

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Improving the Volunteer Experience at Dorshei Tzedek

Paul Hattis, president@dorsheitzedek.org

I have always been amazed with our community's appetite and ability to take on so many activities as an expression of our Reconstructionist desire to live as 'producer' as opposed to only being 'consumer' Jews. Because of this and our small size as a synagogue, we depend on the many volunteers who come forward to help contribute to our dynamic, vibrant, and rich community and all that it offers. We welcome new members, host potlucks and film clubs, lead services, provide kiddush, take on tikkun olam activities, make the High Holydays happen, and even compete for the 'Kiddush Cup' softball championship—the list is far too long for this column.

Notwithstanding all of the energy for the things we do coming from congregants, every year we seem to be a bit challenged to fill key board and off-board roles that are officially charged to help manage some of our most important and fundamental activities. Driven in part by this challenge, in 2009, eight of us from Dorshei Tzedek participated in CJP's Leadership Development Institute, an effort by CJP to help synagogue leaders to deepen their understanding of leadership and organizational change. Last month, in follow-up to our participation, two LDI facilitators came to Dorshei Tzedek to run a workshop focused on how we can improve the 'volunteer experience' for our members—a key issue for improvement that our board identified.

Fifteen congregants attended and we discussed a range of questions. Some were very personal and some dealt with volunteering at Dorshei Tzedek. Personally, I found four themes in our discussion to be the most valuable. First, in response to 'Why do you volunteer?' people noted:

- We do so as a means to experience the positive feelings resulting from having a more personal connection to our synagogue community;
- Volunteering allows us to work on something we care about—it connects us to our passions;
- We feel affirmed and a sense of accomplishment from being able to bring 'our gifts' to make the world around us a better place;
- Volunteering helps us to fulfill a sense of responsibility to our families and each other within our Jewish community; and

- It can be fun to do new things, interact with people whom we like, and to advance communal goals.

Second, we turned to a 'force field analysis' of previous volunteer experiences in our lives outside CDT. The purpose here was to find out what worked and what didn't. This conversation was very animated and all the groups reported back that they often had more negative than positive experiences when volunteering.

Third, the CJP facilitators helped us to understand that some of these same themes play out when people volunteer at Dorshei Tzedek. They noted that our goal was to figure out how to move items that we identify as obstacles to volunteering at Dorshei Tzedek to the list that summarizes the positive aspects of what people get from coming forward to offer their time on behalf of the community.

Last, we focused on what ideas we have that would improve the volunteer experience at CDT. We brainstormed this initial list:

1. Spend more time building the quality of the relationships we have within our community.
2. Help members connect their talents and interests with our synagogue activities.
3. Find new and better ways of appreciating people for what they do.
4. For those not yet engaged—use existing social groups and activity centers (school, softball team, Shabbat services, tikkun olam, etc.)—to connect people to volunteer opportunities.
5. Try to better define volunteer tasks by inventorying what is needed with a time estimate for completing each task.
6. Invite people to participate while respecting someone's need to decline.
7. Make it more fun to volunteer!

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We plan a follow-up discussion on how to make progress on this list in early June. Volunteers make Dorshei Tzedek work and I would love others of you to come and participate in this discussion and beyond!

Please feel free to e-mail at paul.hattis@rcn.com if you have any comments or if you want to be part of our next session.

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.

Our Visit to Cuba

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

For a week this April, a group of 20 CDT members went on a "religious mission" to Cuba. Because of the U.S. embargo, Americans are extremely limited in our ability to visit the island nation. One of the few legitimate ways to go is with a group such as ours, dedicated to visiting Cuba's Jewish communities. Our trip included visits with representatives of five different Jewish communities, touring historical sites both in Havana and in other cities, and learning from our tour guide and others about the realities of life in one of the few remaining communist countries in the world. All told, Cuba is a beautiful, fascinating, and contradictory place.

One of the first things we learned is that, for both ordinary Cubans and the island's small Jewish community (currently numbering about 1500, as compared to the 15,000 inhabiting the country before the Revolution), a great turning point in the nation's recent history came in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. For better and for worse, the USSR had been Cuba's main patron and support in the decades following the Triumph of the Revolution in 1959. Our tour guide, Jorge, described growing up in the 1980s as a good time, when the economy was flush with Russian oil and large economic subsidies. All of that came crashing to a halt in the early 1990s, as the Soviet subsidies ended and the Cuban economy went into a tailspin. Widespread suffering led to what Fidel Castro named the "Special Period," in which targeted economic reforms were crafted to bring foreign investment and tourist dollars into the country. A two-tiered currency system was one such reform, with the "regular peso" used to pay Cubans' salaries and basic necessities, and the much more highly-valued "convertible Cuban peso (CUC)" used by foreign visitors. The result is a situation in which ordinary citizens need to scheme and scramble and scratch to find CUCs to supplement their basic food rations

and meager salaries, and the most sought-after jobs are now in the tourism sector. While Cubans are justifiably proud of their well-developed (and entirely free) community health care system and proliferation of doctors, the sad irony is that those doctors are paid regular-peso salaries worth a fraction of the monthly tips someone like our tour guide (or bartenders or bellhops) receive from foreigners. At both of the synagogues that we visited in Havana, we were told that the big Friday night and Shabbat morning meals served after services (paid for by donations from Jewish communities abroad) are for many attendees their biggest meal of the week.

For the Jewish community, the 1990s ushered in a different kind of "Special Period." Beginning in the early 1960s, the Cuban leadership defined the country as atheist, and—while not banning religion outright—profoundly discouraged any kind of religious affiliation (for example, the vice president of the Sephardic synagogue in Havana told me of denying having a religion when she applied for medical school in the 1970s, in order to stand a chance of being accepted). This "atheism" policy essentially led most Jews to assimilate, to let go of and ultimately forget Jewish practices. Aside from a yearly shipment of matzah and other Passover foods sent by the Canadian Jewish federation, Jewish traditions for the vast majority of Cuba's post-Revolution Jews (a small fraction of the pre-Revolution population, most of whom emigrated) faded entirely away. A few of the people we met with referred to the period between 1961 and 1991 as a kind of "Great Sleep" for the Jewish community.

But with the reforms of the Special Period and the redefinition of Cuba as "secular" rather than "atheist" country, the Jews of Cuba began to wake up. With outreach from rabbis in Chile and Argentina, logistical and financial support from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Canadian Jewish community, and in more recent years many visits from congregations like ours, Jewish life in Cuba has experienced a kind of resurrection from the dead. The communities we visited are small and their grasp of Jewish tradition is often tentative, but the commitment of these groups of 15 or 20 families to recreate Jewish communities—especially in the smaller towns and cities outside of Havana—is simply remarkable. All the things that we in the Boston area take for granted—rabbis and mohels, a multitude of trained Jewish professionals, Jewish bookstores and kosher food—simply don't exist in Cuba. With periodic visits from rabbis and teachers, these Cuban Jews (many of Sephardic Turkish descent, whose forebears came to Cuba around the time of World War I) have re-learned Shabbat prayers and holiday traditions, have taught themselves Jewish songs and Israeli dances, have recommitted themselves to circumcising their sons, and raising their children as Jews. It was truly inspiring, and not a little humbling, to meet them and be able to offer a bit of support as they pursue their dreams of growing vibrant Jewish communities.

There is much more to tell and much more to share, so please stay tuned for additional opportunities to hear about our trip!

Shavuot

"Revealing the Sparks: Receiving Torah in Joy"

May 18, 8 pm

Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre

Shavuot is the holiday that celebrates the mythical moment of receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, and has become a time to celebrate all types of Jewish learning. This year we will be joining with Hebrew College and area congregations for a tikkun leil Shavuot, an all-night learning marathon, inspired by the 250th yartzheit of the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism. The evening will begin with services, led by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, at 8 pm, followed by a nosh and a learning session with Rabbi Arthur Green at 9 pm. Concurrent sessions following Rabbi Green's lesson will include text study with Hebrew College faculty and area rabbis, yoga, meditation, and more! The tikkun will culminate with an early morning Shacharit service at 4:30 am. Come for all or come for part, but come!

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.**

Special Friday Night Service & Speaker:

"Hunger and Human Rights:

Grassroots Approaches to Global Crises"

with Ruth Messinger of American Jewish World Service

Friday, May 14, 8 pm, 60 Highland Street

Please join us as we welcome Shabbat and also welcome **Ruth Messinger**, President of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), to learn how AJWS is engaging the politics of the global hunger crisis and responding to the atrocious human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in the developing world. Speaking from her own experiences and highlighting the work of AJWS grantees in Africa, Asia and the Americas, Ruth will discuss some of the most innovative grassroots projects to address these problems and will propose how American Jews can influence the government to advocate effectively for global human rights. This program is co-sponsored with Congregation Shir Hadash and Keshet.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service

May 7 and 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.

On May 7, our *Kitah Dalet* (4th graders) will be leading the all-ages service along with Rabbi Spitzer. Please join us as we celebrate their learning!

Student-Led Shabbat Services

May 1 and May 8

On Shabbat morning, May 1, our *Kitah Vav* (6th graders) will be leading the morning service along with Rabbi Spitzer, and our *Kitah Hay* (5th graders) will be leading on May 8. Please join us for these special services!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

May 1 and 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

May 1 and 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

May 1 and 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.

Bar Mitzvah of Liam Wilcox-Warren

Please join us on **May 15** to celebrate our son Liam Daniel Wilcox-Warren's Bar Mitzvah. Liam is a seventh grader at Bigelow Middle School. He is passionate about music and sports, especially soccer. Liam plays on travel and school soccer teams and also plays trumpet in the Bigelow band. He spent the first 8 years of his life in Jamaica Plain before our move to Newton. For his Tikkun Olam project Liam returned to Boston, where he assisted a naturalist from the Boston Nature Center teaching ecology to Boston Public School children in after-school programs. We are very proud of Liam's hard work, and invite you to join us at services followed by a Kiddush luncheon.—*Bob Warren and Meg Wilcox*

Bar Mitzvah of Perry Miller

Please join us on **May 29** as our son Perry is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Perry is in grade seven at Day Middle School in Newton. He can often be seen running around the school as part of the cross-country running or track teams, and occasionally heard performing on electric guitar with his as-yet-unnamed band. He makes a splash during fall and winter on the Newton swim team and teaches swimming to special needs children as part of his Tikkun Olam project. When not in motion, he can be found drawing or making extremely tasty Pad Thai. Come celebrate with us after services at a Kiddush luncheon.—*Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller*

Tikkun Olam

Join Kitah Zayin on the Walk for Hunger

Sunday, May 2

On Sunday, May 2, *Kitah Zayin* is participating in the Walk for Hunger. We are walking to help raise money for the hungry people in Massachusetts. There are many people that live in Newton and the rest of Massachusetts who are hungry.

Our team will be starting the walk at the halfway point, in Newton and walking to Boston Common. You can walk the ten miles with us, or as much as you feel comfortable walking. Our goal this year is to raise \$5,500 and to have 100% participation from the congregation. You can participate by walking with Team *Zayin*, or by donating to our team.

Please help us and help feed some of the hungry people who live here. To sign up or make a contribution go to the Team *Zayin* website: www.projectbread.org/goto/teamzayin. If you have questions, contact our team leader, **Morah Cindy** at cbsrome@comcast.net.

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.).**

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.

Gateways: Jewish Education for Special Needs Children

Gateways serves children with a special need or disability in its Jewish Education Supplemental Programs. Students in these programs have moderate to severe special educational needs, such as developmental delays, hearing and/or visual impairments, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.

Children learn about Jewish holidays, customs and traditions, mitzvot and Bible stories. Gateways teaches students using a

highly structured, multi-sensory, multi-modal approach. We provide multi-sensory Hebrew education (ages 4-18), two-year B'nei Mitzvah preparation (ages 11-14), and the Mitzvah Men-sches Class (ages 13-18) that includes advanced prayer study, conversational Hebrew and an imbedded social skills curriculum options. For more information, contact Nancy Mager at nancym@jgateways.org or 617.630.9010, ext. 4.

Limmud 2010

Parlor Meetings in May

Limmud 2010 wants to hear from you! Join your Dorshei Tzedek friends and neighbors for a small group discussion about education and learning in our community. This is a chance to share your hopes, expectations, and frustrations as we move ahead with our Limmud 2010 initiative and work toward creating and then implementing a new vision for community learning. We encourage all CDT members to sign up for a parlor meeting over the next few weeks by going to: www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/signups/. Your input is very valuable to us. Please attend a parlor meeting and be a part of this important process in our community! If you have any questions, contact Allison Andrews at arandrews_2000@yahoo.com.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Monday, May 10, 8:30 pm at the home of Ruth Paris

Avelut is a monthly gathering of CDT members in mourning, focusing on mutual support and a chance to share individual journeys in bereavement. May, June, and July weeknight 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 July, contact **Hilary Marcus** (hmr99@hotmail.com).

Rosh Chodesh Gathering

Celebrate the New Month, Sivan, with Creativity and Connection

Monday, May 10, 7:30 – 9 pm, 60 Highland Street, Living Room



Rosh Chodesh, a traditional women's celebration of the new Jewish calendar month is a spirited and spiritual monthly gathering. Join us for readings, visualizations, much discussion, and crafts customized to reflect the themes of the Jewish month. To welcome the month of Sivan, we will focus on the theme of how to make spiritual "progress", by examining our own struggles in our roles as mothers, partners, and daughters. New participants would add much to this meaningful gathering.

To learn more about Rosh Hodesh, please contact Alison Lobron at auderial@yahoo.com or Erica Streit-Kaplan at ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com.

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 Spitzer (rabbid@dorsheitzedek.org; 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 (adminidirector@dorsheitzedek.org) for an application form.

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

General Fund

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent

Barbara Beck

Diane Becker

In memory of Alvin Becker

Susan Bernstein

Elaine Bresnick

In memory of Sig Adler and David Adler

In memory of Marty Bresnick

Janet Boguslaw and Howard Kaufman

Amy Brodesky and Rex Flynn

In honor of Judy Hersh, Carole Slipowitz, Jacqui Bloomberg,

Mei See Sandson and Eileen Morrison

Lisa Chedekel and Isabel Morais

In memory of Paul Chedekel and George Rodrigues

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow

In loving memory of my mother, Myra Danzing

*In honor of the wonderful CDT community
for their support and comfort*

Karen and Reinhard Engels

Marjorie Feld and Michael Fine

Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman

Jacqui and Stan Fleischman

In honor of Toba's wonderful leadership

Nancy Gertz

In memory of Junius "Babe" Gertz

Lauren Gibbs

In appreciation of the CDT community

With many thanks to Marla who consistently goes the extra mil

In appreciation of Mara's teachers - from Miranda x 3, Rachel,

Hillary x 2, Annette x 2, through Cindy and Debby Gelber

In honor of Paul Hattis' presidency

In memory of Myra Danzing

*In congratulations to Jonathan Magaziner
on his educational achievement*

Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman

Lynda Goldberg and Joseph Bayes

Rick Glassman

Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg

Inge and Robert Gould

In honor of Laurie Gould and Stephen Ansolabehere

Laurie Gould and Stephen Ansolabehere

Becca Gutman

Carol Hemley

In honor of Rachel Bronstein's college graduation

Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa

In memory of Marilyn Hersh and Thomas Rosa

Jennifer Kaplan and Susie Tanchel

Steffi and Eric Karp

*In honor of the Sevransky family generosity for lending us chairs
for our Passover seder*

Jeff Kichen

In memory of Miki Marland

In memory of Rubin Kichen

Idit Klein

Sue Lanser and Jo Radner

In honor of Rabbi Toba and Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Corinne Lofchie and Noam Shore

Ilana Mainelli

In memory of Rudolph Mainelli

Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff

Amy Mazur

In honor of Sara Arnold's Bat Mitzvah

In honor of Jonathan Magaziner's course completion

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen

In memory of Matthew Press

Tatjana Meschede and Daniel Krasa

In memory of Dani Hollander

Susan Moser and Thea Breite

In honor of Shirel's Brit-Bat

Ellen Pashall

In memory of Jill Volk

Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz

In honor of Rabbi Toba, Rabbi Elaine Pollack,

Cindy Shulak-Rome, Hillary Pinsker and Annette Lawson

Marion Ross

In memory of Benjamin and Diana Levenson

Mei See Sandson

Linda Schiller and Steve Robins

In honor of Sara's wonderful Bat Mitzvah

*In honor of Rabbi Toba and Rabbi Elaine,
for all their help and guidance*

Naomi and Meyer Schoenberg

*To honor Pamela's birthday and being thankful
for her wonderful family*

Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider

In honor of Pamela's parents, Naomi & Mickey Schoenberg

Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives

*In memory of Tia Maria Finz, beloved aunt and great aunt of Sedacca-Ives family. Con mucho besos
In honor of Martin Sedacca's 60th birthday
In honor of the loving kindness of
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Kseniya Shabanova and Eugene Slavsky

Barbara Shatkin and Andy Littman

In memory of Toby Shatkin

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Schwartz Rogers,
Liam Wilcox-Warren and Perry Miller
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Arnold,
Sara Schiller Robin, and Mara Flax Gibbs*

Jodie Siegel

In memory of Allan Siegel

Emily Sper

In memory of Roy Sper

Chagit Steiner and Thomas Brown

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.

Nancy Gertz

Avital Lewis

In memory of my mother, Jill Volk

Marna Sapsowitz

In loving memory of Jill on her yahrzeit

Camp JRF Fund

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow

In loving memory of my father, Daniel Danzing

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow

In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Lauren Gibbs

In gratitude to Rabbi Toba

Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman

In honor of Mara Flax Gibbs

Elaine Pollack

*In loving memory of my mother-in-law, Shirley Miller Pollack
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jake Schwartz-Rogers
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sara Schiller-Robins
In honor of the Jews of Cuba*

School Fund

Lauren Gibbs

With thanks for all the wonderful learning

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.

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. The talks are available in both HTML and Adobe Acrobat (PDF) formats. In addition, CDT members' "Jewish Journey" talks are available in the "Members Only" section. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

Members' Meeting

Peter Katz, Secretary, peter_katz@harvard.edu

A CDT members' meeting was held on March 21, 2010, following a pizza supper for the community.

The meeting began with an exercise on how best to describe Reconstructionism and CDT to interested people.

The members then heard committee reports:

- We are on budget for the year to date; to keep up this good result, members are asked to pay dues promptly. Jeff Sacks reminded members of the importance of giving what we can to Nediv Lev and announced that the board and the past presidents have pledged \$24,000 this year, towards our goal of \$72,000.
- The Community Supported Agriculture project with Red Fire Farm is moving forward. Temple Shalom will be the pickup point during the summer. It is still possible to sign up to participate. About 50 to 60 people joined the Food Matters pot-lucks and had fruitful discussions.
- GBIO is turning to an effort to reduce bank and credit card fees. Those interested can contact **Ora Gladstone**.
- On behalf of the leadership committee, **Esther Kohn** described their work to define roles and responsibilities for CDT volunteer positions. She said that volunteers are particularly needed to take over the newsletter, to chair the ritual committee, and to serve on the executive committee.
- The Chesed committee also encouraged volunteers to take part.

Limud 2010 was the topic of the rest of the meeting. **Annette Lawson** and **Cindy Shulak-Rome** talked about what they learned from interviews with other congregations about community learning. Among the themes that are developing in many congregations are: working to involve the entire family in Jewish learning, by means such as family kiddush lunches and community learning days; using Shabbat—including activities on Shabbat—as a focus for learning; and adopting annual themes for learning. Congregational engagement is an important factor in these programs. Some congregations have retained consultants to help shape their goals.

Susan Shevitz, the former director of the Horenstein Program in Jewish Community Education at Brandeis, then gave a talk on community-based learning. Commenting on the value of projects like Limud 2010, she expressed the view that the project would work best by proceeding in manageable steps and that we need to allow sufficient time for it to develop. She emphasized being clear on goals and using many different kinds of resources. She also described programs she had observed in other places.

A general discussion followed Susan's talk. The Limud 2010 committee explained that the next step will be small, home-based meetings to discuss specific themes. These conversations will start in April and continue in May.

The meeting adjourned with thanks to the pizza organizers and the Limud 2010 committee.

Board Meeting Minutes

The CDT Board met briefly on April 14 and discussed these topics:

- **Nediv Lev:** This year's collective leadership gift was somewhat larger than last year and the campaign continues. Meeting the Nediv Lev goal is critical for meeting our budget targets.
- **Nominations:** The Nominating Committee is working on this year's slate.
- **Budget:** The process for establishing next year's budget is underway. Committees should contact Michael Cohen to discuss their needs. Also under consideration are next year's school tuition rates and pricing for High Holyday tickets.
- **High Holydays:** A coordinator will be hired again this year.

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director, school@dorsheitzedek.org

Teaching Hebrew reading is an important element of what we do in the Religious School and our teachers face the challenge of teaching it effectively to students of varying learning styles and abilities. To learn new techniques and approaches, teacher Alison Lobron and I will attend on April 26. Hebrew College's GISHA (Good Ideas Supporting Hebrew Access) Conference. Alison is currently our Kitah Nitzanim teacher, but next year she will also teach Kitah Gimmel (Grade 3), a class in which learning to read Hebrew is a core element.

The conference focuses on developing effective strategies for teaching Hebrew to children with special needs, but the techniques are useful in working with a range of children in our classrooms. Alison and I will be attending workshops on different approaches to teaching Hebrew decoding, multisensory curriculum enhancement, and introducing Hebrew to pre-readers.

Alison's attendance at the conference was made possible through a grant from the synagogue's Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund, which provides scholarships for our Religious School teachers to receive professional development and training.

As this school year draws to a close, we are beginning registration for the fall. We have openings in all grades and welcome new students from age 3 and up. So spread the word to any friends who might be looking for a Religious School program for their children. Prospective families are encouraged to visit our school to see classes in session. The last day of school is **Tuesday, May 18**, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, have them give me a call (617-965-5443) to arrange a visit. And please let your friends know that families with children in Nitzanim (Pre-K) through Kitah Bet (Grade 2) can, if they wish, enroll their children for a year to try us out without becoming members.



May



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat May 1	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim, Karen Engels, Diane Becker; co-led by Kitah Vav students
Sat May 1	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 1	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun May 2	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Newton: Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Temple Emanuel 3, Newton
Mon May 3	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue May 4	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Thu May 6	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri May 7	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Lisa Chedekel & Isabel Morais, Jennifer & David Greenberg (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lilly Platt—in memory of Irene Platt, Nancy Gertz—in memory of Junius 'Babe' Gertz, Judy Hersh—in memory of Michael Hersh, Andrew Littman; co-led by Kitah Hay students
Sun May 9	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Sudbury: Curtis Middle School, 22 Pratts Mill Road, playing Congregation Or Atid, Wayland
Sun May 9	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon May 10	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Mon May 10	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh Celebration	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Street: Living Room; (<i>see page 5</i>)
Mon May 10	8:30 pm	Avelut: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; home of Ruth Paris (<i>see page 5</i>)
Tue May 11	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Thu May 13	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri May 14	8 pm	Erev Shabbat Service with special guest, Ruth Messinger	Staci Rubin & Jamie Wilson, Doug Hersh, Irena Fayngold (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Liam Wilcox Warren	<i>Ushering</i> : Peggy Rose, Linda Schiller & Steve Robins; <i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Pam Katz, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sun May 16	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Even</i> ; Newton: Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Temple Beth Avodah, Newton
Sun May 16	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Sun May 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon May 17	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue May 18	8 pm	Erev Shavuot "Revealing the Sparks: Receiving Torah in Joy"	Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu May 20	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat May 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Haralie Alpert, Ellen White—in memory of Paul White, Sherry Katz, Cheryl Sacks; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>
Sat May 22	6 pm potluck 7 pm film	CDT Film Club Amreeka	<i>Members-Only Event</i> to be announced
Sun May 23	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Newton: Cabot School, 229 Cabot Street, playing Congregation Beth El, Newton



June



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Fri Jun 4	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Bonnie Tenneriello—in honor of our 15th wedding anniversary, Jonathan Magaziner, Phyllis & Al Glazerman—in memory of Elie Friedlander (see page 3)
Sat Jun 5	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 3)
Sat Jun 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Bryn Austin, Mark Bronstein & Ellen Hemley, Benjamin Wright—in honor of our 10th anniversary
Sat Jun 5	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 3)
Sun Jun 6	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Lexington: Jonas Clarke Middle School, 30 Brookside Ave, playing Temple Emunah 2, Lexington
Sun Jun 6	5:30 pm - 8:15 pm	Members' Meeting & Dinner	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Wendy Gedanken, Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander—in honor of our 4th anniversary, Jen Kaplan Dinner at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall followed by the Members Meeting (6:30 - 8:15 pm) upstairs in our sanctuary; childcare provided in Room 112
Sun Jun 6	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Jun 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Steve Siegel & Theresa St.John-Siegel—in honor of our 20th anniversary, Stacey & Bruce Gore, Peter Hess
Sat Jun 12	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (see page 3)
Sun Jun 13	10 am	Men's Softball	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; Newton: Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Congregation Kehillath Israel, Newton
Sun Jun 13	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Jun 17	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Sat Jun 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Abby Leonard	<i>Ushering</i> : Lisa Goodwin-Robbins & family member, Karen Arnold; <i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder
Sun Jun 20	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Jun 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jessica Keimowitz & Polly Crozier, Chagit Steiner & Tom Brown; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>

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

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 heartfelt thank you to **Linette Liebling**, our Seder Match-maker!

A big todah rabah and yasher koach to **Sheree Galpert**, for coordinating and starring in the Yom HaShoah reading of "A Shayna Maidel," as well as to the rest of the cast: **Elana Rome, Dani Krasa, Laurie Goldman, Mira Netsky, and Aviva Galpert**. It was a powerful and moving experience, thank you!

To the following members who have provided Kiddush recently: **Deb Albenberg, Diane Becker, Carolyn Fine Friedman & Jerry Friedman, Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Matt Fried, Ami Gordon, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan, Ezra Hausman, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Barry & Naomi Ingber, Joel Katz, Alissa & Abby Leonard, Hilary Marcus—in honor of Maayan Magaziner's birthday, Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Jonathan Rosenthal, Ira Schor & Ilene Spiro, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Ilana Streit, and Janelle Winston & Scott Lewis.**

Yarzheit

The third yarzheit of beloved CDT member **Jill Volk** fell this year on April 25 (the 11th of Iyyar). We will be honoring her memory at Shabbat morning services on **May 1**.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov and yasher koach to our April b'nai mitzvah, **Sarah Arnold** and **Sara Schiller-Robbins**, and to their families!

Mazel tov to **Hillary Pinsker** (also know to her Kitah Vav students as Morah Chaya Leah) and her partner **Emily Engler** on the birth of **Anna**!

Mazel tov to **Jonathan Magaziner**, on completing his undergraduate studies at Northeastern University! It's been a long journey, and we're happy you've seen it to completion!

Mazel tov to **Eli Siegel**, professor of Biology at Tufts University, on receiving the Seymour Simches Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising.

Caring Communities Resource Network Conference

The Wisdom of Caring: A Jewish Perspective on Connection, Comfort, and Community

Sunday, May 23, 2010; 1:30 - 4:30 pm

JF&CS Headquarters

1430 Main Street, Waltham

Join us for a dynamic and interactive afternoon of learning. Rabbi Anne Brener, LCSW, will lead participants to a greater level of inspiration and fulfillment in our caring community work. We will refine our skills for reaching out to those in need and gain a deeper understanding of Jewish teachings on the mitzvah of caring.

Rabbi Brener of Los Angeles is a psychotherapist, spiritual director, and frequent scholar-in-residence who has assisted institutions in creating caring communities from Brazil to Israel and Africa and throughout North America. Rabbi Brener is the author of *Mourning & Mitzvah: A Guided Journal for Walking the Mourner's Path Through Grief to Healing* and a contributor to many books on Jewish spirituality and healing.

This conference is offered at no cost. Registration is required by Friday, May 14, 2010 as space is limited.

Social Work CEUs pending. For more information, please contact Sue Spielman, Coordinator, Caring Communities Resource Network at sspielman@jfcbsoston.org or 781-693-5659.

The Caring Communities Resource Network (CCRN) fosters dialogue and develops networking and learning opportunities to help synagogues create and sustain caring communities through synagogue and community-wide trainings, consultation, and conferences. The CCRN is a program of Jewish Healing Connections—Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) in collaboration with Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFSMW).

This program is funded in part by Brezniak-Rodman Funeral Home, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and Levine Chapel.

Adult Family Care Program from Springwell

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

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

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

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members. "Dorshei Tzedek" means "seekers of justice," and as our name implies, we are seekers: of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

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

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

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