

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Adar 5770

March 2010

Offering Up on Nediv Lev

Paul Hattis, president@dorsheitzedek.org

Later this month, members of our community will receive a letter from our very able fundraising chair Jeff Sacks, asking them to make a *Nediv Lev* pledge for the year. As it has been ten years since we adopted our current dues and fundraising scheme and since a number of our members are new since that time, I am using this column to talk a bit about the components of our fundraising to meet the community's resource needs with a focused set of comments on the *Nediv Lev* portion.

March is also a fitting time to talk about our *Nediv Lev* scheme from a d'var Torah perspective. In *Vayaqhel*, which we read later this month, we encounter the ancient Israelites making *Nediv Lev* offerings to build the *Mishkan* (tabernacle) based on each person's financial ability. It is this portion of Exodus that helped conceptually ground us on how to think about the donation portion of our fundraising scheme.

So, in 1990, after some committed study of text tied to the Torah of Money, and a series of discussions with our members at that time about the question of "what values would we like to see expressed in our dues structure", we developed our current general revenue scheme comprised of three components.

The first piece, a "half shekel", is a small per capita assessment that is based on our reading of a chapter 30 of the book of Exodus, where every adult male was expected to pay exactly a half-shekel, no matter the individual's wealth, to support the community.

The second portion—at a community level the largest in terms of dollars that we raise—is an income related portion that is for most members about 1 to 1.5% of household income. There is a slightly progressive scale to the assessment rate as family income moves from the lowest levels to a capped maximum assessment for households with incomes of \$190,000 a year and above. In addition, we rely on fees paid for the school to help cover the costs of running our educational program. We decided that the majority of dues being based on an income-related portion, along with some program fees was consistent with our values of justice and fairness. This system also reflects historical traditions whereby Jewish communities assessed their members to cover the costs of communal infrastructure based on a combination of ability to pay along with fees based on usage.

The third component is what has come to be called the *Nediv Lev*, or "offerings from the heart" portion. We actually include all

donations that come in from any source over the course of the year as a contribution to the *Nediv Lev* campaign. This scheme is important to us for at least three reasons:

1. Our community's ability to operate and get to break even in its budget depends on hitting at least the targeted amount (this year \$72,000, which represents about 17% of our overall budget);
2. A fundraising consultant told us a number of years ago that a healthy synagogue needs to create and maintain a "culture of giving". So, we adopted an aim to have a 100% *Nediv Lev* participation rate—regardless of income levels of our members. Last year we were at 80% participation; and
3. As noted on our membership form and as was discussed in some detail at the time of the Torah of Money process, a *Nediv Lev* donation scheme provides an opportunity to higher income households to bring their total support of synagogue operations up to the same proportional level as others.

Finally, I want to let you know that I had the opportunity in December to talk about the details of our dues and fundraising scheme with the Massachusetts Council of Synagogue Presidents. I found it interesting that there were a number of strong reactions to our approach. Some were intrigued by what we are doing; others said, "We could never do that at our synagogue."

The discussion and questioning at my presentation about what we are doing and why, helped reinforce for me the notion that our fundraising scheme is not solely about how to raise needed monies, but reflects our own Reconstructionist tradition of "values based" decision-making flowing from community study and discussion. At this time when so many institutions are financially challenged to meet their operating needs, the values

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choices inherent in financial decisions are becoming more apparent throughout our society. I think we are doing something right in having our core values reflected in our dues structure; and so I hope your own positive response to our pledge request helps you to affirm this belief as well.

Contacting 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.

Avelut

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

March 8, 8:30 pm, home of Barbara Shatkin (Newton Centre)

Avelut is a monthly gathering of CDT members in mourning, focusing on mutual support and a chance to share individual journeys in bereavement. See above for this month's meeting. Next month's meeting is on the evening of April 12, time and location to be announced.

May, June, and July 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. If you would like more information, or you can volunteer to host the meeting in April, May, or July, contact **Hilary Marcus** (hmr99@hotmail.com).

Mourning without a Community

By Idit Klein

My grandmother, Safta Eva, as I called her, would have turned 88 tomorrow. She died just under a month ago on January 18th in Tel Aviv. She had lived there since she made aliyah from Transylvania with her husband, my Saba Pista z"l, and her daughter (my mother) 49 years ago. I was in Boston when my Safta died. Her other grandchild, my brother, was in Manhattan. My mother, her only child, was at her art gallery in New Bedford. Thirty six hours later, my parents and I were on a Lufthansa flight to Israel. We arrived in Israel late afternoon Thursday and the funeral was the next morning.

There's a certain starkness to traditional Israeli funerals that's unlike the Jewish (and non-Jewish) funerals I've been to in the States. The body is wrapped in a black cloth and placed on a rough wooden stretcher that's wheeled out to the grave site with family and friends walking behind. At Safta's funeral, an older man with leathery skin pushed the creaky wheels down the

dusty pathways between graves while muttering a continuous stream of incomprehensible Hebrew words. Psalms, perhaps? I never found out. At the grave site, the black cloth was removed, leaving her body draped in a simple white cloth which was then laid in the ground.

I'd been warned that I might feel alienated by the Orthodox, male-centered service at her funeral. But I felt a power and dignity in the harsh, stripped bare ritual.

What I didn't expect was to feel alienated afterward. After the funeral, my mother sat shiva with my father and me at her brother-in-law's home on Moshav Ben Shemen where the three of us were staying. We have very few relatives left on my mother's side of the family. Only my grandmother survived the Holocaust from her immediate family; her two first cousins, also survivors, are no longer alive. A few distant relatives came during shiva. Close friends of my parents came by, including several friends of my mother's whom she has known since she was a little girl in Transylvania. Despite the familiarity of old friends and family, I kept feeling that something was missing. I felt alone and disconnected, something I'd never before experienced on the Moshav, which is like a second home for me. I found myself yearning to be back in the States—also a feeling I'd never had in Israel. Upon reflection, I realized that I felt sad and isolated because my parents and I were mourning without a community.

My uncle, aunt, and cousin were wonderful and loving, but as secular Israelis, it didn't occur to them that my mother would want a minyan to say kaddish every day. My parents belong to a synagogue in New Bedford, but when they lived in Israel as teenagers and young adults, they, too, were entirely secular. Now, at this time of avelut, my parents did not have a rabbi or community as they do here to turn to for support. There was no rabbi and no community to step up to do all the things I've watched Dorshei members do for each other in times of mourning.

I thought of how my inbox was flooded with emails from Dorshei members after I sent out a request to the listserv for travel agent recommendations. I got several referrals for travel agents (including the one who booked our plane tickets), and I received many, many notes of condolence.

When I got home from Israel there was a card in my mailbox from Amy Mazur on behalf of the Hesed community; Toba called to check in soon afterward. Emails from CDT folks on the listserv continued to come in.

I'm not a regular Shabbat service-goer and I don't serve on any CDT committees, but I feel so grateful to know that I have this community to come home to – a community whose presence I felt on another continent; a community that comforted and supported me even electronically. Thank you to all of you for making Dorshei Tzedek a community that can reach across oceans. May my grandmother's memory be a blessing, and may this community always be blessed.

Pesach/Passover

Passover begins this year on **Monday evening, March 29**. This holiday marks the journey out of slavery in Egypt, and invites us to retell and re-experience that peak moment in our people's narrative.



Preparing for Pesach: Community Learning Day

Sunday, March 14, 2 – 4:30 pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Join other adults and kids from CDT to stimulate your brain and your palate, and get in the Passover liberation mood! Activities include:

For adults:

- **Bekhol dor va'dor** ("In every generation"): How have different Jewish traditions understood these central verses of the Passover haggadah, telling us that we should consider ourselves as if we came out of Egypt? Join Susie Tachel, CDT member, Judaics scholar and Associate Head of Gann Academy for an engaging exploration of the history of a paragraph!

For adults and kids:

- **Music traditional and new for your Seder:** led by recording artist **Jon Nelson** of Yom Hadash
- **The Passover kitchen:** new ideas for your Seder meal, with gourmet chef **Clifford Goldsmith**

For kids:

- **What's on the Seder plate and why?** Make your own Seder plate

For young children and parents:

- **Passover activity room**, featuring a Book Reading, "The Passover Seder" with author/illustrator (and CDT member!) **Emily Sper**.

Plus: Tzedakah opportunities, a Resource Shuk for ideas to enhance your Passover, and the first ever **CDT "Top Chef: Charoset" competition!** Enter your charoset and win a valuable prize and bragging rights. Email Annette Lawson for details to enter your charoset in the contest, school@dorsheitzedek.org.

Family Table Passover Collection

Until **March 8**, we are collecting boxes of Kosher for Passover kugel and potato pancake mix. Please bring your boxes of mix to the Family Table Collection boxes at the Hebrew School or the sanctuary at 60 Highland Street.

Seder Match-Making

It's a mitzvah to go to a seder, and a mitzvah to welcome someone to your seder, so do a mitzvah! If you are a member of Dorshei Tzedek and in need of a Passover seder to attend, or if you have room at your table for another person or a few, or if you'd like to get together with others to create a seder, please contact our "Seder Matchmaker" **Linette Liebling**, netgrace@aol.com by **Friday, March 19**.

Seventh Day of Passover

April 5, 9:30 am, in our sanctuary

According to Reconstructionist practice (which follows the Israeli calendar), the seventh day of Pesach marks the end of the holiday. We will mark the seventh day of Passover with services on **Monday morning, April 5, at 9:30 am**. At this service we will celebrate (and read in the Torah about) the crossing of the Reed Sea with Hallel and other special songs. We will also be having a Yizkor service, an opportunity to remember loved ones who are no longer with us to celebrate the holiday. For those remembering someone, yizkor candles are lit the previous evening (Sunday, April 4, after sunset).

Members' Meeting

Sunday, March 21, 5:30 pm pizza dinner, 6:15 meeting; child care provided

At this meeting, we will continue our Limmud 2010 initiative with a presentation and discussion with **Rabbi Erin Hirsh**, Director of Education for the Reconstructionist movement. Rabbi Hirsh will share with us exciting developments in the world of Reconstructionist Jewish education, and we will also hear about some of our own research into new models of Jewish communal learning and children's education. **Whether you are interested in your own Jewish learning or your children's learning, please join us!**

CDT Art Gallery

60 Highland Street in our sanctuary, ongoing

Don't miss the art exhibit up in our sanctuary space, featuring photography by **Emily Sper** and monoprints by **Lynda Goldberg**. Be sure to take a look next time you're at services!

Bat Mitzvah of Mara K. Flax Gibbs

I can't believe it is our turn to invite you to share our joy as our daughter, **Mara**, is called to the Torah on Saturday, **March 20** - but it is, and we do! This community has had to call our girl three different names as well as having watched her tremendous growth over the years into a wonderful teen, so it would be a particular pleasure to have you with us at this happy time. As for who Mara is (at this moment!): she is a seventh grader at Runkle School in Brookline and a hip hop dancer. She loves her friends, fashion, Camp JRF, her electronics, Twilight, roller skating, and, did we say, hanging and joking around with her friends?! This year, Mara participated in a drama improvisation class for teens with special needs sponsored by Partners for Youth with Disabilities, worked multiple shifts in the Cradles to Crayons warehouse, and will continue to assist in Reach for the Stars, a gymnastics class for pre-school children on the ASD Spectrum at the McKeon Gymnastics and Dance Academy out in Hopedale, through June. Please celebrate with us at services followed by Kiddush lunch.—*Lauren K. Gibbs and Steven Flax*

Bar Mitzvah of Jacob William Schwartz Rogers

Please join us on **March 27** when our son, **Jake**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jake is in the seventh grade at Oak Hill Middle School and is very excited for his day on the bimah. Jake is very passionate about music, spending much of his time playing guitar and drums. For his Tikkun Olam project, Jake has been working through this year with Birthday Wishes, a program that organizes birthday parties for kids in homeless shelters. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us during services and for Kiddush following.

—*Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz*

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director, school@dorsheitzedek.org

This year, a new feature of our *tefillah* (prayer) curriculum for the students in *Kitot Gimmel-Vav* (grades 3-6) is a monthly workshop with Rabbi Toba called "*Tefillah Time*". During these workshops students have an opportunity to explore concepts of God and connections between their own sense of spirituality and Jewish forms of spiritual practice.

This past month, students explored how they might experience God through three areas of experience. These are associated with the blessings surrounding the Shema: *Yotzer- Creation/Nature*; *Ahava-Love/Relationships* and *Geulah-Freedom*. As part of the workshop, students worked collaboratively to create acrostic poems expressing their experiences of feeling connected to nature, to other people and to being free. A sample of the poems follows.

Ahava—Love

A caring family
Having fun
A trustworthy person
Very loving
A funny friend
Hoping for happiness

Geulah—Freedom

Going places makes me
Excited to let my soul be
Unleashed and to
Leave despair and be
Active, energetic and
Happy.

Yotzer—Creation/Nature

Yew trees swaying in the peaceful sky
Old oaks creak but never cry
Thank you God, you created trees
Zebras, beaches, and the breeze
Everything You made with ease
Right down to the ocean's breeze.

Rosh Chodesh Gathering

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 – 9 pm
60 Highland Street, Library



Please join us for this month's Rosh Chodesh gathering. We will celebrate the new moon of Nisan with songs, conversation, and creative expression. Nisan is a month of moving toward a greater freedom. All CDT women are invited to come welcome this month of hope and renewal. To RSVP or for questions, contact **Alison Lobron** (auderial@yahoo.com) or **Erica Streit-Kaplan** (ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com).

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

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

March 20, (note April date change) April 10, 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

March 13, April 3 (note date change), 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.

Tot Shabbat

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.

Reconstructionist Erev Shabbat

Friday evening, March 26, 8 pm
Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

On this erev Shabbat, we will join with members of Reconstructionist congregations Temple Hillel Bnai Torah and Shir Hadash for a musical service led by Rabbis Toba Spitzer, Audrey-Marcus Berkman, and Barbara Penzner. The evening will include a teaching on "Reconstructionist Approaches to Liberation," in preparation for Pesach, with the three rabbis. Please join us, and bring a friend!

Save the Date! Shabbat Unplugged

Please mark your calendars for Shabbat Unplugged the weekend of **April 30, through sundown on May 1**. Shabbat Unplugged is a tradition at Dorshei Tzedek where we join together to try out a Shabbat practice that might give us a taste of olam habah, the world as it should be, and celebrate Shabbat together.

As part of Shabbat Unplugged, we encourage members to enjoy a potluck Friday night dinner together, and other activities throughout Shabbat afternoon. We are seeking hosts for Friday night community potlucks in members' homes and volunteers to lead activities for Saturday (e.g. a walk, bike ride and/or other relaxing unplugged activities that you may suggest). At the end of Shabbat, we will enjoy a Havdallah celebration together. Details will follow in the April newsletter. Please let either of us know if you would be interested in volunteering. We'd be also happy to

brainstorm with you. For information contact **Meryl Epstein** (mepstein@mintz.com) or **Stacey Chacker** (chacsjc@aol.com).

Musical Havdallah Potluck

March 20, 5 pm
At the home of Bonnie Tenneriello and Andrew Sofer
in Roslindale

Bring your instrument if you have one—or just your vocal cords—and something to eat, for an evening of homemade music and havdallah. We'll supply a vegetarian stew and rice, plus utensils. Please bring a salad, drink, other veggie main dish or dessert. And please let us know what you're bringing: bonniet4@gmail.com.

Tikkun Olam

Farm to Shul Potlucks: Coming up in less than a week!

On **Saturday, March 6**, Dorshei Tzedek's Food Matters group is sponsoring a Community Potluck & Workshop night. There will be seven potlucks in members' homes in Newton, Jamaica Plain and Watertown, at which we will eat, shmooze, and learn more about the connection between where our food comes from, how it's produced and what Jewish tradition says about our food choices by participating in a short **"farm to shul" workshop** developed by the **Moishe/Kavod House**.

This is a terrific opportunity to learn with fellow Dorshei Tzedek members and eat some good food! To sign up, go to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/signups/>.

A Dorshei Tzedek CSA!

CDT has partnered with Red Fire Farm, an organic CSA farm located in Granby, Massachusetts, to establish a distribution site for CDT members. Community-supported agriculture (CSA) farms provide a way for consumers to buy fresh, seasonal, local produce directly from the farmer. Beginning this summer, Red Fire Farm will begin delivering weekly shares of delicious, locally-grown produce right in our backyard.



A share consists of an amount of vegetables generally sufficient to feed a vegetarian family of four for a week. Shares will be distributed on Thursday afternoons between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm (approximately) either at CDT's site at **Second Church** or a few blocks away at **Temple Shalom** (located on Temple Street). CDT members will have priority for shares, but only through the end of March. **So sign up now!**

A share signup form, which includes pricing information, is available at www.redfirefarm.com/news/2010/Red_Fire_Farm_BostonArea_CSA_2010.pdf. You can find out more information about the farm at www.redfirefarm.com. If you are interested in purchasing a share, or would like to be matched with others to split a share, or if you have any questions, please contact CDT member Tom Brown at tom@brown.name.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

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 or to the Hebrew school, 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 next to the school office at FUSN, 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.). In addition, we have taken on a special Passover commitment to Family Table, and are collecting boxes of Kosher for Passover kugel and potato pancake mix. This collection runs until **March 8!**



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: doodle.com/3whymp8tsqk7h775. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** at jomela@rcn.com.

Justice for Florida Tomato Farmworkers

Last month, the CDT Board voted to join the New England Delegation for Farmworker Justice and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in their campaign to urge Stop & Shop and its parent company, Ahold, to sign an agreement that they will demand more humane labor standards from their Florida tomato suppliers, to pay a penny more per pound for more fairly produced tomatoes, and to buy only from growers who meet those higher standards.

We urge Dorshei Tzedek members to send your own letter to Lawrence Benjamin, Ahold's CEO, using ours below as a model. We plan for Dorshei Tzedek to be involved in this campaign and in local events in support of it going forward. If you would like to get involved in Dorshei Tzedek's participation in this, please email Alex at tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

Lawrence Benjamin, Ahold USA, 385 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

We are writing to you as the Rabbi and President of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, a synagogue of 175 households in Newton, Massachusetts. Our congregation recently voted to join the campaign of the New England Delegation for Farmworker Justice to encourage Ahold to work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to help end forced labor, poverty wages and other human rights abuses faced by farmworkers harvesting tomatoes for the U.S. Food industry.

No doubt you are already familiar with the CIW, an internationally recognized, award-winning farmworker organization based in Immokalee, Florida. You also are no doubt aware that there is a well-documented human rights crisis in Florida's fields, and conditions facing farmworkers who harvest your company's tomatoes are as urgent as they are appalling. Tomato pickers earn 40-50 cents for every 32-lb bucket of tomatoes they harvest - a rate that has not risen significantly since 1978. A worker must pick nearly 2.5 tons of tomatoes just to earn minimum wage for a typical 10-hour day. Grinding poverty leaves farmworkers vulnerable to the most exploitative employers, often resulting in egregious labor rights abuses.

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Our Congregation's members largely reside in Newton, Watertown, Somerville, Cambridge, Waltham, Boston and surrounding communities. We are frequent and regular shoppers at Stop & Shop stores in the area. Our Congregation's name, Dorshei Tzedek, means "seekers of justice," in Hebrew. We are called by our tradition to speak out when the rights of workers are trampled. Deuteronomy 24:14 says "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your gates."

As we approach the Jewish holiday of Passover, celebrating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt, we are mindful of the slave-like conditions (and in some cases, actual modern-day slavery) in which many farmworkers in Florida suffer and toil. Jewish tradition teaches us to remember Passover as though we ourselves had been liberated from slavery, and that carries with it an obligation to work to ensure that no one else is oppressed. We plan to educate our members, our neighbors, the wider Jewish community, and the wider faith community about the CIW and its campaign.

Fortunately, Ahold has a new opportunity to support social responsibility in the Florida tomato industry. Today several Florida tomato growers including East Coast, the state's third largest producer are implementing the CIW's Fair Food agreements with retail food industry leaders Yum Brands, McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, Whole Foods Market, Compass Group, and Bon Appetit Management Company. The agreements require those retailers to demand more humane labor standards from their Florida tomato suppliers, to pay a premium price for more fairly produced tomatoes, and to buy only from growers who meet those higher standards.

Yet much remains to be done. It is imperative that your company seize the opportunity to be part of the solution to Florida's longstanding shame of farmworker exploitation. At the table is a proven model, the expertise of the CIW, and a tremendous opportunity to join other major food retailers in advancing the principles of Fair Food. We look forward to your company living up to its reputation as a good neighbor by working with the CIW to ensure humane wages and working conditions for the people who harvest its tomatoes. Your leadership is necessary if we are to end this human rights crisis once and for all.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Paul Hattis

Cc: Coalition of Immokalee Workers, New England Delegation for Farmworker Justice, Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida



Boston Jewish Music Festival

March 6-14, 2010
Opening Night Gala: March 6
Berklee Performance Center

Tickets are now on sale for the first annual Boston Jewish Music Festival (BJMF). BJMF is a new, exciting and meaningful celebration of Jewish music in all its forms. From Klezmer to Cantorial to Classical, from Israel to the Balkans to Brooklyn underground, the Boston area will ring with music for all ages and tastes—concerts for the whole family, dance parties for the limber, workshops and special school appearances. It'll be the cultural event of the year—a source of pride and enjoyment for the entire Boston community. And don't miss the Opening Night Gala, March 6th at the Berklee Performance Center: the 30th anniversary concert of Boston's own Klezmer Conservatory Band, the group that kick-started the klezmer revival. Find out more about events, order tickets, get the latest news, and how you can help at www.bostonjewishmusicfestival.org.

Dorshei Tzedek Sports Page

CDT at Fenway



Spring is just around the corner, and baseballs will soon be replacing snowballs...

Jeff Goldman has procured a group of tickets to the **May 30** (Sunday) Red Sox game vs. the Kansas City Royals, and he is making them available to CDT members for purchase. Seats are located in the Right Field Box Section, and cost \$52 each. \$1 handling fee is added for each 2 tickets purchased, with a maximum number of 4 tickets per member, depending on your "immediate family size" (this will allow more members get a chance to purchase tickets). If you are interested, please contact Bruce Miller at perrystop@rcn.com.

Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team News



The CDT Men's Softball Team has started training for the 2010 season. We play in the MSSL, which has 36 teams in Greater Boston, which runs from **early April through mid-June**. The champion of the league playoffs in June wins the coveted Kid-dush Cup. Our "home" games are at Forte Park in the Nonantum section of Newton, only a couple miles from CDT in West Newton.

Anyone can join the team as long as you are a male, a CDT member or a son of a member, and over the age of 25. We will be scheduling batting practice sessions at a local batting cage in Watertown on weekends until it is warm enough to play outdoors. Later in March we will hold outdoor practices at a local softball field in Newton. Coming to preseason practices is a good way to meet the other guys on the team, loosen up your throwing arm, refine your swing, and either catch or chase the ball. If you have "what it takes" to be a member of the Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team, come out and join us.

If interested or want more information, contact Elliot Pittel, epitel@comcast.net

Though this league is for men, there are plenty of opportunities to play softball this spring and summer in the Coed Jewish Sports softball league. Contact Elliot Pittel if interested for more information.

CDT Film Club

Saturday night, March 20, Potluck: 6 pm, Film: 7 pm, at the home of Jackie and Stan Fleischman

Join us for a screening of the classic 1965 film, *The Pawnbroker*. Nominated for the 1965 Academy Awards and winner of Best Actor honors at both the 1964 Berlin International Film Festival and the 1965 BAFTAs, Rod Steiger plays Sol Nazerman, a Jewish pawnbroker and Holocaust survivor embittered and broken by his experience. Sol has become increasingly removed from his friends and the business he runs in Harlem, which has attracted the unwanted attentions of a mobster. Can he turn his life, and his shop, around?

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! Upcoming Events: Apr 17: *Waltz With Bashir*, May 22: *Amreeka*. If you would like to host a film or have questions, please contact **Stan Fleischman** (stanfma@gmail.com) or **Emily Sper** (esper@blueirisdesign.com).

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman

Marion Ross

In memory of Ruth Paris' mother

In memory of my father, Benjamin Levenson

Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan

In honor of "Auntie" Sheree Galpert's caring and kindness

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

The Sedacca-Ives Family

With love and gratitude to Rabbi Toba and Rabbi Elaine for welcoming Clara as a Bat Mitzvah in 2009

In honor of Uncle Marty Sedacca, with prayers for his good health in 2010

School Fund

Holy Books Fund

Staci Rubin & Jamie Wilson

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 be in touch with 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 Marla 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: 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*



March



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Mar 1	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue Mar 2	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Wed Mar 3	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Mar 4	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri Mar 5	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Stephanie & Nem Hackett—in memory of Eleanor Hackett, Karen Wasserman, Bill Shorr—in memory of Lou Jacobs (see page 5)
Sat Mar 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Thea Breite, Muriel Heiberger, Jacqui & Stan Fleischman
Sat Mar 6	6 pm	Food Matters Community Potlucks & "Farm to Shul" Workshops	Members' homes (see page 6)
Sun Mar 7	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Mar 8	8:30 pm	Avelut: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners	home of Barbara Shatkin, Newton Centre (see page 2)
Mon Mar 8	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Wed Mar 10	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (note location)
Thu Mar 11	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri Mar 12	9 pm - 9 am	Kitot Hay & Vav Shul-In	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Street
Sat Mar 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Alison & David Lobron, Beth Brooks, Howie Kaufman; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>
Sat Mar 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 5)
Sun Mar 14	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Preparing for Pesach: Community Learning Day	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; FUSN (see page 3)
Mon Mar 15	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue Mar 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland St: Library (note location) (see page 4)
Sat Mar 20	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)
Sat Mar 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Mara Gibbs	<i>Ushering</i> : Bob Warren & Meg Wilcox, Susan Nitkin; <i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal; <i>Set-up</i> : Lisa Port-White, Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg, Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives; <i>Clean-up</i> : Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Richard Fisher Gomberg, Laura & Joel Katz (see page 4)
Sat Mar 20	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (see page 5)
Sat Mar 20	5 pm	An evening of home-made music, pot-luck dinner & Havdalah	Home of Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer (see page 5)
Sat Mar 20	6 pm potluck 7 pm film	CDT Film Club "The Pawnbroker"	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; home of Stan and Jackie Fleischmann (see page 7)
Sun Mar 21	5:30 pm – 8:15 pm	Members' Meeting and Dinner dinner at 5:30 pm meeting at 6:15 pm in sanctuary	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Elaine Landes, Susie Tanchel, Trish Nuzzola, Ellen Pashall 60 Highland Street. Childcare provided in Room 112 (see page 3)
Mon Mar 22	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Wed Mar 24	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Mar 25	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri Mar 26	8 pm	Joint Erev Shabbat Service with Hillel B'nei Torah	Hillel B'nei Torah, West Roxbury, MA (see page 5)
Sat Mar 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jake Schwartz-Rogers	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Theresa St.John-Siegel & Steve Siegel; <i>Set-up</i> : Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Jonathan Gordon, Janelle Winston & Scott Lewis, Peter Shapiro; <i>Clean-up</i> : Diane Becker, David Roll, Mark Paley, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Amy Brodesky (see page 4)



April



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Apr 1	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Apr 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ira Schor & Ilene Spiro, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>
Sat Apr 3	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Mon Apr 5	9:30 am	Passover Service	(<i>see page 3</i>)
Mon Apr 5	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Thu Apr 8	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri Apr 9	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Valerie Graf & Doron Gan, Ilana Streit, Deb Albenberg (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Apr 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Arnold	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Marcia Okun, Ami Gordon
Sun Apr 11	<i>time not yet set</i>	Yom HaShoah	Idit Klein— <i>in memory of my grandfathers, Stephan Vadas and Desideriu Klein</i> , Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx, Linda Kramer— <i>in honor of the Yiddish Chorus of the Workmen's Circle</i> , Howard Lurie 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Sun Apr 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Education	FUSN: Headstart Roo
Mon Apr 12	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Wed Apr 14	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Thu Apr 15	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Apr 17	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Apr 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Matt Fried, Hilary Marcus— <i>in honor of Maayan's birthday</i> , Carolyn Fine Friedman & Jerry Friedman
Sat Apr 17	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Apr 17	6 pm potluck 7 pm film	CDT Film Club "Waltz With Bashir"	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; location to be announced (<i>see page 7</i>)
Mon Apr 19	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Thu Apr 22	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Apr 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Sara Schiller-Robins	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon; <i>Set-up</i> : Danielle Klainberg & Mark Rosenberg, Josh Lieberman, Jamie Tessler, Lisa Samelson, Rob Saper; <i>Clean-up</i> : Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Elizabeth & David Roll, Pamela & Steven Katz
Mon Apr 26	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Thu Apr 29	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library

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

Todah rabah to all those who provided Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah help in recent weeks: **Jodie Siegel**—*in memory of my cousin, Evie Katz*, **Leah Diskin, Ellen Hemley, Jamie Tessler, Nathan Aronow, Sue Lanser**—*in memory of my parents, Mildred and Dave Sniader*, and **Jo Radner**—*in memory of Mardi and Paul Newlon*, **Elizabeth & David Roll, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Lilly Platt**—*in memory of Jack Platt*, **Lisa Port White, Peter and Celia Gittleman, Reinhard and Lucy Engels, Emily Sper, Lisa Goodman, Bill Weinreb, and Susannah Weinreb, Bill Shorr**—*in memory of Marilyn Jacobs Shorr, mhmbb*, **Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen, Laurie Gold- man, Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Willa Kuh, Clifford Goldsmith, and Sharon Gorberg**.

Yarzheit

The first yarzheit for beloved CDT teacher **Lesley Chapman** falls this year on March 28. We will be honoring Lesley's memory at Shabbat morning services on **March 27**. May Lesley's memory always be for a blessing, and may her presence and her teachings continue to bless us as a community.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to our recent b'nei mitzvah: **Naomi Ingber, Nathan Reider, Shayna Farmelant**, and their families!

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.

Welcome New Members



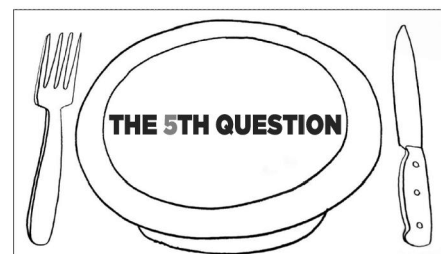
The Membership Committee would like to welcome the following people who have joined our congregation over the past several months: **Rachel Zakuta, Miriam Bolkosky and Benjamin Wright, Vivienne and Norman Shein, Irena Fayngold and Paul Schimek, Staci Rubin and Jamie Wilson, Sari Radin Gazda and Walter Gazda, Andrea Jacobs, Laurie Schloff, Marion Ross, and Marla Cummins.**

We'll be having a special aliyah and Kiddush to honor them on **Shabbat morning, March 6**. Please come and introduce yourselves to them!

Marla Cummins has recently joined Dorshei Tzedek. Marla was drawn to CDT's small, friendly, engaging, and interactive environment, as well as our friendly rabbi. She grew up Conservative (Hebrew/Sunday school), was active in BBYO and spent 7 months in Israel on Kibbutz/Ulpán after college. Marla has a 10-year-old daughter Gabby Olga Cummins. Welcome Marla and Gabby!

Rebecca Herst has recently joined Dorshei Tzedek. Rebecca grew up Reconstructionist in Evanston, IL and participated in the Jewish Organizing Initiative after graduating from college. She met Rabbi Toba at JOI a few years ago when Toba was a trainer. She writes "I grew up Reconstructionist and have loved High Holydays services and am so impressed by Rabbi Spitzer. There are lots of other amazing people I have come across who are members and I'm excited to be a part of a community of lefty, thoughtful, joyful Jews that is intergenerational." She's interested in participating in Shabbat services, event planning, and organizing. Welcome Rebecca!

THIS PASSOVER, ASK AND ANSWER



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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.