Shabbat, My Welcome House Guest
Laurie Goldman

[Note: at a recent Ritual Committee meeting, we discussed ways to promote greater Shabbat consciousness at CDT. One idea was to include occasional musings here in the newsletter, from different members, on what Shabbat means to them.]

Shabbat has been coming to my house on a regular basis for a few years. She’s been a patient guest who trusts that she’s respected and appreciated even when few preparations have been made prior to her arrival. She never barges in. But if it’s quite a bit past candle lighting time and I’m still at the computer, she makes her presence known. With gentle persistence, she conveys her message: “It’s time to let it be. It’s time to simply be.”

Turning off the computer is one of the core Shabbat practices I’ve adopted. It only takes a moment and it doesn’t require much deliberation (once I get the prompt to do it!). But this simple act leads to a lot of not doing that creates the sense of Sabbath. It means no e-mails with urgent requests to “Help me,” “Buy me,” “Pay me,” or the less intrusive but frequently burdensome, “Learn about me.” It means no sense of obligation to finish writing projects currently underway and no (or less?) guilt for taking the break.

Turning away from the computer affords turning towards other activities that tend to get postponed in the face of everyday pressures. Among the special Shabbat doing practices I’ve adopted is what I call “bigger picture reading.” During these weeks we’ve been reading Genesis at services, I’ve been perusing Avivah Zornberg’s The Beginning of Desire. Other recent Shabbat afternoon companions have included Jonathan Sachs’ To Heal a Fractured World, Jill Jacob’s There Shall Be No Needy, and chapters from Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice edited by Or Rose, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, and Margie Klein.

Not all of this reading is characteristically Jewish. I’ve also read Parker Palmer’s The Active Life about the spirituality of work and the more secular approaches to the craft of work life such as Richard Sennett’s latest book and I’ve dipped into some John Dewey as well. These are all somewhat related to my during-the-week research agenda, but they’re not books I’m likely to reference or even keep on my office shelves.

Shabbat is also the time to read books that have inspired my friends, like Eleanor Duckworth’s The Having of Wonderful Ideas and CDT member, Lisa Schneier’s lovely essay on teaching poetry in a volume Duckworth edited. The key to this Shabbat reading is to allow new thoughts and new ways of thinking free reign. I resist feeling that I have to finish a particular chunk of a volume or chapter. I allow myself to pause and let my mind wander or to put it aside to do something else.

This isn’t everyone’s idea of “simply being.” But if creating a space for Shabbat reading is intriguing, consider this a welcome invitation.
**Tubishvat Seder**

*Sunday, January 31, 7 – 9 pm, First Unitarian Society*

While it's snowy in Boston, the almond trees are beginning to bloom in Israel, and so the "new year for the trees" begins! Join us for an adult-oriented (teens welcome!) Tubishvat seder that will explore many facets of this evolving Jewish holiday—mystical teachings on the cosmic "tree of life," Jewish teachings on eating and ecology, and our connections to trees and to the native foods of both the land of Israel and of Massachusetts. Tubishvat is an opportunity to explore teachings that relate to the "four worlds" of our reality—the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual realms that we inhabit. We'll enjoy a potluck nosh as part of the seder—feel free to bring something made from one of the "seven species" of the land of Israel (figs, dates, olives, barley, wheat, pomegranates, and grapes) or something that grows locally!

**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.*

**Shabbat Morning Service:**

*Welcome our newest members!*

*January 2*

Please join us for Shabbat morning services as we officially welcome into our community **Ethan and Samuel Wright** (born in October) and **Ethan Akresh-Gonzales** (born in December). Services begin at 9:45 am, and the little ones will be brought up to the *bimah* by their parents during the Torah service, at approximately 11 am.

**All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service**

*January 8, February 5, March 5, April 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, 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.

**Shabbat Morning Torah Study**

*January 9, February 13, March 20, April 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 Deuteronomy—just bring your questions, your interest, and your own cup of coffee or tea!

**Junior Congregation**

*January 9 (note new date), February 20, March 13, April (to be announced), May 1, June 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.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat**

*January 16, 9:45 am*

Join us for our yearly celebration of the life and thought of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service features teachings by Dr. King and a special civil rights "Hallel"! (See also the Newton Community Celebration on page 7.)

**Torah of Chesed Shabbat Discussion**

*Saturday, January 23*

Join the Torah of Chesed efforts at CDT at Shabbat services during the Torah service, when we will be providing another opportunity similar to the second day of Rosh HaShanah when we used text to help us think about what it means to be there for each other in a caring community. The particular text we will focus on relates to the topic of speech: *How do we speak to and respond to one another?* We welcome your participation in this discussion.

A Chesed Response Team is also meeting to examine the current definition, structure and system of Chesed to continue to meet the needs of the CDT community. If you are interested in being involved in these efforts, and have not made your interest known, please contact Amy Mazur, acmazur@comcast.net.

(Continued on page 3)
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. The Ritual Committee is 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. (See the leyning class announcement on page 4.)

Shabbat Shira

January 29: 6:15 pm candlelighting & potluck, 7 pm musical service, all ages welcome

The Shabbat when we read the Song of the Sea in the Torah is referred to as “Shabbat Shira,” the “Shabbat of Song.” Join Rabbi Toba and guest musicians Nathan Aronow and Dena Ressler for a music-filled service (bring your dancing shoes!) for kids and adults. We’ll begin the evening with a vegetarian potluck dinner - please bring a salad or main dish, enough for 15-20 people. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We’ll begin the evening with candlelighting and a vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:15 pm - please bring a salad or main dish, enough for 15-20 people. Drinks and dessert will be provided. The service begins at 7 pm.

Tot Shabbat

January 30, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 1, June 12 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.

Erev Shabbat Services

(no January or February adult services), March 12 8 pm – 9:30 pm

Join us as we welcome Shabbat with a musical, contemplative erev Shabbat service that includes a little Torah study (adult-oriented, but older kids welcome!).

Avelut

Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Next Meeting: January 11, 8:30 pm home of Valerie Graf (North Cambridge)

AVELUT is a monthly gathering of CDT members (and prospective members) in mourning, focusing on mutual support and chance to share individual journeys in bereavement. The group will be meeting on the second Monday of the month for January, February and March at either 8:30 or 9 pm depending on the host. The following 2010 dates and locations for meeting are set:

January 11, 8:30 pm, home of Valerie Graf (North Cambridge)
February 8, 8:30 pm, home of Paul Hattis (Newton Centre)
March 8, time to be determined, home of Linda Kramer (Roslindale)

April, May and June week night meeting dates will be set based on the schedules of those participating, and posted in the newsletter and online member calendars. Please join us if you would like to remember a lost family member or friend. We are also open to prospective members. If you would like more information, or you can volunteer to host the meeting in April, May or June, contact Hilary Marcus (hrm99@hotmail.com).

Rosh Chodesh Gathering

Thursday, January 14, 7:30 – 9 pm 60 Highland Street, Parlor

Join us for this month’s Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering on January 14. We will celebrate the new moon of Shevat with songs, conversation, and creative expression. All CDT women are invited. Also, save the date for Rosh Chodesh Adar on Tuesday, February 16.

To RSVP or for questions, contact Alison Lobron or Erica Streit-Kaplan at auderial@yahoo.com or ericastreitskapan@yahoo.com.

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. The Ritual Committee is 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. (See the leyning class announcement on page 4.)
Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Ingber

Please join us on January 30 as our daughter, Naomi, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Naomi is an avid reader of historical fiction and a lover of frogs and all of Creation’s creatures. She is a seventh grader at the Cambridge Friends School. She loves folk music and has sung with the Family Folk Chorale since she was four. She also loves her rainbow hat. For her Tikkun Olam project, Naomi has been volunteering with the organization Birthday Wishes to bring the joy of birthday parties to children living in homeless shelters. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this day with the Dorshei Tzedek community. Please join us for services and celebrate with us at a Kiddush luncheon afterwards. — Barry Ingber and Peggy Rose

Adult Education

New Class!

Telling Our Stories:
A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9 pm, at 60 Highland Street
January 20 and 27, February 3; March 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!

Soul Questions: An Exploration

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am

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.

Leyning Class starting in February

with Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Would you like to learn how to leyn (chant from the Torah)? If you read Hebrew and are even a little bit musically inclined, you are a good candidate for learning how. Elaine Pollack will be offering a class on Sunday evenings beginning at the end of February. If you have an interest, contact Cindy Marshall at cindyrivka@aol.com. Watch for further updates. Thanks.

Exploring the Bible

Dr. Sanford Goldfless

Monday afternoons, 3:30 – 5:30 pm. Classes meet October through May.

Contact Stan Fleischman (stani@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.
CDT Community Learning

B’tselem Elohim- In God’s Image: Community Learning Day
January 10, 2 - 5 pm at FUSN
For all CDT members age 6 and up!

Come explore the idea that every person is created in the Divine image and so should be treated with dignity. In addition to some group study and discussion, we’ll have workshops for a variety of ages:

- **Adult text study:** B’tselem Elohim and Human Rights--Jewish Values and current events
- **Adults and teens:** “Hineini: Coming Out at a Jewish High School”- video and discussion
- **Tweens, teens and adults:** Texting, Facebook and YouTube - a Jewish Approach
- **Children grades 1 and above:** Rambam’s Ladder-Tzedakah and Dignity

Also: Visit the B’tselem Elohim Fair presented by students in Kitot Gimel through Vav.

Limmud 2010 Presents: Learning About Learning
with Dr. Eleanor Duckworth
January 23, 2010, 4 - 6 pm
60 Highland Street

For adults and kids aged 12 and above; child care provided

In our year-long exploration of what it means to become a Congregation of Learners, we are interested in the question, how do we learn? For this Shabbat afternoon program, we are honored to welcome Dr. Eleanor Duckworth, a student and translator of Jean Piaget and currently Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Duckworth will introduce the session describing the development of her own ideas about learning, and will then guide us through an experience in which we will become learners together. We will have the chance to step back from the experience and talk about its implications for our understanding of learning and teaching.

Dr. Duckworth has for many years focused on the question, “How do people learn and what can anyone do to help?” She has worked internationally on teaching practice, teacher education, curriculum development, and program evaluation. Her seminal book, “The Having of Wonderful Ideas” and Other Essays on Teaching and Learning is now in its third edition. This program is for adults and kids aged 12 and older; child care will be provided for younger children. We will end the program together with havdallah, marking the end of Shabbat.

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

Kitot Gimel through Vav (Grades 3-6) have been discussing the teaching from the Torah that all people are created b’tselem Elohim, in God’s image. Each kitah has been applying that teaching to a different context (ex: people with disabilities, the elderly) and thinking about putting their learning into action. We will be holding a Community Learning event about B’tselem Elohim at which the students will present their projects (see above).

BaDerech, our eighth graders, have been on the road again, visiting both the Second Church and the Islamic Center of Boston, as part of their study of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Kitah Zayin, our seventh graders, recently hosted a wonderful exhibit of their family history projects and Chanukah celebration.

And todah rabah to the students in Kitah Alef-Bet for the great challah covers they made for use during our Lower School kiddush.

Babson Entrepreneurship Program

Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) and Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) are pleased to offer The Babson Entrepreneurship Program, an innovative five-session workshop to help Jewish professionals explore entrepreneurship.

You will review the different paths to entrepreneurial success, discover which route best fits your needs, and begin building the critical skills you’ll need to grow your business. See http://www.cjp.org/local_includes/downloads/38029.pdf for a complete description, including class schedules.

Tuition includes five classroom sessions, course materials, one-on-one technical assistance, and mentoring provided by JVS for up to six months after the last class session. Classes begin Friday, January 29. $350 includes all materials and meals. Register early! Class size is limited to first 50 participants; registration is by phone and closes January 11. For more information or to register, please contact Bill, at bward@jvs-boston.org or 617-399-3230.

(If the program fee is a problem for you, please contact Rabbi Toba, who can give help from the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund.)
Tikkun Olam
Alex-Sugerman-Brozan, tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org
Greetings from your new Tikkun Olam coordinator! This is a very exciting time to be involved in social action at Dorshei Tzedek, since there is so much going on. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the efforts described below, or in starting or exploring new Tikkun Olam projects, please email me at the address above.

Food Matters
This program, which focuses on the nexus between food, sustainability and Jewish values, hosted a number of educational events last winter and spring, and a dedicated group has been working on a number of very exciting initiatives.

Dorshei Tzedek
Community Supported Agriculture Partnership
Many Dorshei Tzedek members are already familiar with Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms, and many are already members of CSAs. A CSA is an arrangement in which individuals and households purchase a “share” of a local farm’s harvest at the beginning of the season, and then receive a (usually large) box of vegetables every week during the growing season (usually late May to mid- to late-October). There are many goals of a CSA: to have food “consumers” share the risk with the farmer, to help people forge a connection with the source of their food, to promote local and organic agriculture, and to give people in the city access to amazing fresh produce.

In a survey done last Spring, we learned that a very significant percentage of CDT households already participate in a CSA (something like 25%). This is fantastic, and we wanted to both grow that number and forge a connection between CDT as a community and a local farm. A dedicated group of Food Matters members has been busy contacting local CSA farms over the past few months, and we are very excited to report that we are hopefully finalizing soon a formal connection between CDT as a community and a local farm. A dedicated group of Food Matters members has been busy contacting local CSA farms over the past few months, and we are very excited to report that we are hopefully finalizing soon a formal connection between CDT as a community and a local farm. A dedicated group of Food Matters members has been busy contacting local CSA farms over the past few months, and we are very excited to report that we are hopefully finalizing soon a formal connection between CDT and one such farm. If all goes according to plan, Dorshei Tzedek and Temple Shalom (a Reform congregation very near us) will jointly be the Newton drop off site for a CSA in Western Mass. called Red Fire Farm (www.redfirefarm.com) This would offer CDT members an opportunity to join a CSA as part of the CDT community. We are finalizing the logistics and the relationship. A “main season” CSA share of 20 weeks of produce at Red Fire is on a sliding scale of $465-$590, with a requested minimum of $520 unless that is a financial hardship.

We hope that people who’ve never joined a CSA before will see this as the perfect opportunity to give it a try. If you are planning on joining a CSA in 2010, and are in or near Newton, we hope you will seriously consider joining Red Fire Farm.

Our goal is not just to be a drop-off site, but to forge a relationship with the Farm and the farmers. This might involve a Congregational trip or two out to the farm during the season, either to see their operations or to do some service work on the farm, or both.

Stay tuned to the newsletter and the email lists for more details in January.

Hazon Learning Event & Havdalah
with Nigel Savage, Executive Director of Hazon
February 6, 4:30- 6:30 pm, 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Hazon (www.hazon.org), a Jewish environmental organization based in New York is, as they put it, “home of the new Jewish food movement.” They run a national Jewish CSA program called Tuv Haaretz, publish the entertaining and enlightening “Jew and the Carrot” blog (jcarrot.org), and host an annual Jewish food conference. Dorshei Tzedek has the pleasure of hosting what promises to be an amazing, informative and inspiring event with Nigel Savage, Hazon’s Executive Director. Please join us!

Farm to Shul Workshops & Potlucks
Food Matters members have been working with the Moishe/ Kavod House (www.kavodhouse.com), on an event to be held in the CDT community in early March. The folks at Moishe/ Kavod House have developed a workshop called the “Farm to Shul Workshop” that draws the vital connections between the foods we eat, their environmental impact, and our ethical obligations as Jews. On a Saturday evening in early March (date to be finalized very soon), CDT members will host potlucks in their homes, at which another CDT member will present the workshop to the potluck attendees. This is a great way to learn about the environmental issues surrounding our food choices, and to get inspired to take action, all while enjoying the company and delicious food of fellow members. If you are interested in hosting a Farm to Shul potluck, or in being trained to present the workshop at a potluck, please email tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT EcoTeam #2
First Meeting of Team #2 on Sunday, January 10, 7:30 pm at the home of Ellie Goldberg
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has joined the growing list of grassroots community groups and individuals as partners in the Newton Eco-Team Project.
Each team of 5 - 8 members uses the Low Carbon Diet Workshop to reduce home energy use, reduce waste, and save money.
In the first team meeting, we begin to build the team support system to share knowledge, inspiration and support. We learn
how to calculate our CO2 footprint and create an action plan to reduce it. In the following three meetings, we share results. We see the impact of the changes in our habit patterns and household systems. The final step is planning to catalyze action in the larger community.

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%. Would you like to get involved? For information contact: Jen Kaplan (jkaplan12@rcn.com) or Ellie Goldberg (617.965.9637, ellie.goldberg@gmail.com).

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)
On November 15, over a dozen Dorshei Tzedek members, along with over 800 fellow members of faith communities, attended the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization’s Senatorial Candidate Forum at the Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain. CDT will continue to be involved in GBIO as they push forward on their agenda to improve health care, increase educational access and job opportunities and fight against usurious interest rates. If you are interested in getting involved in CDT’s participation in GBIO, please contact Laurie Goldman, laurie.goldman@tufts.edu, or Paul Hattis, paul.hattis@rcn.com.

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/3whym8ctsgk7h775. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Pamela Schoenberg Reider at jomela@rcn.com.

The 42nd Annual
Martin Luther King Jr.
Newton Community Celebration
Monday, January 18, 10 am
Our Lady Help of Christians, 573 Washington Street, Newton
- Honored Guests: Mayor Setti Warren, Dr. James Marini, Superintendent of Schools
- Reflections by Newton School Students
- Musical Selections by: Newton All City Honors Chorus, Newton South Harambee Gospel Choir, Myrtle Baptist Church’s The Love Tones

Please bring non-perishable food items, which are being collected for donation to the Newton Food Pantry.

CDT Film Club
Saturday night, January 23, Potluck: 6 pm, film: 7 pm
At the home of Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa
Join us for a screening of Lemon Tree (Etz Limon) (2008). In this Israeli Film (Hebrew with English subtitles), a Palestinian widow (Hiam Abbass) fights to keep her lemon grove from being uprooted when Israeli security forces declare it a threat to the Israeli Supreme Court. But in the process of seeking justice, she’s forced to hide the forbidden bond growing between them.

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!


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

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.
Nediv Lev
We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund
Nancy Alimansky
Anonymous
In honor of Irena Fayngold & Paul Schimek, Sari & Walter Gazda, and Andrea Jacobs
Helaine & John Carroll
Phyllis & David Farber
In honor of our grandson Jacob’s twentieth birthday
Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts
Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg
In honor of Ami Gordon’s generosity
Nancy Gertz
In memory of Paul Hattis’ father
Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith
In memory of Paul Hattis’ father, Russell Hattis
In memory of Ruth Paris’s mother, Dorothy Paris
In honor of Lisa Port White’s unending love of and work on behalf of our community
Cheryl & Mark Kaplan
In memory of Russell Hattis, with condolences to the Samelson/Hattis family
Steffi Karp
Amy Mazur
In honor of my mom
Allie Perry & Charlie Pillsbury
In honor of Cindy Marshall
Port Family Foundation
Susannah and Stephen Zisk
In gratitude for all the help we received during Susannah’s recent illness

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
Elaine Landes and David Felson
With thanks to Rabbi Toba

Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor
In memory of Paul Hattis’ father
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.

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.) For the CJP first-time camper grants, please contact Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330) for information on the application process.

Camp JRF Scholarship Fund: One of our movements’ most precious resources is Camp JRF, the Reconstructionist summer camp in the Poconos. A number of CDT kids have gone in recent years, and our beloved Elana Rome and Amy Goldsmith are long-time staff. Information and registration forms are available at www.campjrf.org. 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 CDT Camp JRF Scholarship Fund, please contact Maria Lichtman in the office (admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org) for an application form.

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: 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>Sat Jan 2</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong></td>
<td>Miriam Bolkosky, Louise Enoch, Jen Levine-Fried—in honor of Ava's first birthday, Chagit Steiner (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 4</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 4</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Advanced Beginner / Intermediate Hebrew Class with Michael Singer (Section A)</strong></td>
<td>FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 7</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 8</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</strong></td>
<td>Misha Dudnik, Sivan Nasoff, Carol Sklar, Andrew Sofer—in memory of Paul Sofer (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 9</td>
<td>8:45 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 9</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Schiff &amp; Susan Manheim, Nancy Gertz, Janet Boguslaw—in memory of Chelle Ramsey (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 9</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Junior Congregation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jan 10</td>
<td>2 pm - 5 pm</td>
<td><strong>B'tselem Elohim - In God's Image: A Community Education Program</strong></td>
<td>FUSN (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 11</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 11</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>AVELUT: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners</strong></td>
<td>home of Valerie Graf (North Cambridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 14</td>
<td>7:30 pm – 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Rosh Chodesh Gathering</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 16</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service</strong></td>
<td>Noam Shore, Eileen Morrison &amp; Michael Jablon—in memory of David and Dorothy Jablon, Sharon Gorberg (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 18</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 20</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>Members-Only Event; 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 21</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 23</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong></td>
<td>Amy Mazur—in memory of Marvin Mazur (father), Ilene Spiro &amp; Ira Schor, Corinne Lofchie, Rick Glassman; Rabbi Toba off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 23</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>CDT Film Club: Lemon Tree (Etz Limon)</strong></td>
<td>Members-Only Event, at the home of Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jan 24</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td><strong>Kitah Zayin Family Education</strong></td>
<td>FUSN: Headstart Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Jan 25</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Jan 26</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Members-Only Event; 60 Highland Street: Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 27</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>Members-Only Event; 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 28</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Jan 29</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>All-ages Shabbat Shira Service and Potluck</strong></td>
<td>Karen Engels, Sue Lanser—in memory of my parents, Mildred and Dave Snieder &amp; Jo Radner—in memory of Mardi and Paul Newlon, Diane Becker (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 30</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong></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 Aronov; lean-up: Marcia Okun &amp; Joshua Lieberman, Peter Shapiro, Amelia Zalcman, Danielle Klainberg &amp; Mark Rosenberg (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jan 30</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Tot Shabbat</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jan 31</td>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Tubishvat Seder</strong></td>
<td>Lilly Platt—in memory of Jack Platt, Emily Sper, Tatjana Meschede &amp; Daniel Krasa FUSN (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Kiddush, Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 1</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 3</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&lt;br&gt;60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 4</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 5</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</td>
<td>Carla Naumburg &amp; Josh Herzig-Marx, Leah Diskin, Ellen Hemley (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 6</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service&lt;br&gt;Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Reider</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up: Steven Katz, Nathan Aronow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 6</td>
<td>4:30 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Food Matters Learning Event and Havdalah, with Nigel Savage, Executive Director of Hazon</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Feb 7</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>Kitah Vav Family Education</td>
<td>FUSN: Headstart Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 8</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 8</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>AVELUT: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners</td>
<td>home of Paul Hattis (Newton Centre)&lt;br&gt;(see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 11</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 13</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 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 13</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Bill Shorr—in memory of Marilyn Jacobs Shorr, &lt;br&gt;mhmbb, Willa Kuh, Cliff Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 27</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>CDT Film Club: The Pawnbroker&lt;br&gt;6 pm potluck, 7 pm film</td>
<td>Members-Only Event (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 15</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Gathering</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (note location)&lt;br&gt;(see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 20</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Lissy Medvedow, Clifford Goldsmith, John Holohan; Rabbi Toba off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 20</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Junior Congregation</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 20</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Tot Shabbat</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112&lt;br&gt;(see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 22</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</td>
<td>(see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 25</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 27</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service&lt;br&gt;Bar Mitzvah of Shayna Farmelant</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up: Thea Breite, Jamie Tessler&lt;br&gt;Set-up: Stephen Zisk, Wendy Falchuk &amp; Matthew Sarrett, Tatjana Meschede &amp; Daniel Krasa, Janet Boguslaw; Clean-up: Sarah Little, David Shumsky, Michael White, Allison Andrews &amp; Arthur Lent, Rob Greenly&lt;br&gt;FUSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 27</td>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Purim Party</td>
<td>Members-Only Event&lt;br&gt;60 Highland Street: Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Feb 28</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 lgoodrob@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.

Todah Rabah

A very big thank you to the bar/bat mitzvah class of 5769 (2008-09) for their donation to the congregation of a brand new projector. Now we can watch movies in style!

A huge “Todah Rabah” to everyone who made our Chanukah celebration so wonderful: To the latke-crew – Susan Silberberg-Robinson (and sous chef Louis Silberberg), Bonnie Teneriello, Rachel Nemeth-Cohen, Janice Cole, and Barbara Pittel; and to everyone who organized activities for the kids – Laura, Joel, Julianna, and Jeremy Katz, Jan Small, Vivienne and Norman Shein, Susan Silberberg-Robinson, and Michele Arons. Thanks also to all those who helped with set-up and clean up: Jan Small (in memory of Susan Varon Small), David Reider, Susan Bernstein, Polly Crozier and Jessica Keimowitz, Jennifer Hochschild, Valerie Graf and Doron Gan (in honor of Evan’s 2nd birthday), Jennifer and David Greenberg, and Tessa Goldsmith (in honor of Clifford Goldsmith’s birthday)


Condolences

Condolences to Ruth Paris, and to Rob, Shoshi, Maya, and Dahlia, on the death of Ruth’s mother, Dorothy Paris. May her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheit

The ninth yarzheit of CDT member Marty Bresnick falls this year on January 14. We will be honoring Marty’s memory at Shabbat morning services on Saturday, January 16. May his memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Michael Gonzales, and Sebastian, on the birth and brit of Ethan!

Mazel tov to Debbie Waber, on the forthcoming publication of her book, Rethinking Learning Disabilities: Understanding Children Who Struggle in School - now available for pre-order on Amazon (if you order through Amazon, please go via the CDT website, and we get a share of your purchase!)

Welcome New Members

Phoebe Cushman and Joel Auslander moved to the Boston area about two-and-a-half years ago. Phoebe grew up in North Carolina and Joel grew up in Tel-Aviv and Connecticut. They met in Oregon during their Internal Medicine residency and lived in New Zealand (where they worked and traveled) for eight months prior to settling down in Waban (part of Newton). Joel now works as a Hospitalist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Phoebe is a Primary Care Physician at Harvard Vanguard in Cambridge. Joel likes to cook and watch indie films; Phoebe likes gardening, yoga, and dance (she also watches the films as long as they are not too bizarre or depressing). They both enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, and seeing live theater and music. They were pleased to find a congregation that felt so much like home (maybe because it has a bit of a West Coast vibe?) only a couple of miles from their house. Dorshei Tzedek was appealing to them because of the beautiful singing, the progressive values, and the welcoming members.

JRF News: Reissue of Judaism as a Civilization

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is proud to be partnering with the Jewish Publication Society in reprinting Mordecai Kaplan’s classic, Judaism as a Civilization. Mel Scult, Kaplan’s biographer, was happy to provide JPS and JRF with a new introduction for this edition. The book will be available from JPS in January, and copies will be available through the Reconstructionist Press as well. This has been the first step of a JRF initiative to make sure that all of Mordecai Kaplan’s books become available for use by both the Reconstructionist movement and the larger community.
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.