



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism

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Adar II/Nisan 5784

April 2024

CDT Purim Party 5784,
March 2024



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

LEANING INTO CDT VALUES

Stacey Chacker, CDT President



Until well into her eighties, my Mom hosted two seders a year with a big crowd, embodying the spirit of hospitality and tradition. When she finally "passed the torch" to me, she would show up on the train with a sponge cake and maybe a kugel, and joyfully embraced new rituals. She also held her shul close to her heart, serving in several leadership positions in the Sisterhood. In many ways, I walk in her shoes (minus the sponge cake), and serve as one of her living legacies.

At our March Members' Meeting, Rabbi Toba lifted up legacies – both ethical and financial – which we'll have an opportunity to learn about in classes this month. We heard a ton of updates, and, in small groups, discussed which of CDT's core values speak to us, and how to foster our multi-generational

community. I heard many things that resonated with me, and not surprisingly, lots of good ideas (you can find a recording of the meeting in the Members section of the CDT website). Rabbi Toba encouraged me to share here how I connect with some of our community's values. Like many members, **Kehillah (Commitment to Community)** and **Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World)** are two of the values that stand out for me.

When I joined over 23 years ago, I did not anticipate that CDT would become a second home — a place of warmth, friendship, learning, activism, growth, and mutual obligation from the heart. I engaged at CDT in many ways including serving on committees, attending classes, going to services, etc. I chose to join the Board – first as VP of Tikkun Olam, and now as President – based on the value of **Kehillah**, my commitment to our community's well-being. I also benefit immensely from my new and stronger connections across our generations. And maybe I'll get that trip to Maui (for the reference to this, check out Ezra Hausaman's plug for Nediv Lev in the recording of the Members' Meeting!)

I have dedicated my life to **Tikkun Olam** — from being a Big Sister for years, serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer, organizing for close to two decades in East Boston, and now working at a non-profit public health organization. Throughout my adult life, I have been involved in efforts for immigrant, racial, environmental, and social justice, as well as building community. I am grateful to have found a congregation that is filled with "Seekers of Justice," and I am proud to take action visibly with my Jewish community. I am thrilled that my daughter has memories of going – with CDT – to protests for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Mothers Day Walk for Peace, and that our CDT kids stand up for justice together.

Talmud Torah: My daughter attended our Religious School and became a Bat Mitzvah at CDT. I have taken a broad range of classes and attended countless presentations — ranging from Rabbi Toba's Spiritual Autobiography class, to our class this fall on Reparations, to Israel-Palestine Peace programs, and so much more. I am mostly quiet on our listservs, but I follow and learn so much from what members share. I am deeply appreciative of how Rabbi Toba, other CDT educators, and our members challenge our thinking and help to "reconstruct" and expand our views and enhance our spiritual practices at home and at shul.

With our Mussar class, I leaned into **Kavanah (Sacred Intention)**. Through this process, I enhanced my efforts to cultivate patience, acceptance, and grace for myself, colleagues, CDT and family members. I remind myself to breathe.

Come to any discussion at CDT, and you'll see the stereotypical "two Jews – three opinions." We all know that these past six months have been incredibly challenging for the Jewish community. On both the Israel-Palestine Peace and Israel Connection listservs, I try to keep up with the discussions and resources shared, and I have participated in programs sponsored or organized by both groups. I value what both groups bring, and that we have remained strong as a community and are able to engage in **Machloket l'shem shamayim (Debate for the Sake of Heaven)**.

There's so much more I can say as all our core values are intertwined and speak to me, but I'll end with two things. First, a reminder that we launched our annual Nediv Lev ("giving from the heart") campaign in March, and we encourage all members and friends to contribute at any level that you are comfortable with. And second, we are thrilled that T'ruah selected Rabbi Toba to receive a Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award this spring. We invite you to join us (either in person or through the airwaves at a "watch party") at T'ruah's 2024 Gala on June 4 at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York City to see Rabbi Toba receive this honor.

As we continue our journey together, may we be inspired by the legacies of those who came before us and those who sit next to us — forging a future imbued with compassion, justice, and community.

Happy Spring and chag Pesach sameach.



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

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Executive Director of Operations: Margaret Farmer

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Education Director: Earnest Arky Solomon

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Administrative Assistant: Alistaire Webbe

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Inclusion Director: Jess Green

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Rabbinic Intern: Akiva Nelson

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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 Office

APRIL OFFICE HOURS AND CLOSURES

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

The office will be closed for Pesach on April 23 and 29. Margaret will be out of the office on Monday, April 8.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Looking for assistance here at CDT? Not sure who to call? Please see below for who to call to answer a question!

Please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** for anything related to Shabbat and holiday services (you can also contact the Ritual Committee chair with these

questions), life cycle events (including bnei mitzvah), holiday programming, or other program ideas. Rabbi Toba is also available for confidential pastoral support/conversation at any time. Please note that Rabbi Toba does not work on Mondays, and is off of email from Friday evening through Sunday morning.

Please contact **Margaret Farmer, Executive Director of Operations**, for anything related to the financial matters of the congregation such as membership, donations, contracts, and religious school tuition payments; B'nei Mitzvah logistics around physical space and catering; anything related to operations and the use of our space, contracts, and budget; and for HR, hiring, and employment issues. Margaret generally works Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, but is flexible around holidays and events.

Please contact **Earnest Arky Solomon, Education Director**, for any questions or issues relating to the religious school and other children's and family programming (Shorashim Shabbat, the teen group, High Holydays youth and family programming, etc.). Earnest's office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

Please contact **Alistaire Webbe, Administrative Assistant**, for anything related to your Kiddush or ushering assignment; technical or website support, non-financial issues related to the database or membership directory; all CDT listservs and mailing lists; adding events to the CDT calendar; Monday and Shabbat announcements; editing website content for groups/committees, and items for the newsletter. Alistaire's office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

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.

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.

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.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Fridays, April 5 and May 3
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 **April dinner will be potluck** (please bring a salad or veggie main dish to share; feel free to pick up a pizza or other prepared food — home-cooking not required!). At the May service, we'll be celebrating the learning of our Kitot Gimel and Dalet (3rd and 4th grade classes) with a catered dinner, followed by services.



Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANS AND GNC KIDDUSH MEETUP

Saturday, April 6, 12:15-1:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St)



After Shabbat morning services, enjoy some Kiddush lunch with an intergenerational group of trans and gender nonconforming CDT youth and adult members. We will get to know one another and connect as a community within our community. Our relationships across generations make us resilient but it is sometimes hard to find each other, so let's connect! Feel free to join for services or just come for Kiddush. Contact Earnest at e.arkysolomon@dorsheitzedek.org with any questions.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Shabbat HaChodesh

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

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services as we bless the new moon of Nisan, "the month" of our liberation! Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat Tazria

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

All are invited to join Rabbi Toba in the CDT Sanctuary or on Zoom for Shabbat morning services. Kiddush lunch follows services.

Shabbat HaGadol and B'Mitzvah of Eden Pytel

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

On this "great Shabbat" preceding the Pesach holiday, all are invited to join us as we call Eden Pytel to the bimah as a B'Mitzvah!

Eden is a 7th grader at Brown Middle School in Newton. They enjoy all kinds of art and are always making something, from ceramics to jewelry to digital art. They like to sing acapella, play the drums, and recently performed in the role of Plankton in the Spongebob Musical at Brown. For their Tikkun Olam project, Eden volunteered at Unity Farm Sanctuary, a farm animal rescue in Sherborn, MA. We are excited to celebrate this simcha with you!

— Rachel & Chad Pytel

PASSOVER

Passover begins this year the evening of April 22, and continues through April 29 (the Reconstructionist calendar follows the Israeli calendar, celebrating Passover for 7 days; some choose to observe for 8 days, through April 30). As we remember our ancestors' journey from *Mitzrayim*/the Narrow Place of oppression during *zman cheruteynu*, the "season of our freedom," here are opportunities to celebrate together:

Seder Matchmaking!

It's a mitzvah to attend a Passover seder, and a mitzvah to invite others to your table — so do a mitzvah! Our VPs of Engagement will be helping to match CDT households so that everyone who would like to attend a first or second night seder is able to do so. Please click on the "Passover" button on the CDT home page to find the form where you can both offer a space or request a space. Please know we will do our best to make matches, and we very much appreciate those who open up their homes and their seder tables!

Preparing for Passover Workshop with Rabbi Toba

Sunday, April 7, 10:15-11:15 am
CDT Religious School (Cabot Elementary, 229 Cabot St, Newton, MA)

Looking for some great ideas to make your seder engaging for people of all ages? Wondering how to get kids excited about Passover rituals? All are invited to join Rabbi Toba for this workshop focused on creating engaging seders for multi-generational gatherings.

Passover Liberation Concert with Molly Bajgot

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00-9:00 pm
Temple Hillel Bnai Torah (20 Corey St, West Roxbury)

CDT is co-sponsoring this event in support of the leaders of the #FreeHer Campaign: Families for Justice as Healing, and the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. In addition to music and community, the evening will include an opportunity to hear from women leading the campaign to place a moratorium on the construction of a

new women's prison. These powerful women will tell personal and political stories of incarceration of women, share their vision for a transformed Commonwealth, and more. *This event is sponsored by T'ruah MA; to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/truah-concert>.*

Shabbat Chol Ha'mo'ed Pesach

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

All are invited to join Akiva Nelson and CDT member-leaders for this special Shabbat of the Passover week, featuring the singing of Hallel! A Pesach-dik Kiddush follows services.

Seventh Day of Passover Service

Monday, April 29, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
CDT Sanctuary (in-person only)

Traditionally, the 7th day of the Passover week celebrates the Israelites' crossing of the Reed Sea. We will celebrate the final day of Pesach with a service that includes Hallel and Yizkor. For those remembering a loved one, yizkor candles are lit Sunday evening, April 28 (or Monday, if observing 8 days).

Shabbat, Holidays, and Spiritual Practice (cont.)

HOME-BASED KABBALAT SHABBAT AND POTLUCK

Friday, April 12, 6:30-9:00 pm
Location TBD

All are welcome to join Rabbinic Intern Akiva Nelson for a home-based, Friday night gathering. 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.

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.

D'VAR TORAH BY PHYLLIS KANTOR

From her Bat Mitzvah on February 17, 2024
This is an excerpt; to read Phyllis's full d'var, please visit the Divrei Torah page of the CDT website.

Today's Parsha is one that is close to my heart: Terumah, Exodus 25 -27. This portion of the Exodus story is about the building of the Mishkan and goes into minute detail. It can be tedious for some, but is very important to me, as it influenced my work and my career as a Judaic Weaver. To prepare for today I looked on the internet for commentary

on Terumah. I soon discovered commentary by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, who blogs under the name "the Velvetten Rabbi." She explained that the act of Terumah refers to gifts to God. Not Tithes, but freewill offerings, extravagant gifts of the heart. Hence the special word that gives its name to this parsha: Terumah. I was fortunate to be able to have a career that can be tied pretty directly to the Terumah portion of Exodus. Today I want to honor and appreciate those who were an essential part of what I created, and who I became. Early in my Weaving career I met Rabbi Arthur Waskow, one of the great progressive activist rabbis of our time. He asked me to make a tallit for him based on a story of his called "The Last Tishah b'Av: A Tale of New Temples." It involves the arrival of the Messiah. In the story, Jews and Muslims gather and prepare for battle at the Dome of the Rock. The Jews expected the Mosque to be torn down to make way for the 3rd Temple, while the Muslims expected to protect the Dome. The Messiah arrives at the dome of the rock and whispers "So Beautiful." The Messiah continues: "This green, this blue, this gold, this Dome — This is the Holy Temple!" The Jews and Muslims eventually lay down their weapons and enter The Dome of the Rock together.

As I approached my 80th birthday, my kids were putting together a retrospective of my weaving career. This had me looking back over my years of weaving, and remembering works which were very special to me and many people whose influence was essential to

me in developing my skills, in guiding my path, and in creating the pieces that I did. Their influence was artistic, technical, and spiritual, and all were part of the life path I chose.

I miss weaving. I miss the connections and conversations and learning that I had because of weaving. But I'm grateful to be here, today, in this community.

SAVE THE DATE: KABBALAT SHABBAT WITH SPECIAL GUEST YONI BATTAT!

Friday, May 17, 6:30-9:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St; in-person only)

All are invited to join us for a catered Shabbat dinner beginning with candle-lighting at 6:30 pm. At about 7:30 pm, we'll gather in the CDT sanctuary and on Zoom for special guest Yoni Battat, rescheduled from this January. 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, teaching about this rich culture and speaking about his personal experience of finding healing within his fragmented identity.

Please register for the dinner by Friday, May 10 to help us better estimate how much food to order. The dinner and program will be adult-oriented, but all ages are welcome.

CDT Groups and Events

AVELUT: SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN MOURNING

Tuesday, April 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.

CDT FILM CLUB

Discussion of *Farewell, Herr Schwarz*
Saturday, April 13, 8:00-9:00 pm
Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of *Farewell, Herr Schwarz*! Visit

CDT Groups and Events (cont.)

www.dorsheitzedek.org/film-club to learn more.

Farewell, Herr Schwarz (96 Minutes, 2013, Documentary; Israel Film Center): Siblings Michla and Feiv'ke Schwarz survived the Holocaust but never reunited after the war: Michla

moved to Israel, and Feiv'ke returned to Germany. The Israeli and German sides to the family lived unaware of each other until filmmaker Yael Reuveny probed exactly what happened to her family in 1945.

CDT MEN'S GROUP

Monday, April 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.

Learning

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, 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?

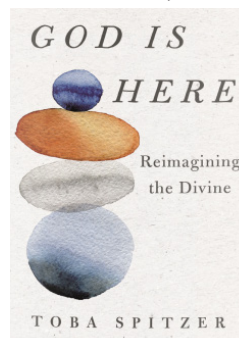
Thursday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 10,
7:00-8:15 pm
Zoom

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.

GOD IS HERE: REIMAGINING THE DIVINE

Sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality



Thursdays, April 18,
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,
June 6, 1:00-2:15 pm
Zoom

The Institute for Jewish Spirituality is hosting Rabbi Toba for a deep exploration of

non-anthropomorphic metaphors for the Divine in Jewish tradition, such as Water, Voice, Fire, Rock, Cloud, and Becoming. Based on her book *God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine*, Rabbi Toba will unpack a single metaphor in each live practice session (which will be recorded and available to those who cannot attend), immersing participants in mindfulness practices designed to help you access these pathways to the sacred in your own life. For God-believers, non-believers, and all those in between!

Please register for the class on the IJS website: <https://tinyurl.com/ijs-godishere>. Participants will receive a discount on a copy of *God Is Here* as part of their registration. Tuition is sliding scale, \$149/299/399. If finances are an obstacle, please contact Rabbi Toba at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

Youth and Family Programming

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Earnest Arky Solomon



This segment of the newsletter is dedicated to providing the congregation with a glimpse into our Religious School! This month we are featuring our Kitah Vav's (6th grade) *yad* making project and our Kitah Zayin's (7th grade) Jewish food project.

Since we avoid touching the letters of the Torah with our hands, the *yad* (meaning "hand"), is used as a pointer. Our Kitah Vav students are beginning

their B'Mitzvah studies by exploring Jewish ritual objects and how they connect us to tradition in our daily lives. The *yad* project is an entry point for thinking about their relationship with Torah and community.

The Kitah Vav teacher, Hannah Limov, led our students in a nature walk and each student chose a piece of wood to work with. The next session they learned how to whittle, practicing with butter

Youth and Family Programming (cont.)



knives and soap first! Then they worked hard whittling their *yads*. To finish their projects they sanded and oiled the wood.

The end results are beautiful! We hope many of them on the bimah in the coming years as they become B'nei Mitzvah in our community. Congratulations to Ktiah Vav on their beautiful project!

In Kitah Zayin our students study Jewish history. They visited Lerhaus, a tavern and House of Learning in Somerville, to learn and taste Jewish foods from around the

world. Each student then interviewed a Jewish elder and got a recipe from them. They made presentations about their interviews and then the class cooked the recipes together! Students made prakas, mujadara, challah, and more! It was so awesome to see the kids connecting to Jewish culture and history through food at Religious School!

Community

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member Matthew Prebluda, and welcome back to Marla Cummins!

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Fran Malino on the publication of her translation of *Mazaltob!*

Mazel tov to Robin Bernstein on the release of her new book, *Freeman's Challenge!*

PURIM THANK-YOUS

Thank you to Stacie Garnett-Cook, David Rhodes, Michelle Gibson, Deb McEwan, Daniel Reeves, and Emily Mathis for helping at the Religious School Purim Party, and thank you to our madrichimot for rocking the carnival and Purim stations!

Todah rabah to our fabulous Megillah leyners: Rachel Adler-Golden, Miriam Bronstein, and Laurie Goldman!

Yasher koach to this year's Spielmeister Ila Albenberg Karp and to our director Sheree Galpert!

Yasher Koach and a huge Todah Rabah to the cast and crew of "The Estie Spiel", this year's Purim spiel (in alphabetical order):

Zoe Adler-Lewis, Evelyn Albenberg, Hannah Crozier, Ruby Gan, Nuriel Gutman, Doug Hersh, Audra Karp, Ila Karp Albenberg, Lolo Margolin, Liora Reeves, Anya Rhodes, Andrew Stefano, Jai Stefano, Erica Streit-Kaplin,

and Emelia Webbe. With huge thanks to Nathan Aronow on piano and Tal Shalom-Kobi on bass, to Earnest Arky Solomon for all his help, and to Dennis Milligan for A/V support!

Thank you to all those who helped with set-up and clean-up:

Joe Bayes, Benita Danzing, Lynda Goldberg, Daniel Krassa, Tatjana Meschede, John Holohan, Karen Arnold, Nathan Aronow, Diana Fisher Gomborg, Richard Gomborg, Alissa Leonard, and Bonnie Tenneriello.

TODAH RABAH

Thank you to Dianne Lior for her book donation to the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School!

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

Rebecca Bact, Elizabeth Ferrenz, Pablo Goldbarg, Josh Herzig-Marx & Carla Naumburg, Hope Kellman (in honor of her birthday), Robin Bernstein, Douglas Hersh (in memory of Michael and Marilyn Hersh), Barbara (in memory of Edith Bushman, Murray Bushman, and Steven Bushman) & Elliot Pittel, Bill Shorr, Theresa St. John-Siegel, Judy

Havens, Barbara Shatkin, Tom Brown & Chagit Steiner, Polly Crozier & Jessica Keimowitz, Elana Cutler (in memory of Ken Shulak), Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal, Judy & Ken Rosenberg, Debby & John Saltzman, Ellen Hemley, Amy Mazur (in memory of her parents, Rhoda & Marvin Mazur), Madeline Steinberg & Mitch Feuer, Sharon Gorberg, Janet Rickles, Barbara Pittel, Ben Newman, Jeff Goldman (in memory of his father), Rachel Pytel, Robert Ross, Jordan Schwartz, Peter Shapiro, Noam Shore, Joel Suttentberg, and Emily Cowan (in memory of Bernard S. Wrubel z"l).

REFUAH SHLEYMAH

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

YAHREZEIT

This month, we remember CDT member Bill Gamson, whose 3rd yahrzeit falls on April 18. We will remember Bill at Shabbat morning services on April 13; may his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT teacher Lesley Chapman, whose 15th yahrzeit falls on April 22. We will remember Lesley at

Community (cont.)

Shabbat morning services on April 20; may her memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Stan Fleischman, whose 4th yahrzeit falls on April 22. We will remember Stan at Shabbat morning services on April 27; may his memory be for a blessing.

We remember CDT member Steven Adler-Golden, whose 2nd yahrzeit falls on April 29. We will remember Steven at Shabbat morning services on May 4; may his memory be for a blessing.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Lissy Medvedow on the death of her mother, Phyllis Medvedow, mother-in-law of Cliff Cohen, grandmother of Olivia and Charlotte. May her 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. 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.

MEET CDT'S CHESED COORDINATORS

Ellie Goldberg

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. All members are invited to sign

up and create a login for the CDT Chesed Caring Community volunteer list on the Lotsa Helping Hands website.

Please see the Chesed Caring Community webpage for recipes, inspiration, Q&As, and links to past articles.

If you have questions, would like to join the committee, or would like to receive Chesed, you can contact Rabbi Toba or send an email to chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

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



Chesed Coordinators at a Quarterly Committee Meeting: Lisa Hirsh, Judy Hersh, Dianne Lior, Abby Cohen, Elaine Landes, Gail Pressberg, Valerie Graf, Janet Rickles, Ellie Goldberg, Fran Malino. Not in photo: Meryl Epstein, Reesa Gottschalk, Beth Green, Kirsten Kuhn-Kutteh, Chad Pytel, Ellen Pashall.

Tikkun Olam

ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE: TRACING HOMELANDS WITH LINDA DITTMAR

*Thursday, May 2, 7:30-9:00 pm
CDT (60 Highland St; in-person only)*

The Israel/Palestine Peace Committee invites members and friends of CDT to an evening with the Israeli writer and scholar Linda Dittmar, author of a powerful new memoir about her

Israeli childhood and the abandoned landscapes she encounters as an adult. *Tracing Homelands: Israel, Palestine, and the Claims of Belonging* vividly describes the years before statehood, the 1948 war, and the traumas of dispossession and attachment traced literally upon the land. Born in 1938 and growing up in Herzliya and Tel Aviv, Dittmar takes us on a journey across place and time, offering

wise, sensitive, and honest perspectives in beautiful prose.

Linda Dittmar is a professor emerita of literature and film at U-Mass Boston; *Tracing Homelands* is available in paperback from Olive Branch Press. You don't need to read the book to join the conversation! For further information, please contact Sue Lanser at lanser@brandeis.edu.

Tikkun Olam (cont.)

CDT JOINS GBIO AT HOUSING RALLY ON MARCH 3

Sue Kaufman and Louise Enoch

It was an exciting moment to be at the Islamic Center of Greater Boston, in Roxbury, on March 3, rallying for the GBIO housing agenda with over 1700 people from GBIO member religious and supporting organizations. And it was a proud moment, during the "roll call," when Leila Quinn of CDT announced that our congregation had 65 people in attendance. While not the most attendees of any congregation, it was among the highest and it was clear that we were "punching above our weight class," and exceeding our goal of 54. Thank you to all the CDT members that attended, and everyone who sent emails and made phone calls to rally our membership!



The GBIO housing agenda includes supporting legislation currently in the State House that would further:

- Safe and Dignified State Public Housing
- More Funding for Affordable Housing and Homeownership
- Access to Quality Housing for Returning Citizens
- Increasing Housing Supply

We heard wonderful stories from a diverse set of speakers whose lived experience testified to the importance of each of the items on this agenda and voices of support from legislators who attended. The rally was an amazing achievement for GBIO and felt like an incredible success to those of us sitting in the audience, but we will see its true impact as these items are legislated on Beacon Hill. Stay tuned for more ways to voice our support!

GBIO Housing Justice Lobby Day

Thursday, April 11, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Massachusetts State House (24 Beacon St, Boston)

Join us on the steps of the State House next month to remind our legislators of their commitments and ensure our legislative and budget asks get across the finish line!

VOTER MOBILIZATION PROJECT 2024: OUR FIRST ACTION OF 1500 LETTERS COMPLETED!

Debbie Waber

It's election season again! This year, CDT members can once again channel anxiety into action by participating in a voter mobilization project. The goal of this project is to increase registration among graduating high school students by contacting their parents. Nationwide, less than 30% of 18-year-olds are registered to vote, a major barrier to voting itself.

CDT is working with the non-partisan organization The Civics Center in a letter writing campaign aimed at encouraging teens to register and vote. To kick off the project, four events were held in which members gathered in homes to write letters. At these events, people learned more about the letter writing campaign and enjoyed one another's company while working. Using materials provided by The Civics Center, they wrote a brief pre-specified message and stuffed and addressed envelopes to be sent to Pennsylvania mothers. The mailings contained all the information the recipient would need to help their teen to register. In total, we wrote 1500 letters in 8 days!



300 of the 1500 letters written by CDT members and friends!

To learn more about the Civics Center and this project, CDT will be hosting an information session with Laura Brill, CEO and founder of The Civics Center. You can stay up to date on our Voter Mobilization Project by subscribing to the Voter Mobilization List Serv and visiting our webpage through the CDT website. Please contact Cindy Shulak-Rome with any questions at cbsrome@comcast.net, and email Alistaire at a.webbe@dorsheitzedek.org to be added to the listserv. We hope you'll join us!

28TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Abby Cohen



Join CDT in supporting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace on **Sunday, May 12**. Last year we raised over \$8,000 and we hope to raise over \$5,000 this year!

"The goal of the Mother's Day Walk for Peace is to use the funds raised to equip communities with the tools and best practices to respond effectively and equitably to homicide. Our focus is on empowering survivors and communities impacted by murder and loss to cultivate cycles of peace and healing."

We also hope to have a large representation from the CDT Religious School. **This year there is a new, shorter route!** The total route is now 4.3 miles, beginning and ending at Town Field in Dorchester. If you have not participated previously, please consider walking this year.

This year each person is asked to register individually so you can ask your friends and family to contribute. Those who walk are asked to pay \$25 per walker. When registering, please indicate that you are part of Team Dorshei Tzedek! Visit the MDW4P page of the CDT website for more information.

April 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/KiddushTracker5784>. 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.

APRIL 5 — ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Kiddush Team: Jennifer Elowitch, Rosalyn Goldbarg, Amy Pollack-Howard, Jodi Rosenbaum Tillinger, Janelle Winston

APRIL 6 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Jamie Tessler

Kiddush Team: Debbie Isenberg, David Nathan, Gail Pressberg, Elizabeth

Samelson, Anne Simmons, Alec Stanton Shea

Zoom Greeter: Josh Matloff

APRIL 13 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Amy Westebbe

Kiddush Team: Barry Ingber, Ali Moss, Mark Paley, Ellen Pashall, Miranda Patton, Paul Schimek

APRIL 20 — B'MITZVAH OF EDEN PYTEL

Kiddush Team: Michele Aghassi, Deb Albenberg, Rachel Danford, Timothy Danford, Audra Karp, Kim Springer

APRIL 27 — SHABBAT MORNING

Usher: Kirsten Kuhn-Kutteh

Kiddush Team: Haralie Alpert, Jenny Leopold, Jay Leopold, Frances Malino, Carol Sklar, Ellen White

Nediv Lev: Launching our 5784 Campaign

March marks the kick-off of our annual *Nediv Lev* ("giving from the heart") campaign, a crucial part of the dues structure at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. You may have recently received a letter discussing the kick-off, and we will soon be sending out letters as well. This year our goal is to raise \$150,000 so that CDT can continue to provide the enriching, community-building, community-serving, heart-warming, educational, and spiritual programs we all count on.

In this time of division and pain for many of us, Dorshei Tzedek continues to provide a caring community and a haven in which to learn and grow for members and friends of all ages, backgrounds, and identities. Your donation will help us continue and expand our programming as well as support our wonderful Rabbi, teachers, and staff so that they can continue to support our community.

We are asking you to contribute at a level that is meaningful to you to help CDT reach this goal. You can give through the CDT webpage or by mailing a check to the office. Please note that Nediv Lev contributions are directed to our operating budget and are our largest source of general revenue outside of membership dues. We are grateful for every donation to Nediv Lev. *Todah rabah* for your continued generosity!

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

GENERAL DONATIONS & NEDIV LEV

Elaine Pollack — *With thanks to Rabbi Toba's leadership and teaching which keep us strong and connected*

Allison & Ezra Hausman

Bob Warren

Marjorie Salvodon & Mark Schafer

Dave Brown

Daniel Krasa & Tatjana Meschede

Melanie Adler & Andrew Cohen

Jonathan Adler & Jonathan Lewis

Marvin & Charlene Brotman

Ilana Streit

Sharon Gorberg — *In memory of my beloved father George L. Gorberg*

Diana & Richard Gomberg — *In honor of Stacey Chacker*

Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen

Cindy Shulak Rome & Dan Rome

Carolyn Fine Friedman — *In memory of Sara Fine & Milton Fine on their February and March yahrzeits*

Ellie Goldberg

Jennifer Nichols

Jennifer Kaplan & Susie Tanchel

Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola

Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT FUND

Denise & Mark Yurkofsky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Michael Feldstein — *On the occasion of my 80th birthday and being honored with an Aliyah*

April 2024 • Adar II/Nisan 5784

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Adar II 21 9:30am Sunday Religious School 10:45am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat!	1 Adar II 22	2 Adar II 23 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	3 Adar II 24 8:00pm CEC Meeting	4 Adar II 25 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm What is my Legacy? Ethical Wills and Planned Giving	5 Adar II 26 2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gathering 5:30pm Shorashim Erev Shabbat 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat	6 Adar II 27 Shmini 10:00am Shabbat HaChodesh Morning Services 12:15pm Intergenerational Trans and GNC Kiddush Meetup
7 Adar II 28 9:30am Sunday Religious School + Nitzanim 10:15am Preparing for Passover Workshop with Rabbi Toba 10:45am Aleph-Bet, No Sweat!	8 Adar II 29	9 Nisan 1 Rosh Chodesh Nisan 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School 7:30pm Avelut 7:30pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	10 Nisan 2 7:00pm What is my Legacy? Ethical Wills and Planned Giving	11 Nisan 3 8:30am Mindful Mornings 10:00am GBIO Housing Justice Lobby Day 6:30pm CDT Board Meeting	12 Nisan 4 6:30pm: Home-based Kabbalat Shabbat	13 Nisan 5 Tazria 9:00am Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
14 Nisan 6	15 Nisan 7 8:00pm CDT Men's Group	16 Nisan 8 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm Passover Liberation Concert with Molly Bajgot	17 Nisan 9 7:00pm Ritual Committee Meeting	18 Nisan 10 8:30am Mindful Mornings 1:00pm God is Here: Reimagining the Divine	19 Nisan 11 2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gatherings	20 Nisan 12 Metzora 10:00am Shabbat Hagadol Morning Services and B'Mitzvah of Eden Pytel
21 Nisan 13	22 Nisan 14 First Night Pesach Seder	23 Nisan 15 Pesach Office Closed 8:30am Mindful Mornings	24 Nisan 16 Pesach 1st Day Omer	25 Nisan 17 2nd Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 7:00pm New Member Welcome Meeting with VPs of Membership	26 Nisan 18 3rd Day Omer	27 Nisan 19 4th Day Omer 10:00am Shabbat Chol Ha'mo'ed Pesach
28 Nisan 20 5th Day Omer 9:30am Sunday Religious School	29 Nisan 21 Pesach 6th Day Omer Office Closed 10:00am Seventh Day of Pesach Service	30 Nisan 22 Pesach Yizkor 7th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 4:00pm Tuesday Religious School	1 Nisan 23 8th Day Omer	2 Nisan 24 9th Day Omer 8:30am Mindful Mornings 1:00pm God is Here: Reimagining the Divine 7:30pm I/P Peace: Tracing Homelands with Linda Dittmar	3 Nisan 25 10th Day Omer 2:00pm I/P Peace Drop-in Gathering 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat and Kitah Dalet Siyyum	4 Nisan 26 11th Day Omer Achrei Mot 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services and Kitah Hey Siyyum



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



On March 23, a group of nine CDT families with teens came together to decorate and fill 60 Purim bags to deliver to Golda Meir House! This was the first project in what will hopefully be a series of volunteer events for teens and families to spend time together while helping the community.