https://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-signup).

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community.



## GBIO

Join 2000+ fellow GBIO leaders, friends, and allies on **Sunday, March 3** to push our Housing Justice platform through to the finish line!




# HOUSING JUSTICE ACTION

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD, 3PM**  
**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BOSTON CULTURAL CENTER**  
**100 Malcolm X Blvd, Roxbury, MA 02120**

**Join us to push the Housing Justice Campaign across the finish line!**  
**Major action to call for the passing of the Affordable Homes Act**  
**and GBIO's budget and legislative asks to:**

- Improve public housing,
- Expand affordable homeownership and rental, and
- Improve housing access for Returning Citizens.

**REGISTER:** [bit.ly/gbiomarch3](https://bit.ly/gbiomarch3)



## I/P PEACE DROP-IN GATHERINGS

*Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm and Fridays, 2:00-3:00 pm*

For the past several years, the Israel-Palestine Peace Committee (IPP) has engaged our community in exploring efforts and challenges to building a just peace in Israel/Palestine. Since October 7, we have been hosting biweekly Zoom gatherings for members of CDT. These are spaces to support each other, explore feelings, unpack history, and stay connected. Our gatherings are one hour long, without agenda, and loosely guided by a member of the IPP Steering Committee. These drop-in gatherings currently take place every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm and every Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. We respect and welcome diverse perspectives. We encourage all members of CDT to join us.

Please see the CDT calendar for Zoom link access, and feel free to contact any steering committee member to share your thoughts, suggestions, or concerns. To be added to the IPPeace listserv, please reach out to Sue Lanser.

## Jewish Community Events

### TO HOLD AND BE HELD: A WORKSHOP FOR BOSTON PRAYER LEADERS WITH R. DEBORAH SACKS MINTZ

*Tuesday, March 19, 7:30-9:00 pm*  
*Congregation Mishkan Tefila Sanctuary*  
*(384 Harvard St, Brookline)*  
*Co-sponsored by CDT*

Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz, Hadar's Director of Tefillah and Music, is coming back to Boston!! Anyone interested in strengthening our communal tefilah — this workshop is for you! Open to prayer leaders of all levels, this experiential workshop will explore strategies

for harnessing the songful and spiritual potential of any given room when serving as *shaliach tzibbur* — leader of communal prayer — with an eye towards both holding the kahal, and allowing them to hold us in return.

Please register for this wonderful one-time workshop at:  
[www.hadar.org/learn/classes-events/hadar-boston-hold-and-be-held](https://www.hadar.org/learn/classes-events/hadar-boston-hold-and-be-held)



# March 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.

## MARCH 1 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

**Kiddush Team:** Rebecca Bact, Elizabeth Ferrenz, Pablo Goldbarg, Josh Herzig-Marx, Carla Naumburg, Jenny Siegel

## MARCH 2 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Hope Kellman

**Kiddush Team:** Robin Bernstein, Douglas Hersh, Barbara Pittel, Elliot Pittel, Bill Shorr, Theresa St. John-Siegel

**Zoom Greeter:** Judy Havens

## MARCH 9 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Barbara Shatkin

**Kiddush Team:** Tom Brown, Polly Crozier, Doron Gan, Valerie Graf, Jessica Keimowitz, Chagit Steiner

## MARCH 16 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Elana Cutler

**Kiddush Team:** Ora Grodsky, Judy Rosenberg, Ken Rosenberg, Jonathan Rosenthal, Debby Saltzman, John Saltzman

**Zoom Greeter:** Ellen Hemley

## MARCH 23 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Amy Mazur

**Kiddush Team:** Mitch Feuer, Steven Siegel, Madeline Steinberg, Benjamin Tillinger, Terry Traub, Jaime Wurzel

**Zoom Greeter:** Ben Newman

## MARCH 23 — PURIM CELEBRATION

**Setup Team:** Joe Bayes, Benita Danzing, Lynda Goldberg, Daniel Krasa, Tatjana Meschede, John Holohan

**Cleanup Team:** Karen Arnold, Nathan Aronow, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Richard Gomberg, Alissa Leonard, Bonnie Tenneriello

## MARCH 30 — SHABBAT MORNING

**Usher:** Jeff Goldman

**Kiddush Team:** Robert Ross, Jordan Schwartz, Peter Shapiro, Noam Shore, Anne Simmons, Joel Suttenger

**Zoom Greeter:** Emily Cowan



# 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

Frances Malino — *In loving memory of my father Rabbi Jerome Malino and of my mother Rhoda Malino*

Pauline Coderre — *In memory of Mara and Pat Gibbs, and in honor of baby Zachary Michael, son of Matthew Valleau and Michael Gnozzio*

Rebecca Byard & Daniel Reeves

Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder

Matthew Fried & Jennifer Levine-Fried

Stacey Chacker & David Schatz — *In memory of my parents, Ruth and Fred Chacker*

Bill Shorr & Tania Mireles

Linette Liebling & Peter Demuth

The Karp Family

Lisa Goodwin Robbins & Andrew Robbins

Sharon Gorberg — *In memory of my beloved mother Sylvia R. Gorberg, and in memory of*

*Selma White, mother of Ellen White*

Michael Luckens & Sharon Shumack — *In memory of Gina Fried on her Yahrzeit*

David Roberts & Sue Fischlowitz

Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert

Margaret Ladau — *In honor of Phyllis Kantor becoming a Bat Mitzvah*

Polly Crozier & Jessica Keimowitz — *In memory of Robert Keimowitz*

Miriam Bronstein — *In loving memory of my mother Tamar bat haRavShmuel v'Rivkah, and in memory of my uncle Elchanon ben Moshe v'Leah*

## IMMIGRANT SUPPORT FUND

Janet Rickles & Arthur Young

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lynette Robinson — *In honor of our friend Karen Arnold for her love and support after the death of our loved one*



# March 2024 • Adar I/Adar II 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 <i>Adar I 16</i>	26 <i>Adar I 17</i>  1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	27 <i>Adar I 18</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings 8:30pm ICon VIM: What Israel means to me?	28 <i>Adar I 19</i>  6:30pm Teen Bowling Event 7:00pm Leyn Like a Legend with Chayim Herzig-Marx	29 <i>Adar I 20</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	1 <i>Adar I 21</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	2 <i>Adar I 22</i> <b>Ki Tisa</b> 10:00am Contemplative Shabbat Mini-Retreat
3 <i>Adar I 23</i>  9:30am Sunday Religious School + Nitzanim 11:00am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat! 2:30pm GBIO Housing Action	4 <i>Adar I 24</i>  1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	5 <i>Adar I 25</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	6 <i>Adar I 26</i>	7 <i>Adar I 27</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Igbo Jews Historically & Today with Yehudah Webster	8 <i>Adar I 28</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings Timing TBA: Shabbat Home Dinners	9 <i>Adar I 29</i> <b>Vayakhel</b> 10:00am Shabbat <i>Shekalim</i> Morning Services 12:45pm Shabbat Afternoon Sing 8:00pm Film Club Discussion: <i>Magic Men</i> Timing TBA: Shabbat Home Dinners
10 <i>Adar I 30</i> <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar II</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School 11:00am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat!	11 <i>Adar II 1</i> <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar II</b> 1:15pm Morning Prayer as a Spiritual Practice: Lunchtime Study with Akiva Nelson	12 <i>Adar II 2</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School: Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm Avelut 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	13 <i>Adar II 3</i>  8:00pm CEC Meeting	14 <i>Adar II 4</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	15 <i>Adar II 5</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	16 <i>Adar II 6</i> <b>Pekudei</b> 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 9:30am Shorashim Shabbat & Shabbat Childcare 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services, Mindful Movement, & Learning about <i>Tahara</i>
17 <i>Adar II 7</i>  9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:00am CDT Members Meeting	18 <i>Adar II 8</i>  8:00pm CDT Men's Group	19 <i>Adar II 9</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	20 <i>Adar II 10</i>	21 <i>Adar II 11</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm New Member Welcome Meeting with VPs of Membership	22 <i>Adar II 12</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	23 <i>Adar II 13</i> <b>Vayikra</b> 10:00am Shabbat <i>Zachor</i> Morning Services 7:00pm Purim Party and Spiel! 7:00pm Purim Teen Space
24 <i>Adar II 14</i> <b>Purim</b> 9:30am Sunday Religious School: Purim Party! (Nitzanim Open House) 11:00am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat!	25 <i>Adar II 15</i>	26 <i>Adar II 16</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	27 <i>Adar II 17</i>	28 <i>Adar II 18</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings	29 <i>Adar II 19</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	30 <i>Adar II 20</i> <b>Tzav</b> 10:00am Member-led Shabbat <i>Parah</i> Morning Services
31 <i>Adar II 21</i>  9:30am Sunday Religious School 11:00am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat!	1 <i>Adar II 22</i>	2 <i>Adar II 23</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	3 <i>Adar II 24</i>  8:00pm CEC Meeting	4 <i>Adar II 25</i>  8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm What is my Legacy? Ethical Wills and Planned Giving	5 <i>Adar II 26</i>  2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings 5:30pm Shorashim Erev Shabbat 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	6 <i>Adar II 27</i> <b>Shmini</b> 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](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org)

