Developing Leaders at CDT

Esther Kohn, estie.kohn@gmail.com

Most often, the person who becomes the leader is not the one that knows the way, but the one who behaves as if s/he knows.—Yalkut Shimoni, Midrash

In June of 2008 I accepted an invitation to become “chair of leadership development.” I wasn’t sure what the position actually entailed or how I would go about developing leaders in the congregation (or developing myself as a leader!). Since I am ambivalent about my own leadership ability, I was intrigued to take on the challenge and learn more. To inform myself and develop my skills, I participated in the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation conference last year in Boston, and in the Leadership Development Institute, sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies. These experiences catapulted me into new levels of learning and equipped me with new tools and knowledge.

I have yet to come up with answers but with the help of the Board and our Leadership Development Team (Laurie Gould, Dan Rome, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Cheryl Sacks, and Sheree Galpert) I am clearer about some important questions we need to consider. How do we make leadership manageable and meaningful in our congregation? How can we clarify roles and responsibilities so that leadership positions are accessible and doable? What strategies can we use to identify and engage leaders? What skills do people in leadership positions need and how do they obtain them? How do we build a community of leaders?

As part of our leadership development effort, we held an all-day retreat for Board and Off-Board Chairs. (You can see a list of these leaders on the back page of the newsletter.) Twenty-four CDT members spent a snowy Sunday in October in the basement of the Walker Center in Newton to build a sense of community, reflect on leadership, and set objectives for the year. In the morning, we discussed Jewish texts, such as the one at the beginning of this article, and reflected on our own values about leadership. We also used a “Seven S” model to analyze leadership development at CDT to see how our strategies, systems, structures, skills, style, and staff are aligned with our shared values.

In the afternoon, we focused on two themes from the CDT Strategic Plan that still need to be addressed: creating a culture of giving, and the necessity to grow. As a group, we used an expansive definition of “giving” as we brainstormed possible ways to promote this in the congregation. We distilled an amazing range of ideas to four specific, measurable objectives:

1) Increase participation in Family Table
2) Make Kiddush less stressful and more meaningful
3) Engage people around Limmud 2010
4) Hold twenty-five one-to-one conversations with members to increase engagement

Our hope is that working toward these objectives will foster a culture of giving on many levels: giving of ourselves, giving to the congregation, and giving to the greater community. If you would like to know more about leadership development or any of the objectives, you can contact me at estie.kohn@gmail.com.

The retreat was a successful experiment and we plan to make it an annual event. Stay tune for more updates on leadership development and these culture of giving initiatives!

Correcting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi’s voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

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.
Members’ Meeting Notes  
November 22, 2009  
Peter Katz, peter_katz@harvard.edu

A meeting of the members of CDT was held at 60 Highland Street on at 6:45 pm after a pizza supper and an ice-breaking activity.

Paul Hattis welcomed the members and asked new members and guests to introduce themselves.

The principal activity of the meeting was the kick-off of Limud 2010 (see page 7), CDT’s project for developing a strategic plan for becoming a community of learners, with a goal of producing the plan by Passover 2010.

Lisa Schneier, Alison Lobron and Sheree Galpert initiated a discussion of active learning in relationship to Jewish values. In pairs and small groups, the members, guided by a selection of Talmudic texts, discussed personal learning experiences and their views of the characteristics of learning. The members also filled out Jewish learner “business cards” on which they stated personal learning goals.

Rabbi Toba introduced the Limud 2010 task force, whose members are Allison Andrews, Andy Cohen, Sheree Galpert, Amy Goldsmith, Alison Lobron, Lisa Schneier, Annette Lawson and the Rabbi.

The meeting concluded with brief business reports.

Finance: Sivan Nasoff reported the overall budget numbers. Revenues and expenses to date are about on track.

Membership: Lisa Port White reported that to date CDT has 6 new member households.

Tikkun Olam Activities: Alex Sugarman-Brozan described the successful GBIO forum for the senate candidates, which was held on November 15. CDT expects to participate in Project Ezra again this year - Project Ezra organizes volunteers to work on December 25 as stand-ins for employees in service organizations such as shelters and food banks who celebrate Christmas. As a continuation of Food Matters, CDT hopes to work with local community-supported agriculture programs in connection with education about and support of local sustainable food production. Jen Kaplan and Ellie Goldberg followed with a description of ecological projects designed to reduce energy use.

Chesed: Amy Mazur discussed the three main themes for the Chesed group this year, which are continued discussion of issues surrounding death and mourning; means of improving CDT’s chesed response and support; and giving voice to difficult life cycle issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

CDT 101: The Whys and Hows of Getting Involved at Dorshei Tzedek

Seven good reasons to get involved:
1. You’ll feel part of the community, a sense of belonging
2. You’ll get out of your house and avoid family obligations
3. If you’re tired of the same old, same old with friends, you can expand your social circle
4. Indulge in face time rather than Facebook time
5. Generations of ancestors will kvell because you are involved in your congregation
6. It’s a low risk way to build your resume by gaining new skills and knowledge
7. You can nosh on tasty snacks at CDT gatherings, including gluten-free options

Seven (of many) fantastic opportunities for getting involved:
1. Do you enjoy talking with people who are interested in joining CDT? Join the Membership Committee.
2. Are you good at thinking of creative ways to raise money? Check out the Nadiv Lev Committee.
3. Are you better at writing than we are? Sign up for Communications Committee.
4. Perhaps you not only like to eat latkes but enjoy planning how much sour cream to buy. Sign up to help with a holiday program.
5. You want to get to know other parents of school-age kids? Help with the Children’s Education Committee.
6. You think Food Matters and want to join with others to make a difference in the way we consume and conserve? Try the Tikkun Olam Committee.
7. Do you have an eagle eye for editing copy, or would you like to learn how to use a desktop publishing program? Want to work at home, with no meetings? The Newsletter Committee is looking for a few more people to help with editing and production.

To find out more, contact the Committee Chairs below:

Membership: Lisa Dee Port White, ldpw@rcn.com, 617.924.6326
Nadiv Lev: Jeff Sacks, jsacks@nixonpeabody.com, 617.964.4773
Newsletter: Dan Halbert, halbert@halwitz.org, 617.964.6572
Communications: Theresa St. John-Siegel, tmstseigel@gmail.com, 617.244.2291

Holiday Programming: Rabbi Toba, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org, 617.965.0330

Children’s Education: Betsy Hinden, betsy.hinden@gmail.com, 617.467.4080 or Lisa Samuelson, samelson@mail.hrca.harvard.edu, 617.332.7641

Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugarman-Brozan, sugerbroz@hotmail.com, 617.983.3579

If you have questions or just want to get involved, contact Esther Kohn, estiekohn@gmail.com 617.524.0478, or Cheryl Sacks, cwsacks@comcast.net, 617.964.4773.
Chanukah Celebration!

Sunday, December 13, 4 - 6:30 pm
First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street

This year, Chanukah begins the evening of December 11. Come celebrate the third night of Chanukah, December 13, with songs, candle-lighting, fun activities for all ages, and of course, latkes!!

What to bring:
• A menorah plus 4 candles
• A salad to share (enough for 15-20 people) - Bring any kind of salad you like: green or veggie salad, bean salad, pasta salad, rice salad, tuna or egg salad - anything you'd like to accompany the latkes! Please refrain from adding nuts to your salad if possible.

What we'll do:
• Sing Chanukah songs and light candles together
• Fun activities for kids of all ages - songs/puppet show/crafts for the little ones, games with prizes for elementary-school aged kids (7th and 8th graders needed to help out!), awesome art project for older kids
• Play dreidel!
• Interactive text study with Rabbi Toba
• Schmooze and catch up with friends, old and new
• Eat!!!

Everyone is welcome, bring a friend or two! If you'd like to help out with games for the older kids, please contact Laura Katz katrus2@comcast.net. If you'd like to join the latke-making team, please contact Susan Silberberg at silberberg@rcn.com. If you have ideas for other activities, please contact Rabbi Toba at rabbidorsheitzedek.org.

Teen Chanukah Party: Cooking!

December 12, 6 – 9 pm, 60 Highland Street

All CDT teens in grades 7-10 are invited to “Iron Chef Chanukah—the Greatest Chanukah Party Ever”, on Saturday evening December 12. The evening will feature a Jewish cooking competition for valuable prizes. No cooking experience needed! Just bring your appetite and be ready for great food and lots of fun! Please RSVP by emailing Amy Goldsmith at agoldsmi@brandeis.edu.

Ritual Committee

Shabbat Practice

The Ritual Committee will be brainstorming ways that CDT can build a culture of Shabbat practice. If you are interested in joining us, our meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 pm at the home of Ed and Matilda Bruckner, 516 Ward St, Newton. All are welcome. Contact Cindy Rivka Marshall at cindy@cindymarshall.com for more information.

Leyners, Lay Service Leaders, D’var Torah Presenters

We are a participatory community in many ways and services are lay led one Shabbat each month. We are always looking for folks who would like to step up to these leadership roles, and we will provide support and training to get you ready! If you have ever considered the possibility of learning to chant Torah, or lead the congregation in part of the service, or if you would like to plan a Torah talk or discussion, please contact us. Your help is needed and your contribution will be appreciated. Contact Cindy Rivka Marshall at cindy@cindymarshall.com for more information.

CDT Film Club: A Secret

Saturday night, December 19, Potluck: 6 pm, film: 7 pm
Location to be announced

Claude Miller directs A Secret, an engrossing drama about a Jewish boy in post-World War II Paris who stumbles upon a mysterious toy in the attic, exposing his family’s secret dark past and how it survived Nazi atrocities. Can the child grasp the devastating truth, or will it drive him deeper into his personal fantasy world? Cécile De France, Julie Depardieu, Ludivine Sagnier, Patrick Bruel and Mathieu Amalric star.

If you’re coming for the 6 pm potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you know what you’ll bring, please let us know). The movie starts at 7 pm, followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

Save these dates: Jan 23: (to be announced); Feb 13: The Pawnbroker; Mar 20: Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg (if available); Apr 17: Waltz With Bashir; May 22: (a recent release).

If you would like to host a film or have questions, please contact Stan Fleischman, stanfma@rmail.com, or Emily Sper, esper@blueirisdesign.com.
Tikkun Olam

Christmas Tikkun Olam Opportunity:
Volunteer with CDT and Project Ezra on December 25

CDT members can provide a break for Christian volunteers and staff so that they are able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. This is made possible by a unique project sponsored by the Synagogue Council, called Project Ezra. Last year, Dorshei Tzedek members successfully assisted with meal preparation and serving at four different shelters in Boston and Belmont.

Project Ezra is a volunteer program which promotes interdenominational understanding, dialogue and collaborative efforts. Jewish volunteers (from various congregations) will be working together at sites all over Greater Boston. The sites include soup kitchens, shelters, hospitals and nursing homes. If you would like to volunteer with other Congregation Dorshei Tzedek members, contact David Shumsky at the following email address: shumsky@ll.mit.edu (work e-mail) or call him (at home) at 617-332-3454. We would love it for everyone to volunteer. Children 6 and older can volunteer with their parents.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Eco-Teams—Join Now!

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has joined the growing list of community groups and community leaders as partners in the Newton Eco-Team Project. The project, based on the Low Carbon Diet Workshop, is designed to bring together friends, neighbors, religious congregations and community leaders in teams of 5 - 8 participants to reduce home energy usage, reduce waste, and save money. Newton’s Green Decade (www.greendecade.org) is creating hundreds of teams run by local volunteers working with “CoolMass”, a state-wide eleven-community initiative of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) to reduce household carbon footprints by 25%

We are hoping to organize a number of CDT Eco-Teams, and you don’t have to live in Newton to participate. To learn more or to sign on to an EcoTeam, contact Jen Kaplan, jkaplan12@rcn.com or Ellie Goldberg, ellie.goldberg@gmail.com. For more information, go to www.newtonecoteams.org and www.greendecade.org/ecoteams.html.

A Simple Mitzvah: Family Table Donations

Whenever you come to shul, consider bringing along some food to donate to Family Table, the kosher food pantry for greater Boston. We have 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. Our assigned foods are raisins and tomato products (sauce, canned, etc.).

Also, one Sunday per month, we are responsible for bringing our food items to the Family Table office in Waltham. This is a very easy way to have you (and others of all ages in your family) do a simple mitzvah. As a driver, you would simply need to pick up the food at Dorshei Tzedek and transport it to the Waltham office. We need only one car to drive the load over to the Family Table office. At this time, we need drivers on five more Sundays through July. If you want to be a driver, please go to this calendar and sign up: http://doodle.com/3whymyp8tsq7k7h775.

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

Hanukkah Toy Drive for Local Families in Need

The Center for Family Assistance (CFA) at Jewish family & Children’s service is beginning its annual Hanukkah Toy Drive. In these extremely hard times of economic crisis, so many have lost their jobs and homes, and need to ask for help now more than ever. If you’d like to donate a $25 gift card to a local store, please contact their Toy Drive Coordinator at toy-drive@jfsboston.org or at 781.647.5327 extension #2210 with any questions.

Community

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner Launches Twelfth Book, Conquering Fear

Saturday, December 5, 7:30 pm, Temple Israel, Natick

A free discussion and dessert reception will be held at Temple Israel on December 5 in Natick to launch the twelfth book by Rabbi Emeritus Harold Kushner, Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World. An inescapable component of our lives, fear comes in many guises: fear of unemployment; fear of aging, illness, losing beauty; fear of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. In uncertain times, coping with these fears can be especially challenging. In his trademark thought provoking and hopeful style, Rabbi Kushner tackles this ever-present feeling and teaches us to confront, master and even embrace fear for a more fulfilling life. Drawing on the teachings of religious and secular literature, and the true stories of people who have faced their fears, Rabbi Kushner enables us to see fear in a different way. He helps us realize that fear can present us with extraordinary opportunities — to connect with our emotions, rethink our values, and change our lives and the world, for the better. See Temple Israel’s website, www.tiofnatick.org, for more information.

Find Out More about the Rashi School

Sunday, Dec 6, 1 – 3 pm, and Tuesday, Dec 8, 9:30 – 11 am

Parents interested in learning more about Rashi, the only Reform Jewish Day School in New England, are invited to attend one of its upcoming Information Sessions, on Sunday, December 6 from 1 - 3 pm and Tuesday, December 8 from 9:30 – 11 am at the school, 15 Walnut Park, Newton. (Park in Jackson Road lot.) Students entering the school in the fall of 2010 will be welcomed at the school’s new building on a multi-generational campus on the Needham/Dedham line. For more information, go to www.rashi.org. To reserve a space at an Information Session,
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 weekly, starting at 9:45 am. Childcare is provided every Shabbat morning.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service
Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 9, May 7, June 4
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, 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.

Erev Shabbat Service
with special guest Robi Damelin of the Families Forum, dedicated to Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation
Dec 18, 8 pm – 9:30 pm

As part of our Friday night service, we are hosting Robi Damelin, a founding member of Parents Circle-Families Forum. Consisting of several hundreds of bereaved families, half Palestinian and half Israeli, the Families Forum has played a crucial role since its inception in 1995 in spearheading a reconciliation process between Israelis and Palestinians. Forum members have all lost immediate family members due to the violence in the region. Ms. Damelin is a native of South Africa who immigrated to Israel in 1967. Her 28-year-old son David was killed, in 2002, by a sniper while he was on reserve duty.

Shabbat Shira
January 29, 6:15 pm potluck, 7 pm musical service, for all ages

On this “Shabbat of Song,” join Rabbi Toba and musicians for a vegetarian potluck dinner, followed by a musical service (and bring your dancing shoes!).

Shabbat Morning Torah Study
Dec 19, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 1, June 5
8:45 – 9:45 am

Once a month, we gather before Shabbat morning services to explore a variety of commentaries—traditional and modern—on the weekly Torah portion. This study group is appropriate for Torah study regulars and for folks who don’t know Genesis from Deuteronomy—just bring your questions, your interest, and your own cup of coffee or tea!

Junior Congregation
Dec 12, Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 13, Apr 20, May 1, Jun 5
10:45 am – noon

This is an awesomely fun, participatory service for 3rd through 6th graders (kids only!), led by our very own Elana Rome - teacher, singer, and youth leader extraordinaire! Spend a special Shabbat morning with your friends, or make some new ones! Kids will enjoy their own kiddush after the service.

Tot Shabbat
Dec 12, Jan 30, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 1, Jun 5
10:45 – 11:30 am

Tot Shabbat is a monthly program, run by parents, for children ages 5 and under and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities. We will begin each session with an age-appropriate service with lots of singing, for all the kids. Then, there will be free play for infant–age 2 children, and a special story and craft for children ages 3–5. We will end the morning all together with a kiddush snack.

Please contact Jodi Sugerman-Brozan (jsuger@comcast.net) or Alison Lobron (auderial@yahoo.com) for more information or with any questions. This program is organized and led by parents on a rotating basis. If you would like to volunteer to help lead a session, or help with refreshments or setup, you can sign up on the website.

(Continued from page 4)
Contact Adrienne Frechter, Director of Admissions and Marketing, at 617-969-4444 ext. 255 or email admissions@rashi.org.

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.
Adult Education

Soul Questions: An Exploration
Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am (Note: no class December 31)
If we imagine the Torah as a telescope that our ancestors created in order to search for signs of divinity in the Universe, what do we see when we look through that lens? Is the idea of God a comfort, a challenge, or perhaps irrelevant? Where and how do we encounter the sacred in our own lives, and what would it mean to take spiritual practice seriously? In this weekly class, we will combine study of Jewish texts with practices for our day-to-day lives to “reconstruct” a meaningful notion of Godliness, whether we think of ourselves as believers or not. No previous experience or presumed comfort with text study or spiritual practice necessary – just bring your doubts, your yearnings, and your questions!

New Class!
Telling Our Stories:
A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop
Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9 pm, at 60 Highland Street
Jan 20 and 26, Feb 3; Mar 3, 10, and 24
(Dorshei Tzedek Members only)
Where have we been, and where are we going—as Jews, as human beings? This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys, and to inquire into the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process. After a break, the class will re-convene to share what people have written. Because class size is limited, you must contact Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) to register. No writing experience or expertise needed!

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.

Exploring the Bible
Dr. Sanford Goldfless
Monday afternoons, 3:30 – 5:30 pm; classes meet through May
Contact Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) for location
($15 per session; fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)
In this class we’ll read together, in English, large selections from the Jewish scriptures. This class last year began with the Psalms and their poetry, moved next to the Exodus, and then focused on a close reading of the stories of Saul and David. To start the current year, our focus will shift first to a different but highly important part of the Bible—the three major collections of laws in the Torah. We’ll turn to the ancient Law Code of Hammurapi to get a handle on what sort of writings these are and we’ll talk about what “Torah” has meant in the subsequent history of Judaism. Where in the Bible we turn next will depend on you!

Sandy Goldfless has a PhD in biblical studies and Near Eastern languages, religions, and literature from Harvard University. He has taught biblical Hebrew for adults and has led Bible study groups in the Boston area for several years, including weekly groups for the last two years at Dorshei Tzedek.

Thinking about Summer: First-Time Camper Grants Available!
We are participating again this year in Combined Jewish Philanthropies “First-Time Camper Grant” program. If your child is going to a Jewish overnight camp this summer for at least 3 weeks and has never been to a Jewish overnight camp before (or has only gone for a shorter period of time), then s/he is eligible for a $1,000 grant! (Jewish day school students are not eligible for this grant.) In addition, here at CDT we have a scholarship fund for members sending their kids to Camp JRF (whether for the first or fifth time!). For the CJP first-time camper grants, please be in touch with Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330) for information on the application process. For the CDT Camp JRF Scholarship Fund, please contact Marla Lichtman in the office (admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org) for an application form.
What is “Congregational Learning?” Kicking off Limmud 2010

At the Members’ Meeting in November, we kicked off a new congregation-wide initiative called “Limmud 2010.” “Limmud” means “learning” in Hebrew, and this initiative is a planning process to create a “congregation of learners” here at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. How did this come to be, and what does this process hold in store?

In 2008-2009, a group of CDT congregants, along with Rabbi Toba and our education director, Annette Lawson, participated in the Leadership Development Institute (LDI). This initiative, sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropy, supports teams from synagogues as they embark on a process of organizational change. At the end of this year-long endeavor, the LDI team targeted one area for growth and change here at CDT: congregational learning. Following on the recommendation of the Strategic Plan adopted in 2007 that CDT undertake a separate planning process for education, the Board endorsed the LDI team’s suggestion, and officially launched a new planning initiative around learning, called “Limmud 2010.”

Limmud 2010 is being overseen by a leadership team that was brought together by the LDI group. Along with Rabbi Toba, Annette, and Allison Andrews from the LDI team, and Sheree Galpert, our VP for Education, other congregants were recruited who represent a variety of constituencies within the congregation: veteran and new members, members with children of all ages and with no children; members who have long been involved in Jewish education and those who are very new to this endeavor. Other members of the leadership team include Andy Cohen, Amy Goldsmith (a graduate of our religious school and now a teacher in the school), Alison Lobron, Lisa Schneier, and Cindy Shulak-Rome. This group is charged not only with coming up with a plan, but with facilitating a process whereby as many members of the congregation as possible can contribute to and shape a vision and a concrete set of goals for becoming a “congregation of learners.”

One definition of being a “congregation of learners” is: a congregation in which members of all ages are actively engaged in learning throughout their lives (from Becoming a Congregation of Learners by Isa Aron). Some of the questions that have arisen in our discussions thus far include:

What is Judaism all about?

What Jewish traditions do I want to pass on to my children and why?

What obstacles (besides time) keep me from pursuing Jewish learning?

How can Judaism become part of my spiritual practice if I don’t have a strong Jewish background?

In what ways can a sense of community be fostered through learning together as a congregation?

How does Jewish learning happen?

Is my dog Jewish?

At the Members’ Meeting, over 75 households showed up for a lively discussion that began with distilling the essential qualities of powerful learning experiences. We then turned to a text study and discussion of how we understand ourselves as “Jewish learners”—as people learning within a Jewish context, whether or not we are Jewish ourselves—and what we even mean by “Jewish learning.” The Limmud 2010 leadership team will now be going through the ideas and thoughts gathered at that meeting to plan next steps in this community conversation. The goal is to have a Vision Statement, articulating our communal vision for ourselves as a Congregation of Learners, by some time this spring, and a plan with clear goals and objectives to be created by the fall of 2010.

Our next step in this process, as we continue to “learn about learning,” is a Shabbat afternoon program with Dr. Eleanor Duckworth, an expert in the field of education, on January 23. Stay tuned for details!

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

This year we added our new program for eighth graders called BaDerech, which means “on the way”. The weekend of October 16, our BaDerech students along with BaDerech teacher Ben Rotenberg and Cindy Shulak-Rome were truly on the way, as they went to Camp JRF for a retreat with eighth and ninth graders from other Reconstructionist congregations from the Northeast. They spent their weekend learning about tikkun olam, participating in awesome Shabbat services and having tons of fun. Kudos to Ben and Cindy for masterfully navigating the 15 passenger van to South Sterling, PA and back, including driving through an October snowfall.

Not just our BaDerech students were on the road. Kitah Zayin took a (much shorter) field trip in October to Mayyim Chayyim Community Mikveh here in Newton. It was an enlightening and inspiring visit as students learned about the tradition of mikveh as well as contemporary interpretations.

And I took to the road (actually the air) as well, traveling to Evanston Illinois for the annual meeting of RENA, the organization of Reconstructionist Educators. I spent an interesting and valuable two days with my colleagues sharing notes about best practices in Reconstructionist schools. Featured was a presentation about a process for “reimagining” congregational learning by Rob Weinberg from the Experiment for Congregational Education.
Membership
Welcome New Members

Marion Ross writes: I was born in the Bronx, grew up in the Midwest, and have made New England my home. I live in Southborough with my husband Robert, a professor of sociology at Clark University in Worcester. While he commutes west, I drive east to Jewish Family and Children’s Service in Waltham where I am a social worker. My daughter and son are doing their part to repair the world as a public health practitioner in Boston and an attorney in San Francisco.

I decided to join Congregation Dorshei Tzedek when after being invited to High Holy Day Services several times and attending various events as a guest, I heard these words from the Bimah, this fall, “… I think of our guests as future members.” I decided it was time to commit.

I like the warm welcome I have received at Dorshei Tzedek, from old friends and from people I’ve never met. I like the spirit of inquiry, the eagerness to wrestle with ideas, the seriousness, the humor, the sense of community. In a year I’m guessing there will be even more things that I like about Dorshei Tzedek.

Staci Rubin and Jamie Wilson live in East Boston with their two cats. They recently relocated from Salem, MA where Jamie is an Assistant Professor of United States and 20th century African American history at Salem State College. Staci is nearing the end of her law and public health graduate school education where she focused on the intersection of environmental law, environmental health, and social justice. She will shortly begin studying for the Massachusetts bar examination. Staci and Jamie enjoy exploring East Boston on bikes, flying their kite, cooking, and watching the large ships move across the Boston Harbor. Jamie, a Jew by choice, and Staci began immersing themselves in the Reconstructionist movement when they lived in Southern California. They decided to join Dorshei Tzedek because of the congregation’s focus on learning and welcoming of Jews from many backgrounds. They especially enjoy the Adult Erev Shabbat services.

Laurie Schloff is excited to be a new member of CDT. She is amazed by Rabbi Toba’s wisdom and zest and especially enjoys the interaction and discussion at the Rosh Hodesh meetings. Laurie lives with her husband Ed Horowitz, a dentist in Boston and her daughter Jaclyn, a junior at Newton South. Laurie is fortunate to have a career that she loves as a corporate speech coach with The Speech Improvement Company in Boston. Laurie feels at home so far at CDT and appreciates the many warm welcomes.

Vivienne and Norman Shein are a retired couple living in Waban. Vivienne is from London, England and Norman is originally from Philadelphia. The couple met in Israel in the early 1970s, married and lived there for three years before coming to live in the US. They have lived in Waban for 30 years. Vivienne obtained an MSW from BU and then worked as a social worker, mostly with people with substance abuse problems and facilitating groups for people with cancer and their families. Norman went to MIT and the University of California and then worked as an electrical engineer in government-related programs. They have one daughter, Louisa, who lives in San Diego, is married and has a two year-old daughter, Penelope. On Friday nights the families get together on Skype to say the Shabbat blessings.

Vivienne and Norman heard about Dorshei Tzedek from friends. They were looking for a friendly welcoming local community and like the general Reconstructionist perspective, the singing and the learning opportunities at Dorshei Tzedek.

They have already enjoyed a number of CDT activities—services (Vivienne had the opportunity to read Torah on her birthday), the film club—informal, stimulating and fun, and some excellent educational programs.

Vivienne and Norman have a keen interest in photography. Norman collects and repairs old cameras and musical instruments, and is teaching himself to play the piano. Vivienne belongs to an Israeli singing group and is an Israeli dance enthusiast.

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 generally help out with B’nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B’nei Mitzvah dates. Thanks for your help!—Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Kiddush, Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue Dec 1</td>
<td>7 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Beginning Hebrew with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Dec 1</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>CDT Ritual Committee</td>
<td>Members-Only Event (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Building a culture of Shabbat Practice (please join us)</td>
<td>home of Ed and Matilda Bruckner, 516 Ward St, Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 2</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section B)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 3</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 3</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus with Rabbi Natan Margalit</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room; last session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Dec 4</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</td>
<td>Rachel Zakuta, Tom Kuh, Liz Carver &amp; Bryn Austin (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 5</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Corinne Lofchie &amp; Noam Shore, Hope Kellman, Matt Fried—in memory of Art Fried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 7</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Dec 8</td>
<td>7 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Beginning Hebrew with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 9</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section B)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 10</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 10</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room; members only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 12</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Jan Gortler-Small—in memory of her father-in-law, Milton Small, Laura Katz, Tracey Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 12</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Junior Congregation</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 12</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Tot Shabbat</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 12</td>
<td>6 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Dorshei Teen Chanukah Cooking Competition</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111, kitchen (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Dec 13</td>
<td>4 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Chanukah Party</td>
<td>Set-up: Jan Gortler Small—in memory of Susan Varon Small, David Reider, Susan Bernstein, Jodi Sugarman-Brozan, Polly Crozier &amp; Jessica Keimowitz; Clean-up: Jennifer Hochschild, Valerie Graf &amp; Doron Gan—in honor of Evan's 2nd birthday, Jennifer &amp; David Greenberg, Tessa Goldsmith—in honor of Clifford Goldsmith's birthday; FUSN (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 14</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 14</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section B)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 17</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Dec 18</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Adult Erev Shabbat Service with special guest Robi Damelin of the Families Forum, dedicated to Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation</td>
<td>Rachel Greenberg, Lisa Schneier, Vilunya Diskin; final night of Chanukah (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 19</td>
<td>8:45 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 19</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Jon Weinberg &amp; Debbie Hemley, Amy Mazur—in memory of Marvin Mazur (father), Ruth Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 19</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>CDT Film Club: A Secret</td>
<td>Members-Only Event (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 21</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 21</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 23</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section B)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Dec 24</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Dec 26</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Ilana Street - in memory of Ruth Weinberg Meschmar (great-aunt), Lynda Goldberg &amp; Joe Bayes, Audra Karp, Rabbi Toba off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 28</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Dec 28</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Dec 30</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section B)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Kiddush, Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 2</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Miriam Bolkosky, Louise Enoch, Noam Shore &amp; Corinne Lotchie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 4</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 4</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 7</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 8</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</td>
<td>Misha Dudnik, Sivan Nasoff, Carol Sklar, Andrew Sofer—in memory of Paul Sofer (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 9</td>
<td>8:45 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 9</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Andrew Schiff &amp; Susan Manheim, Nancy Gertz, Janet Boguslaw—in memory of Chelle Ramsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 11</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 11</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 16</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Jen Levine-Fried—in honor of Ava’s first birthday, Eileen Morrison &amp; Michael Jablon—in memory of David and Dorothy Jablon, Sharon Gorberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 18</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 20</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>Members-Only Event; 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 21</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 23</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Amy Mazur—in memory of Marvin Mazur (father), Ira Schor, Chagit Steiner, Deb Albenberg, Rabbi Toba off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 23</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Junior Congregation</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 23</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>CDT Film Club: (film TBA) 6 pm potluck, 7 pm film</td>
<td>Members-Only Event (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jan 24</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>Kitah Zayin Family Education</td>
<td>FUSN: Headstart Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 25</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>Location be determined (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Jan 26</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room; members only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 27</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>Members-Only Event; 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 28</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 29</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>All-ages Shabbat Shira Service and Potluck</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up; Lisa Goodman &amp; Bill Weinreb; Set-up; Laurie Gould &amp; Stephen Ansolabehere, Pam &amp; Steven Katz, Benita Danzing &amp; Nathan Aronow, Clean-up: Marcia Okun &amp; Joshua Lieberman, Peter Shapiro, Amelia Zalcman, Danielle Kleinberg &amp; Mark Rosenberg (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 30</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up; Lisa Goodman &amp; Bill Weinreb; Set-up; Laurie Gould &amp; Stephen Ansolabehere, Pam &amp; Steven Katz, Benita Danzing &amp; Nathan Aronow, Clean-up: Marcia Okun &amp; Joshua Lieberman, Peter Shapiro, Amelia Zalcman, Danielle Kleinberg &amp; Mark Rosenberg (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 30</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Tot Shabbat</td>
<td>60 Highland St: Room 110, 112 (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jan 31</td>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Tu B'Shvat Seder</td>
<td>Lilly Platt—in memory of Jack Platt, Emily Sper, Tatjana Meschede &amp; Daniel Krasa FUSN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund
Miriam Bolkosky & Benjamin Wright
In honor of the brit milah of Samuel David Wright & Ethan Charles Wright
Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess
Thank you to Barbara Shatkin & Andy Littman for their kindness and generosity
Lauren Gibbs
In honor of Noah Marcus’ Bar Mitzvah
Ellie Goldberg
In honor of the memory of Paul Hattis’ father, Russell Hattis
Ann & David Levin
In memory of Russell Hattis, father of Paul Hattis
Michael White
In memory of Russell Hattis, Paul Hattis’ father, Lisa’s father-in-law and Joey & Zev’s grandfather

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.

Camp JRF Fund
Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Ellen Pashall
A special thank you to all the members who have helped Arthur and me during this time of difficulty. While naming each individual would take this whole page, I experienced the collective act of your generosity of time, driving, companionship and food as a very powerful blessing. I truly appreciated your reaching out and thank you.

School 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.

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617.965.0330) or Chesed Chair Lisa Goodwin-Robbins (617.969.6421 or lgoodrobs@alumni.princeton.edu)

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.

Refuah Sh’lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, refuah sh’leymah, to Tess Siegel. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

A huge Todah Rabah to Joel Reider, for repairing our damaged Torah scroll after it fell this Yom Kippur. Thank you Joel!


A big thank-you and yasher koach (“remain in strength!”) to Lisa Schneier, for her efforts in organizing our three Hebrew classes, with a total of 16 students!

Condolences

To Stephanie Hackett, and Nem, Rita, and Sid, on the death of Stephanie’s father, Benjamin Lipka. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Paul Hattis, and Lisa, Joey, and Zev, on the death of Paul’s father, Russell Hattis. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Corinne Lofchie on the death of her grandmother, Gerda Schwarz. May her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheit

The second yarzheit of CDT member Alex Fried falls this year on December 9. We will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on Saturday, December 5. May his memory always be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To our November b’not mitzvah, Celia Gittleman and Charlotte Robbins, and to their families!
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.