

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Hello from the New CDT President

Paul Hattis, president@dorsheitzedek.org

In my first opportunity to write to you as the new CDT President, I want to touch upon three things:

First, thank you to **Marc Steinberg**. From all of us, our deepest appreciation should go out to Marc for the incredible job that he has done as our synagogue President. For three years, Marc has brought his many talents and interpersonal strengths to help lead our board and synagogue community to a strong and stable position. During his tenure, our synagogue has grown, both in terms of its membership and the breadth of offerings in which our members engage in their Jewish journeys. Among Marc's many accomplishments has been his recent dedicated effort to successfully finalize new contracts with Rabbi Toba and Annette Lawson, our Education Director. Luckily, he remains on the board and Executive Committee as the Immediate Past President, and we are all grateful for his continuing presence and leadership role.

Second, though we remain in a stable financial position, we are not immune to the challenges affecting our overall economy. For us to confidently pursue the activities that make us a vital community, we need to get to a break-even level of operation. To do this both in the current fiscal year that is drawing to a close and in the new one that begins on August 1, donations need to cover about one-sixth of our budget—approximately \$70,000 per year. As we close this fiscal year, the really good news is that our members have continued to open their hearts and offer financial support which will likely get us very near to this year's budgetary goal. Thanks to all who have stepped forward to help; we truly need to have similar success in our Nediv Lev appeal for funds in the next fiscal year in order to continue our broad and diverse mission.

Finally, I want to say something about my own focus of interest for the synagogue as I assume the role of CDT President. Perhaps a word or two about what lead me to Reconstructionist Judaism will provide context. I gravitated to Reconstructionist Judaism for two main reasons:

First, its strong emphasis on social justice for all and the accompanying work that is asked of us as a Jewish community to help

attain that goal. Second, Reconstructionist Judaism's focus that as Jews, we need to affirmatively connect to the Jewish community and participate in a range of activities where we both learn about historical aspects of Judaism and Jewish life as well as discover what has meaning to us in our contemporary Jewish existence.

When I translate what moved me to join a Reconstructionist synagogue and think about the opportunities for our community, my hope would be to work with our board and Executive Committee to perhaps encourage members to find the space in their lives to either connect to:

- A Dorshei Tzedek social justice activity such as continuing outgrowth of Food Matters activities or GBIO. GBIO's current focus is on how families obtain and deal with financial debt. GBIO also continues its work on healthcare reform and youth and safety.

or

- A Dorshei Tzedek community connection activity such as Torah of Chesed or *Limud* 2010. The latter is a new strategic planning effort around learning in the congregation starting later this fall. The project was discussed at the May Members' Meeting (see page 2). Stay tuned for more information.

I look forward to a healthy discussion about all of this. Have a nice summer.

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Notes from CDT Members' Meeting for May

Peter Katz, Secretary

Marc Steinberg welcomed the members and guests with a blessing.

Rabbi Toba gave a brief d'var reflecting on the year just past and recognizing the many gifts that all the members bring to the community.

Susannah Zisk reported that membership now stands at 175 households. She thanked **Ellie Goldberg** for her hard work on publicity. Ellie is stepping down and **Theresa St. John-Siegel** will join the board with responsibility for communications. Susannah also thanked **Corinne Lofchie** for her leadership of the membership committee; **Lisa Port White** will succeed Corinne Lofchie in that role.

Peter Hess gave a Nediv Lev update, and **Mark Farber** gave an update on finances for the current fiscal. The membership then voted on a new budget for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Amy Mazur updated the members on the Torah of Chesed. The members' meeting in March surfaced five themes: giving and taking; parenting; death and mourning; responses to the economic downturn; and breaking the silence on lifecycle issues. The plan is to form task forces to continue discussion these themes and to help develop action steps. Those wishing to participate should contact Amy at acmazur@comcast.net.

Laurie Goldman continued this discussion with a report on GBIO. GBIO has had success persuading legislators to oppose state budget cuts in key social service areas. GBIO is now forming teams to research possible actions on mortgages and foreclosures, the credit card industry, educational loans, and employment. For this project, GBIO may connect with similar organizations in other parts of the country. Those interested in this work can contact Laurie at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu.

Marc Steinberg reported that, in light of continuing concerns about children's programming at High Holidays, **Sharon Sevransky** will lead a committee to consider solutions.

Marc announced that we have signed a new agreement with **Annette Lawson**, with a two-year term as CDT Education Director. Marc then made the announcement that, as **Rabbi Toba** is finishing a seven-year contract, she and Dorshei have agreed to a new contract that has no fixed term, but instead anticipates that Toba will be our Rabbi until her retirement.

Allison Andrews and **Sheree Galpert** described a new project, to be known as Limud 2010, under which we will develop and implement a strategic plan for congregational learning. Starting in the fall of 2009 and continuing through the fall of 2010, the team will work with Rabbi Toba, Annette, and all interested members to shape a vision of Dorshei's goals and values for learning and education. The team will then develop a plan and

work to implement the plan to actualize this vision. CJP's Leadership Development Initiative will provide consulting support (at no cost) for the implementation phase.

On behalf of the community, Marc Steinberg and Rabbi Toba thanked a number of people who have been working hard and steadily behind the scenes to support the congregation by accomplishing important tasks, including:

- **Dan Halbert**, for his work on the newsletter and other communications;
- **Mark Bronstein**, without whose work on the sound system we would not hear anything at our venues;
- **Stan Fleischman**, webmaster extraordinaire;
- **Lauren Gibbs**, for her contributions to the membership committee, and who is also responsible for the Yizkor scroll;
- **Sharon Gorberg**, for her support and organization of B'nei Mitzvah gifts and for preparing Dorshei's acknowledgements;
- **Linda Hsu**, for organizing child care on countless occasions;
- and **Amy Mazur**, for her Torah of Chesed leadership.

Marc and Rabbi Toba then recognized and thanked departing Board and Off-Board chairs and members: **Mark Farber**, VP Finance; **Peter Hess**, Nediv Lev; **Steve Siegel**, Space; **Corinne Lofchie**, Membership; **Ellie Goldberg**, Publicity; **Laurie Goldman**, Tikkun Olam; **Sharon Sevransky**, At Large

Rabbi Toba then offered a special word of thanks to **Marc Steinberg** who is stepping down as president as of July 31 after three eventful and productive years.

The members elected the new Board by acclamation. (See the back page of the newsletter for the roster.)

Marc thanked **Esther Kohn**, **Cindy Rome** and all the nominating committee volunteers.

Contacting the Rabbi: Rabbi Spitzer will be on vacation from July 3 through July 31. During that time, if you are in need of rabbinic support, please be in touch with the Chesed co-chairs, Pamela Schoenberg or Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, or with Marla Lichtman in the Dorshei Tzedek office. For help with a shivah minyan or other Chesed matters, please be in touch with Pamela or Lisa.

High Holyday Sermons: The talks that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei. In addition, CDT members' "Jewish Journey" talks are available in the "Members Only" section. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

Shabbat Programs

*Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held normally weekly (but see the summer schedule below), starting at 9:45 am. **Child care is provided every Shabbat morning.***

Summer Shabbat Service Schedule

Over the summer, we do not have Shabbat services every week. Here is our summer Shabbat morning services schedule:

July 11 and 25, 9:45 am

Join CDT lay leaders for Shabbat morning services and Torah study.

August 8, 15, and 29, 9:45 am

Rabbi Toba returns in August and will be leading these Shabbat morning services.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service

August 7: 6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service

Join us for this fun, musical erev Shabbat service. Once a month, we gather for a potluck vegetarian dinner, beginning with candle lighting at 6 pm, followed by a musical, all-ages erev Shabbat service at 6:45 pm. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian main dish or salad to share (enough for 15–20 people). Drinks and dessert are provided.

Tisha B'av

July 29, 8:30 pm, Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

The 9th of Av, a fast day on which we commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples and mourn the experience of exile in Jewish history, falls this year on the evening of July 29. We will not be holding an observance here at CDT, but CDT members are welcome to join Temple Hillel B'nai Torah for a program at which Rabbi Barbara Penzner will lead some traditional chanting from the Book of Lamentations, followed by discussion of how we relate to the suffering of Jews in times past.

Unity Shabbaton: An Adult Weekend of Study and Prayer

Friday, August 7-9, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Tewksbury, MA

This rich and unique Shabbat experience, which brings together Jews from various streams of Judaism in an atmosphere of respect and understanding, will feature a diverse faculty of noted rabbis for high-level Judaic study, inspirational services (with mechtza and egalitarian davening options), delicious Kosher, ruach-filled meals from Dushes Kosher Catering, and entertainment, outstanding accommodations, and air-conditioned facilities. This year our esteemed faculty includes Rabbis Fred Benjamin, Joseph Meszler, and Avi Heller. Plan now to join in this extraordinary opportunity for learning and growth! Contact the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts at 617.244.6506, ext. 10 or visit www.synagoguecouncil.org for further information. Registration materials are available on the website.

National Havurah Summer Institute

August 3-9, 2009

This summer, join more than 300 people from a wide range of backgrounds at the National Havurah Committee Summer Institute 2009, "Walking in all your ways," August 3-9, 2009 at Franklin Pierce University, in Rindge, NH. Together, we will spend a week of in-depth study, moving prayer, spirited conversation, creative arts, social justice work, and enriching experiences for children and families. We'll enjoy late-night jam sessions, singing, dancing, swimming, meditation, and hiking, all while building new connections. Scholarships and travel grants are still available. The National Havurah Committee is a non-denominational, pluralistic, egalitarian, intergenerational, and volunteer-run organization, which has been dedicated to participatory Jewish living and learning, joyful grassroots Judaism, community building, and tikkun olam (repairing the world), since the 1970s. For more information, visit www.havurah.org/institute.

Bat Mitzvah of Clara Ives

Please join us on **August 8** as our daughter **Clara**, (*Chamonit*, meaning sunflower), is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. As last, but not least, she follows her sister Maida and brothers Noah and Joseph to the bema. Advancing to the eighth grade at Brown Middle School and her thirteenth birthday in September, she is in the midst of changes, cutting her hair for Locks for Love, getting glasses and looking forward to braces. (Have you seen *Ugly Betty*?) Amidst her family and her friends, Clara has found her own (usually) quiet voice, through her love of piano, soccer, lacrosse, reading and art. Clara's tikkun olam project is dedicated to her dear Uncle Marty, who will be hosting a light Kiddush lunch for all to enjoy together. So join us as we rinse off the suntan lotion and treasure this special Shabbat summer service.—love, *Sandy Sedacca and Sherwood Ives*

Rosh Chodesh

7 - 9 pm at 60 Highland Street
August 18: Rosh Chodesh Elul
September 15: Rosh Chodesh Tishrei

The celebration of the new month, Rosh Chodesh, has traditionally been an opportunity for women to gather and develop their own spirituality and explore their lives as Jewish women. Each month, the CDT Rosh Chodesh group gathers to participate in this monthly learning experience.

5769 was a year of many blessings for the women of the CDT Rosh Chodesh group. The group met almost every month since the fall, with Rabbinic Intern **Julia Appel** as our organizer and one or more members leading each group. The group is sad to say goodbye to Julia and grateful for her organizational and inspirational gifts—she helped develop a resource library on Rosh Chodesh practices, planned monthly groups at the CDT space at 60 Highland Street, and initiated several meaningful rituals that are sure to remain part of the group's practice for years to come.

While a core group of 6-10 women have attended regularly this year, the group is always open to new women participating. We hope you will come and try it out! **Alison Lobron** and **Erica Streit-Kaplan** are serving as co-coordinators of the group for 5770. If you want to learn more, contact them at auderial@yahoo.com or ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com.

Goodbye from Julia Appel

Although I am excited about my wedding and upcoming move to Jerusalem, I will be sad to leave Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. You have made me feel at home this year, learned with me, invited me into your joys and sorrows, and strengthened my rabbinic experience. After my wedding on June 28, Aaron and I will be moving to Jerusalem for the year. I will be studying at Pardes and the Conservative Yeshiva, and he will be a visiting research fellow at Hebrew University. We will return to Boston for my fifth year of rabbinical school in 2010. Thank you to everyone for such a wonderful experience at CDT this year.

Gateways: Jewish Education for Special Needs Children

Gateways has room for new students with a special need or disability for the 2009-2010 school years in our Jewish Education Supplemental Programs. Students in these programs have moderate to severe special educational needs, such as developmental delays, hearing and/or visual impairments, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.

Children learn about Jewish holidays, customs and traditions, mitzvot and Bible stories. Gateways teaches students using a highly structured, multi-sensory, multi-modal approach. We provide multi-sensory Hebrew education (ages 4-18), two-year B'nei Mitzvah preparation (ages 11-14), and the Mitzvah Mentsches Class (ages 13-18) that includes advanced prayer study, conversational Hebrew and an imbedded social skills curriculum options.

For more information, contact Nancy Mager at nancym@gateways.org or 617-630-9010, ext. 4.

Recruiting for our School

It is the time of year when we are ramping up our efforts to reach folks in the Jewish community who may be interested in sending their kids to our school next year. The viability of our school depends on bringing in new families, and word of mouth from friends and acquaintances is **by far** the most important recruiting tool we have. ***This is where you come in:*** Would each of you please take a moment to think of Jewish families in your social circle, your neighborhood, your workplace, your child's school, your health club (you get the idea!) who might potentially have an interest in a progressive Jewish education for their children, and spread the word? Note that membership in CDT is **not** required for the first year of a child's enrollment in K-2.—*Susannah Zisk, Membership VP*

Religious School News

*Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org*

Now that the school year has ended, I have the opportunity to reflect on the past year, my first as CDT Education Director. I am grateful for so many things: the dedication, creativity and learning of our teaching staff, the energy and curiosity of our students, the caring and involvement of our parents, and the commitment to education of this congregation.

Looking back at the year, the highlights for me were the many ways our students, parents and other congregants came together in community. A few of those moments were:

- Lower School parents sharing their concerns and insights about parenthood during our monthly parenting discussion groups
- Upper School students getting to know students from other grades as they shared Rosh Chodesh electives
- Congregants of all ages coming together for the Food Matters community learning days
- Hey and Vav students getting to know each other better outside of class at the awesome Shul-In
- Spending the afternoon at Overlook Farm with Kitah Gimel students and parents and watching our students learn to milk a goat and brush a yak
- Celebrating Shabbat each week with Lower School students, parents, and teachers during Shabbat Circle
- Kitah Zayin organizing Team Zayin for the Walk for Hunger

Looking forward to next year, I am excited that we are introducing two new classes, Nitzanim, for 3- and 4-year-olds and BaDerech, for 8th graders. Providing learning opportunities for our youngest and post-b'nai mitzvah students helps us realize the ideal that Jewish learning is a lifelong endeavor.

I would like to thank all of you for the support and friendship that has been extended to me this year. Enjoy your summer!

New Guide for Non-Jewish Members

The CDT Ritual Committee, in partnership with the Board and the Membership Committee, has created "Non-Jewish Members at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: A Guide," now available both as a pamphlet on our literature table, and on-line on our website, www.dorsheitzedek.org. This Guide is for current and prospective members, to help clarify the special role of our non-Jewish members in the community, and to hopefully answer questions that people often have about what it means to be a non-Jewish member of a congregation committed to inclusivity, Jewish heritage, and tradition.

Harmoniyah: Reconstructionist Music Network's Second Retreat!

*Adat Shalom, Bethesda, MD, October 29 - November 1, 2009
Call for Workshop Proposals: Application Deadline - June 15, 2009*

Join us for the second biennial JRF Harmoniyah Music Retreat-Thursday evening October 29 through Sunday morning, November 1, 2009 (special evening program Wed, October 28 for local participants and early arrivals). The goal of this retreat is to continue to build a participatory, community-affirming network of rabbis, cantors, lay leaders, music directors, educators, liturgists, musicians and music lovers that joyfully celebrates our collective experiences, skills and resources in the ongoing preservation and creation of music of and for the Jewish People.

What are we looking for? We are hoping to offer a range of music-related experiential workshops including: music for worship, sharing new instrumental music (electronic, klezmer, etc.), using music with families and children, folk music (Yiddish, Israeli, etc.), music connected to Tikkun Olam, and the arts.

Workshop proposals should be geared to meet the needs of: 1) Cantors, Soloists, Rabbis, Shlichei Tzibbur, Music Directors and Educators; 2) Choirs (not necessarily expert musicians, but those willing to devote time to practice); 3) Congregational Singing; 4) Music and Congregational Life (education for families, adults, children; tikkun olam, the arts, programming outside of worship services, etc.) Our goals are to help participants to be able to return to their home congregation with new tools, melodies, materials and ideas to enrich congregational life. We also hope this retreat will continue the task of growing and building connections among ourselves and our movement. Preference will be given to presenters who are attending the whole retreat. For details, visit <http://www.jrf.org/2009-Harmoniyah-Retreat>.

Chesed

During the month of July, Rabbi Spitzer will be on vacation. If you are in need of support, please contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** (jomela@rcn.com) or **Lisa Goodwin-Robbins** (lgoodrobe@alumni.princeton.edu) of the Chesed Committee. There will be rabbis on-call during July if you are in need of rabbinic support; please be in touch with Marla Lichtman (administrator@dorsheitzedek.org) in the Dorshei Tzedek office, or with CDT President Paul Hattis (president@dorsheitzedek.org) for their contact information. Rabbi Spitzer will be back in the office on August 4.

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call **Rabbi Spitzer** at 617.965.0330 x2.

Todah Rabah

To **Steve and Avital Lewis**, for the beautiful silk irises that now grace our bimah, in memory of Avital's mom and beloved CDT member, Jill Volk. Irises were Jill's favorite flower.

To **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, for her wonderful Midrash workshop, and to Ben Newman, for his wise and witty "Love Song," offered as part of our Shavuot program.

To **Sharon Gorberg** who has been our tireless Donation Acknowledgment Volunteer for the last year. Alas it's time for her to let go and pass on the torch. *Many thanks for all your hard work Sharon.*

A **huge todah rabah** to the fabulous Retreat '09 coordinators, **Lisa Port White** and **Bill Shorr**, for their amazing work in pulling together a great retreat. And thanks as well to all those who helped with the planning and coordination of the retreat: **Jen Levine-Fried**, **Alison Lobron**, **Laurie Goldman**, **Linda Kramer**, **Sharon Sevransky**, Administrative Director **Marla Lichtman**, and Administrative Assistant **Jon Sarnier**. Thanks as well to all the members who helped with workshops, kids and adults services, sports & games, arts & crafts projects, at the waterfront, and with the campfire. It was a truly cooperative effort, and everyone's contributions made for a wonderful weekend.

Todah Rabah to those who recently helped with kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah: **Josette Akresh-Gonzales**, **Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn**, **Matilda & Ed Bruckner**, **Helaine & John Carroll**, **Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder**, **Elena Eisman**, **Lauren Gibbs**, **Rick Glassman**, **Stephanie & Nem Hackett**, **Sarah Hartman**, **Barry Ingber**, **Pamela & Steven Katz**, **Sherry Katz**, **Scott Lewis**, **Jonathan Magaziner**, **Lissy Medvedow**, **Carla**

Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx, **Ruth Paris**, **Kristen Petersen**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Lisa Goodwin Robbins**, **Dan Rome**, **Peggy Rose**, **Elizabeth Samelson**, **Noam Shore**, **Emily Sper**, **Ilene Spiro**, **Susie Tanchel**, **Jamie Tessler**, and **Annie Weiss & Sophie Cash**.

Condolences

Condolences to **Jerry Friedman**, and to **Carolyn Fine Friedman**, **Rose**, **Sophie** and **Nina**, on the death of Jerry's sister, **Ruth Simring**. May her memory be for a blessing.



Yarzheit

We remember CDT member **Evelyn Felson**, whose yartzheit falls this year on July 7. May her memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To our June b'nai mitzvah, **Sophie Cash** and **Sofia Rosenberg**, and their families!

We are happy to announce that **Marjorie Feld's** book, a biography of reformer Lillian Wald (entitled, *Lillian Wald: A Biography*) just won the Saul Viener Prize of the American Jewish Historical Society. The book was published in January by UNC Press, and Marjorie received tenure a few months later at Babson. **Michael Fein's** book, *Paving the Way: New York Roadbuilding and the American State, 1880-1956*, which came out last year with University Press of Kansas, has also received acclaim.

Miriam Bolkosky and **Benjamin Wright** are expecting twins in the fall. Mazel tov!

Mazel tov to our 5769 Rabbinic Intern, **Julia Appel**, on her marriage to **Aaron Wenner**!



Welcome New Members

We welcome our new members **Rachel Zakula**, **Phoebe Cushman** and **Joel Auslander**, and **Miriam Bolkosky** and **Benjamin Wright**! We hope to have extended introductions in the next issue of the newsletter.

Tikkun Olam

A Simple Mitzvah – Family Table

Pamela Schoenberg Reider, jomela@rcn.com

Thanks to Morah **Hillary Pinsker** and last year's **Kitah Vav**, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is now a site for Family Table, greater Boston's kosher food pantry. Family Table provides healthy, nutritious food on a monthly and emergency basis to individuals and families in need. They currently serve about 500 individuals who are identified by rabbis, religious school directors, and social workers. Family Table participants receive groceries including fresh produce, dairy, protein rich foods, personal hygiene products, and Jewish holiday and ritual items such as challah and Shabbat candles. The program promotes healthy eating and collaborates closely with JF&CS Nutrition Services.

The food pantry program depends on the efforts of hundreds of volunteers from the community, synagogues, and day schools who collect, sort, pack, and deliver groceries for our recipient families. Kosher and parve food collections take place at 48 area synagogues and day schools each month. **Dorshei Tzedek is now one of these collection sites.**

One Sunday per month, food donations are delivered to the food pantry. Supplies are sorted and packed by volunteers who deliver the packages to recipient's homes throughout Greater Boston. Adults and kids, including young children, can volunteer for a few hours once a year (or more!) to truly make a difference in the lives of people in our community. The program is especially popular because volunteers experience hands-on *tzedakah*.

We are responsible for vegetarian/parve tomato products (puree, paste, whole tomatoes, sauce, etc.) and raisins. So, whenever you come to shul, consider bringing along some food to donate to Family Table. There are two collection boxes at Dorshei Tzedek: one is in the school office at FUSN (and will be available during school hours in the fall) and the other is right outside the sanctuary at the Second Church, near the door out to Highland Street.

We are also responsible for bringing our food items to the Family Table office in Waltham *one Sunday* per month. As a driver, you would simply need to pick up the food at Dorshei Tzedek and transport it to the Waltham office. You can volunteer to be a driver by yourself, or bring along your family. We need only one car to drive the load over to the Family Table office. If you want to be a driver, please go to this calendar and sign up: <http://doodle.com/3whymp8tsqk7h775>. You will receive instructions via email.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Pamela at jomela@rcn.com.

Food Matters

Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld, Congregation Shirat Hayam, rachelschoenfeld@yahoo.com

This year, the Food Matters initiative, supported by a grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies, has started a community conversation at CDT. Through Food Matters, an initiative where the CDT community has looked at the social justice implications of our food choices, we have explored many ways that food affects our lives and our planet, in ways that touch diverse parts of the CDT community.

This year, we've had many successes. We put together a Food Matters day in January when the whole CDT community cooked and learned together. We gathered again in March and learned together about the relationship between Passover and food justice. The children in the religious school, following their year-long study, taught us about food justice issues ranging from Fair Trade to the Walk for Hunger. In the religious school, we ran a Hunger Banquet, to teach the kids about international food distribution. We now have CDT as a Family Table collection site for tomatoes and raisins (see article on left).

The adult community this year began to learn about Food Matters with Rabbi Toba's class in the fall. We've participated in the community education days, as well as run a gardening program as part of Shabbat Unplugged, and a session at the CDT retreat. We've also had opportunities to learn with each other on Tu B'Shvat and at our planning meetings. And we put together a survey and found out what CDT members are already doing, and what our community wants in the future.

Moving forward, we're working on several specific initiatives. We're looking at how our values affect our food choices. We're looking into partnering with CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and/or taking trips to farmer's markets and cooking together. We're figuring out how to best share resources around gardening and composting among CDT members. And, we're investigating how we can best use our community to influence local groceries to carry fair trade products. Please contact Rabbi Toba to get "plugged in" to one of these working groups!

I want to express a heartfelt thank you to the CDT community for including me in this year's Food Matters program. Thank you for all of the wonderful events and conversations that you've made happen! I've learned an incredible amount about food and justice, and the CDT community. I look forward to hearing about the ways that the Food Matters initiative continues over the summer and next year!

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

Karen Arnold

Susan Bernstein

Downey-Farnsworth Family Charitable Foundation

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

*In honor of Marc Steinberg's leadership and vision
these past three years*

In honor of Lisa Port-White and Bill Shorr

In honor of Paul Hattis' new role

In honor of Rabbi Toba

Josette Akresh-Gonzales & Michael Gonzales

In honor of a gift for Sebastian from a member of CDT

Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb

Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

*In honor of Marc Steinberg's leadership as President of Dorshei
Tzedek and the beginning of the next generation of Dorshei
Tzedek's leadership. Kol hakavod!*

Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh

In honor of Raphe Broh's Brookline High School graduation

Jennifer Kaplan & Susie Tanchel

In honor of Marc Steinberg

In honor of Marla Lichtman

Esther Kohn

*In honor of Corinne Lofchie
or chairing the Membership Committee this past year
In honor of Laurie Goldman
for chairing Tikkun Olam these past two years*

Sarah Little & Doug Hersh

In honor of all the retiring Board members

Howard Lurie

In memory of Andrew Warren Lurie

Cindy Marshall, Kathy Pillsbury,

Jeremy Marshall, & Mikayla Marshall

*In memory of Arthur Marshall and with thanks
to the CDT community*

Amy Mazur

*In honor of Dan Halbert for his technical/audio expertise
In honor of Marc Steinberg for his tenure as President*

Carla Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx

Sivan Nasoff

In honor of Mark Farber

Allison Peiser

Elaine Pollack

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th Birthday!

In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer and her inspiring leadership of CDT

In memory of Ron Silver, brother of Mitch Silver and Ora Gladstone

In memory of Arthur Marshall, Cindy Marshall's dad

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley Zimble

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Cash

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Rosenberg

*In honor of Annette Lawson, with gratitude for her leadership
and the many gifts she brings to our school*

*In honor of Marc Steinberg upon completion of three years of
wonderful leadership as President of Dorshei Tzedek*

*In honor of Rabbi Toba, with great enthusiasm for her new
"open-ended" contract*

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

*In honor of the high school graduation of Zach Miller and his
classmates from Kitah Zayin class of '04*

*In honor of Marc Steinberg's presidency and the hardworking
Board of 5769*

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan

In honor and appreciation of the CDT Rosh Chodesh group

Jamie Tessler

In memory of Ted (Theodore) Tessler

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

In memory of CDT member Jill Volk, we have created the Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund, which will provide scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek religious school to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers. This fund will allow her love of Judaism and Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

Caren & Nathan Bosk

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In remembrance of Jill's second yahrzeit

In memory of Lesley Chapman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lisa Schneier

With deep gratitude

School Fund

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

In honor of Annette Lawson's first year as Education Director

(Continued from page 8)

Camp JRF Fund

Holy Books Fund

Building Fund

Buy your books, electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time! We are now an "Amazon Associate": When you click on the Amazon link on our CDT homepage (www.dorsheitzedek.org), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek.

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. 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. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Donation Acknowledgement Volunteer Position Open

This is a great volunteer position for you, the member who wants to be able to do something for CDT but doesn't want to come to meetings or become heavily involved. It can be done from home at your convenience (though timeliness is important) and all supplies, including postage are provided to you.

Here's a brief summary of what this important position involves:

1. Donations come into the office and are processed.
2. Donation info is forwarded to you via email, usually on the day it was received.
3. You send out, within a week or week and a half, acknowledgments to the donor and to anyone the donor has chosen to honor/memorialize with the donation, using contact info found on the web member list. (If an acknowledgement needs to go to a non-member, the address will be provided to you.)

That's it—MITZVAH DONE!

Please contact our Administrative Director, Marla Lichtman, for more information or to express your interest:

amindirector@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330, x3

Community

Adult Family Care Program from Springwell

Did you know that family members can get paid to be a full-time caregiver? The Adult Family/Foster Care program (AFC) provides seniors or individuals with disabilities with live-in care from a familiar loved one (other than a spouse) or foster caregiver. The recipient of care must be eligible for and enrolled in Mass Health and reside in the home with the caregiver. AFC caregivers receive a tax-exempt monthly stipend and two weeks paid vacation per year. For additional information or to learn more about Springwell's AFC program, call 617.926.4100.

Summer Food Service Program: Food that's In When School Is Out

Children who have access to nutritious meals throughout the Summer return to school in the Fall ready to learn, and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps make this possible. SFSP in your community allows children and youth age 18 and under to enjoy the same healthy food they get in school at a site in your neighborhood all summer long—for free!

SFSP sites are located throughout many cities and towns in Massachusetts. No registration or identification is needed. Often, there are activities to participate in at the sites, making the SFSP a nutritious, safe, fun way for children and youth to get healthy meals when school is out!

For more information on where and when meals will be served this summer in your community, call Project Bread's Food-Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or visit www.meals4kids.org in July and August.

Newton Eco-Teams Project—Join Now!

The Green Decade/Newton invites you to join the community-wide Eco-Team Project. Work with friends, neighbors, religious congregations and business colleagues to reduce home energy usage. Teams of 5-8 participants meet four times guided by the Low Carbon Diet Workshop to learn how to reduce household energy consumption and save money. Green Decade/Newton is committed to creating hundreds of teams run by a group of local volunteers working with "CoolMass", a state wide initiative of MCAN (Massachusetts Climate Action Network). Read more at <http://www.greendecade.org/ecoteams.html> or contact Bonnie Glickman at bglickman@mindspring.com.

A Taste of CDT Retreat '09

On June 12-14, over 40 CDT households ventured up to Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire for a fabulous weekend of swimming, davvening, singing, playing, learning, and hanging out together at the biannual CDT retreat. Camp Yavneh is our new favorite site for the retreat, complete with lovely accommodations, amazing food, a great waterfront, and lots of play structures for the little ones! **Lisa Port White** and **Bill Shorr** led a wonderful group of volunteers who organized every imaginable type of activity, from Shabbat services for all ages to the softball game, from poetry reading to a treasure hunt, from Israeli dancing to boating and a discussion about "Food Matters." Here are some special memories from a sampling of the 70 adults and 50 kids who attended.

Our family had a great time at the retreat. It was nice to talk to people we hadn't really spoken to before, and it was fun seeing people differently than how you normally see them. We enjoyed spending time at the beach. **Anna** loved splashing in the water and **Eleanor** enjoyed eating sand! The folks at Camp Yavneh were terrific, and the food was excellent. I particularly enjoyed the ice cream sundaes on Saturday night... (**James Kaplan**)

My favorite part of the Dorshei Tzedek retreat '09 was building dams at the beach. I liked it because it ended out with almost all the kids working on keeping the water out of the lake (on the sand). Ages ranged from 2 or 3 to 10 or 11. That was the part that I'll remember most of all the fun experiences. (**Lily Gomborg**)

It felt like living in a little village where people look out for each other. (Maybe this was what a shtetl was like.) Around every corner, in every doorway was a Dorshei Tzedek person. Two of many memorable moments for me were being led by **Leila Zisk**

out into the middle of the field on Friday night to see the stars, and studying the paths of the (abundant) rain water through the mud during a Sunday morning walk with **David Kramer-Fried**. (**Lisa Schneier**)

It was wonderful seeing kids of all different ages playing together, even if they hadn't known each other prior to the retreat. The relaxed setting is what made that possible. Thanks to our fab organizers, there were plenty of fun and interesting activities for those who wanted them, but I found it was really the down times in between activities where kids - and adults - were able to form new connections. (**Susannah Zisk**)

It was great to spend time with other members, some I knew and some I'd never met. I discovered members who love to play Scrabble, ping pong, and tennis...and even got in a little Israeli dancing. That said, my favorite part of the retreat was swimming far out into the lake, floating on my back and looking up at the sky. Having been on the fence about going, I'd strongly encourage folks to attend the next retreat! (**Emily Sper**)

This was a wonderful retreat. Our family enjoyed the boating, swimming, basketball, ping-pong, poetry, campfire sing-along ("Freebird!"), capture-the-flag, and, of course, the wonderful company, conversations, and good vibes throughout. (**Sofer-Tenneriello family**)

For me and **Alison**, one highlight of the retreat was listening to cars and motorcycles going by on the road, and being extra conscious of the fact that we were choosing to observe Shabbat quietly in a natural setting instead of driving to and fro. It felt good to put community and family time ahead of other things for the weekend. (**David Lobron**)

Save the date! CDT Retreat 2011, again at Camp Yavneh, June 10-12.



July – August



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jul 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ellie Goldberg - <i>in honor of my Aunt Leola Michaels</i> , Wendy & Charles Frankston Rabbi Toba off (see page 3)
Sat Jul 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linda Hsu, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx - <i>in honor of our 35th wedding anniversary</i> Rabbi Toba off (see page 3)
Fri Aug 7	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Michele Arons & Michael Brann, Jeff Goldman (see page 3)
Sat Aug 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Clara Ives	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz <i>Set-up:</i> Susan Nitkin, Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman, Barbara & Elliot Pittel <i>Clean-up:</i> Karen & Jeff Arnold, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal, Jacqui Bloomberg (see page 4)
Sat Aug 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jeff Kichen, Linda Katz - <i>in memory of Milton Katz</i> , Debbie Waber (see page 3)
Tue Aug 18	7 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 4)
Sat Aug 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp, Sharon Sevransky (see page 3)

Calendar Notes

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Some events are at FUSN, the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. During Rabbi Toba's weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 112.

No Fragrances, Please: So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. 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 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades, who help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates only. Thanks for your help!—Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

Executive Committee	President: Paul Hattis
	Past President: Marc Steinberg
	VP Membership: Susannah Zisk
	VP Finance: Michael Cohen
	VP Education: Sheree Galpert
	Secretary: Peter Katz
	Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Board Chairs	Communications: Theresa St-John Siegel
	Finance Secretary: Sivan Nasoff
	Membership: Lisa Port White
	Leadership Development: Esther Kohn
	Newsletter: Dan Halbert
	Ritual: Cindy Marshall
	School: Betsy Hinden and Lisa Samelson
	Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Brozan
	Member-at-large: Dan Rome
Off-Board Chairs	Member-at-large: Janice Cole
	Chesed: Pamela Schoenberg Reider and Lisa Goodwin-Robbins
	Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks
	Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
	Space Liaison: Josh Lieberman
	Website: Stan Fleischman
Education Director	Annette Lawson
Administrative Director	Marla Lichtman

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

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. "Dorshei Tzedek" means "seekers of justice," and as our name implies, we are seekers: of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition, where need be, and building on the tradition in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children's bond—to our heritage. We view education for ourselves and our children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and is both teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of mitzvah as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.