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Returning to Who We Are

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

THE DAYS ENCOMPASSING Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called Aseret Yamei Teshuvah, the “Ten Days of Teshuvah.” How to translate “teshuvah”? A common rendering is “repentance,” implying that this is a time to make amends for the wrongs we have done in the year past. The word “repent” derives from a Latin root meaning to regret, to be sorry. But the Hebrew word teshuvah comes from another root entirely—from the word shuv, meaning to “return.” Which then begs the question, return to what? Perhaps to God, or to an ethical and sacred path. But there is also a sense of returning to our best selves, to the spark of the divine that each of us carries within us.

While the process of doing teshuvah might indeed include some amount of sorrow and regret for the ways in which we have gotten off-track in our lives, I find the notion of “return” to be far more positive than the self-flagellation that the word “repentance” implies. “Return” means that our work at this time of year is not to become someone else, not to be sorry about who we are, but rather to return to whom and what we truly are. Our task is to come fully into the potential held within each of us. Teshuvah can best be visualized as a spiral, a process of circling back that doesn’t bring us to where we were before, but constantly moves us higher.

As I look into the coming year, 5771 in the Jewish calendar, I also see a process of teshuvah for our congregation—not in the sense of making amends for past wrongdoings,
but rather in this sense of becoming ever more what we are meant to be, as a community. The first line of our mission statement reads: “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.”

In the Limmud 2010 initiative, which we launched last fall, we began a process of engaging the community in conversations about what it means—and might mean in the future—to be a “congregation of learners,” to better “enhance Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.” We heard strong and repeated messages about the kind of engaging, experiential learning that our members want for themselves and for their children, as well as learning that allows us to put our values into practice and that deepens our spiritual and ethical commitments. We are continuing the Limmud 2010 process this fall by participating in a seminar series sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies that will help us—along with other area congregations—figure out how to turn our dreams and ideas into practical next steps. Stay tuned for more information as this initiative moves forward.

For the past three years, our Torah of Chesed team has led the congregation in an exploration of what it would mean to fulfill our commitment to “creating a caring and inclusive community.” One theme which has surfaced repeatedly are the ways in which many of our members feel that they cannot bring themselves fully into the community, out of the perception that a person has to appear as if he or she “has it all together.” This is not uncommon in the American Jewish community, and indeed in the broader society in which we live. While we can acknowledge the pain and brokenness that physical illness and death bring to a household, and while the community generally does a good job of supporting members who struggle with those challenges, there is a realm of other sorrows—including divorce, mental illness, job loss, infertility—that are not so easily brought into the communal eye. It is hard work to become a place where no one feels the need to hide any particular aspect of who they are.

Our communal work in this Torah of Chesed—like the yearly focus on teshuvah that we engage in during the High Holydays—is an ongoing process, not something that we are going to “solve” once and for all. But I am thrilled that as the next step in this process, we are launching a year-long campaign that will focus on becoming a more inclusive community for our families with special needs children. (You can read more about this initiative on page 3.) Our Torah discussion on the second day of Rosh Hashanah will serve as a kick-off to this campaign.

As we enter 5771, my wish for each of us, and for Dorshei Tzedek as a community, is that sense of wholeness, of shlemut, that comes not from achieving “perfection” (whatever that might be), but from affirming the holiness that dwells within each of us as individuals, and which is magnified when we are able to recognize it within one another. May we all be “written” for a good, healthy, and very sweet year—l’shanah tovah tikkateivu!

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.
Chesed

Chesed News
by Amy Mazur, acmazur@comcast.net

The September-to-November coordinators for Chesed are Jackie Fleischman and Ellie Goldberg. Please contact them if you or someone you know could use some help from the Chesed Committee.

We began implementing a new system in June to make it easier to help members when they have chesed needs. Please support our efforts by creating a login to the website we will be using, Lotsa Helping Hands. You can then sign up to provide a chesed need on the Calendar section. Go to www.lotsahelpinghands.com and click on “Sign In.”

If you have any problems or questions, please contact Corinne Lofchie at clofchie@gmail.com or 617-909-6617.

Torah of Chesed Campaign for Inclusion of Special Needs Children and Their Families
A caring community is one which “sees,” recognizes and welcomes all members. In the July-August edition of this newsletter, Amy Mazur introduced our new Chesed campaign for the inclusion of special needs children and their families. The service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Friday September 10th, will include a presentation and discussion planned by our new working group. Although the working group’s major focus will be on children and their families, the Rosh Hashanah program will address the experiences of adults as well. We are also excited to be applying for a $1,000 mini grant offered by Jewish Family & Children’s Service and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, for congregations to create and enhance opportunities for meaningful inclusion into synagogue life for people with disabilities. Our working group is seeking new members. If you are interested, please contact Carole Slipowitz at carole@slipowitz.org or 617-964-6572.

Mazel Tov
To Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx (and to grandparents Judy and Chayim) on the birth of Rose Ermelinda Naumburg! Rose was born Shabbat morning June 26th, weighing 9 lbs, 3 oz, and measuring 22 inches long. Her parents write, “She has a full head of beautiful black hair, nice pink pudgy cheeks, and a very pleasant little temperament. Both Mom and Rose are doing well.”

Condolences
To Andrew Schiff, Susan Manheim, and Jack and Hannah Schiff on the death of Andrew’s mother, Lillian Schiff. May her memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit
We remember Zachary Carson, whose yahrzeit falls this year on September 14, and Efrem Goldberg, whose yahrzeit falls on September 22nd. May each of their memories be for a blessing. We will be marking Efrem’s yahrzeit at Shabbat morning services on September 25th, Hol Hamo’ed Sukkot.

Todah Rabah
A huge Todah Rabah and “yasher koach” to Caleb Weinreb, and to Caleb’s parents Bill and Lisa, for the incredibly beautiful new stained glass window in our sanctuary. We will be officially dedicating the new window at Shabbat morning services on October 9th, but come see it soon!

Many thanks, Todah rabah, to Lilly Platt, who has been our Co-Donation Acknowledgment Volunteer for the last year. It’s time for her to let go and pass the torch on to the next interested member. Many thanks for all your hard work, Lilly. (Please see page 6 for information on how to become our next Co-Donation Acknowledgment Volunteer.)

Many thanks to the folks who helped Jon Sarner assemble our High Holydays mailing and get it safely to the Post Office: John Carroll, Eileen Morrison, Tess & Eli Siegel and Emily Shumsy. We really appreciate your help.


Welcome New Members
CDT welcomes Shoshanna and Stan Korn-Meyer and their children, Ezra and Nate.

CDT welcomes Rachel and Vitaly Zakuta and their children Sasha (almost 4) and Natan (4 months). They live in Newton Upper Falls. Vitaly works at Harvard as a Digital Projects Librarian, and is also studying for a Master’s in Religion. Rachel is a certified English and Special Ed teacher, but is currently staying home with the kids and attempting to begin a career as a science fiction and fantasy writer. In his almost nonexistent free time, Vitaly composes, performs, and records Russian rock music. Rachel enjoys cooking, singing, and playing the piano. They both read in every spare moment. Sasha loves swimming, dancing, listening to stories, and meeting animals. Natan enjoys silly noises and dangling toys.

All the Zakutas are looking forward to being part of a community, to finding a place where they can feel at home, and to learning more about Reconstructionist Judaism.

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.
Shabbat and High Holidays

Celebrate the New Year with Dorshei Tzedek!
Rosh Hashanah begins this year on Wednesday evening, September 8th, and we will once again be welcoming the New Year at Gann Academy in Waltham. If you haven’t registered yet for High Holydays (especially children for the children’s program), please see our website for information, www.dorsheitzedek.org, or call 617-965-0330.

Selichot
Saturday, September 4, 8:00-10:00 pm
Please note location: Temple Shalom, 175 Temple Street, West Newton

Selichot ushers in the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah, and begins the process of reflection and teshuvah, “turning/returning.” This year, we are joining with the members and clergy of our West Newton neighbor, Temple Shalom, and Reconstructionist congregations Shir Hadash and Hillel Bnai Torah, for our Selichot observance. The evening will include study, song, and a service to begin the process of letting go of the old year and preparing for the new. Please join us!

Sukkot
The week-long Sukkot festival is known as z’man simchatenu, “the time of our joy.” It is a time to celebrate the abundance in our lives, our “harvest,” while also being mindful of the temporary, vulnerable nature of all that we enjoy, as we sit in our sukkot, open to the stars and the cool night air. We close the festival by rejoicing with the Torah! So come be joyful with CDT this Sukkot.

Sukkot Morning Service
9:30 am, Thursday, September 23rd
60 Highland Street, West Newton

We will celebrate the first day of Sukkot with the joyous songs of Hallel and the opportunity to shake, shake, shake your lulav...Bring your lulav and etrog for this once-a-year ritual!

To order a lulav & etrog set (CDT members only): Please email Marla Lichtman at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org no later than September 15th and let her know how many sets you would like (the cost is $36 per set). Sets will be available for pick-up at the synagogue.

Sukkot Trip to Red Fire Farm!
Sunday, September 26th

Many CDT members have been enjoying the bountiful harvest of Red Fire Farm in Granby, MA, through our participation in their CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). In honor of the Sukkot harvest holiday, we’ll be taking a congregational trip out to Red Fire Farm, including a tour of the farm and an opportunity to do a little harvesting ourselves. Kids welcome! If you are interested in participating (drivers will be needed), please contact Chagit Steiner at chagit@maczipit.com. We’ll be back in time for the Sukkot Harvest Potluck (see below).

Sukkot Harvest Potluck
Sunday, September 26, 6:00 pm
Please note location: First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

We will gather in our communal sukkah at 6:00 pm for some Sukkot-related singing and learning, and then at 6:30 pm, enjoy a potluck dinner. Share the fruits of the harvest, bring a
dish made of veggies from your CSA! Or anything else you like that’s veggie or fish. Please bring a main course, pasta or rice salad, or green salad, enough for 20 people—drinks and dessert will be provided.

Simchat Torah

*Thursday, September 30, 7:00-9:00 pm*

On Simchat Torah, we celebrate completing one year’s cycle of reading from the Torah, finishing the book of Deuteronomy/Devarim, and starting again at the very beginning/ Bereshit! Join us for a kid- and grown-up-friendly festive evening service and dancing with the Torah (with Klezmer music)!

Shabbat Shuvah

*September 11, 9:45 am*

For the Shabbat of “turning,” which falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we will have a special contemplative Shabbat service, combining singing, meditation, and Torah discussion. The service will be co-led by Rabbi Toba and CDT member Linda Kramer, an experienced mindfulness meditation practitioner.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service

*September 3, October 8, November 5, December 10, 6:00 pm*

Candlelighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service

Join us for this fun, musical erev Shabbat service, appropriate for all ages. Once a month, we gather for a potluck vegetarian dinner, beginning with candlelighting & Kiddush at 6:00 pm, followed by the service at 6:45 pm. Please bring a dairy/veggie/fish main dish to share, enough for 15-20 people (drinks and dessert are provided).

On September 3rd, Erev Shabbat

We will especially be welcoming prospective members, so tell your friends!

Selichot ushers in the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah, and begins the process of reflection and teshuvah, “turning/returning.”

Adult Erev Shabbat Service

*October 22, December 17, 8:00 pm*

Join Rabbi Toba at these occasional adult-oriented erev Shabbat services, to welcome Shabbat with singing, reflection, and a little Torah.
Beit Midrash (House of Study) is the name for our Tuesday/Thursday afternoon program for Kitot Gimmel-Vav (Grades 3-6). Evoking the name of traditional Jewish study halls, in our Beit Midrash, students work on developing skills in Hebrew, in Torah study and in tefillah (prayer) that will carry them into Jewish adulthood, as well as exploring Jewish values to inform all aspects of their lives.

Mi’gash No’ar (Teen Encounter) is the name for our Tuesday evening programs for Kitah Zayin (Gr. 7), BaDerech-Shanah Alef (Gr. 8) and BaDerech-Shanah Bet (Gr. 9). Mi’gash No’ar reflects the needs of our teens to have their own time to give them the opportunity to develop a community of their peers as well as continue their Jewish learning.

For a more complete description of our school programs, please check out the newly rewritten school section of the synagogue website.

In the Talmud it is taught that the world exists only because of the breath of young students at school. This year, may we all be sustained by the energy, curiosity, and creativity of the wonderful students in our religious school.

What’s Special about Dorshei Tzedek?
by Allison Daskal Hausman and Susan Silberberg-Robinson, Communications Co-Chairs, cdtwords@gmail.com.

In case you didn’t know, there’s a lot happening at Dorshei Tzedek around our communications. We’re revising our website. We’re revising our newsletter. We’re revising our brochure. And that’s just a beginning. Since last spring lots of members are putting their thoughts and creative energy into a new face for our congregation that more accurately reflects the dynamic, progressive, joyful congregation we are. Very exciting!

We need help getting our services, special events and religious school information out into the wider community.

So what does this mean for you? First, it means that when this is all done it will be easier for you to know what’s going on. Second, you will be eager to share with everyone you know these new communications materials because you will be so energized and touched by how clearly they capture the unique gifts of Dorshei Tzedek. And finally, we’re hoping it will help our congregation and religious school grow, just a bit, so our community is enriched with new members and our books can be easily balanced.

But we need a little help from everyone and a lot of help from some of you. The little help we need is in a fun exercise we would like to do to help us visualize what we all think, as a congregation, about how special Dorshei Tzedek is. To do this, we’d like to create a Word Cloud (or “Wordle!” to learn more about “Wordle” go to: www.wordle.net/) from collecting 10 words from EVERY member in the congregation. These ten words will illustrate 10 of the top things that make you love being a member here. We’ll then create a Wordle from what we receive for all of us to enjoy and to inform how we go about communicating our message.

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CDT Sings needs you!
Rehearsals: Tues, August 31 & Thurs, Sept 2, 7:00–9:00 pm, at the home of Elaine Bresnick

Do you enjoy singing? CDT Sings is looking for some new members to sing at the High Holydays! Previous choral experience helpful, but ability to read music is not required. The group will sing at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services (including evening services). Please email Sharon Sevransky (sharonsev@comcast.net) if you are interested, or would like more information (CDT members only).

Religious School News
by Annette Lawson, Education Director, school@dorshheitzedek.org

AS THE SUMMER draws to a close we look forward to the beginning of a new school year at Dorshei Tzedek. With the new year, there will be new names for the divisions of our school program. Our school has evolved and grown over the last few years, and the names Lower School and Upper School no longer accurately reflect the structure of our school, necessitating the change.

Shabbat B’Yachad (Shabbat Together) is the new name for our Saturday morning programs that include Nitzanim (Pre-K), Gan (K) and Kitah Alef/Bet (Gr.1-2). As the name suggests, our program for our youngest students centers on celebrating Shabbat together. Students, parents and teachers begin the morning b’yachad, together, with Shabbat Circle and Torah Talk, an informal, family-friendly celebration of Shabbat after which teachers and students continue the learning in the classroom.

Shabbat K’Yachad (Shabbat Together) is the name for our Day Middle School program for Kitot Gimmel-Vav (Grades 3-6). Evoking the name of traditional Jewish study halls, in our Shabbat K’Yachad, students work on developing skills in Hebrew, in Torah study and in tefillah (prayer) that will carry them into Jewish adulthood, as well as exploring Jewish values to inform all aspects of their lives.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE IS at the core of the Dorshei Tzedek (“seekers of Justice”) community. It is a vibrant and exciting time at CDT, with an incredible amount of activism on numerous issues.

At the Tikkun Olam Open House, you’ll learn about and hear updates on CDT’s involvement in:

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and the upcoming “Move Your Money” Campaign, aimed at getting people to transfer their funds from targeted “big banks” that charge unfairly high interest rates, to community banks and credit unions.

The CDT Partnership with Red Fire Farm CSA, in which several dozen CDT households are getting fresh organic vegetables every week from a small farm in Western Mass.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ campaign to get Stop & Shop to agree to purchase tomatoes from growers that adhere to a code of conduct to treat farm workers fairly, and to pay a penny more per pound, to go directly to those farm workers.

Family Table, Greater Boston’s kosher food bank.

The campaign to support the Hyatt 100, one hundred long-term housekeepers fired in 2009 by Hyatt Hotels, and to pressure Hyatt to rehire them.

Eco-Teams of CDT member households working together to reduce their “carbon footprint.”

You’ll have a chance to ask questions and find out ways to get involved in these efforts.
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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.
And the highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Hadas Lahav, manager of Sindyanna of Galilee Fair Trade. Sindyanna is a women-led fair trade organization active in the Arab-Palestinian Community in Israel that works to market environmentally sustainable “fair trade” olive oil and other products. Sindyanna symbolizes a unique cooperation between Arabs and Jews in Israel and helps demonstrate that a solution to the Middle East conflict starts at opening real economic opportunities.

Dorhei Tzedek is kicking off a partnership with Sindyanna in which CDT members will have the opportunity to make regular purchases of Sindyanna’s olive oil. This is a unique chance to hear from one of Sindyanna’s founders about this exciting and critical project fostering cross-cultural cooperation and sustainable economic development in Israel and the Occupied Territories. See the article below for more details. Questions? Contact tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

A Visit to the Modern-Day Slavery Museum
by David Lobron

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I visited the Modern-Day Slavery Museum, sponsored by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). This traveling exhibit documents the conditions under which thousands of tomato pickers in Florida currently live. The museum is a shocking experience. It’s housed in a trailer that is a replica of one where workers were held against their will in one of the first successfully-prosecuted modern-day slavery convictions. The walls of the museum are covered with pictures that document the way that some workers are trapped into slavery, while most others labor in extremely harsh conditions for almost no money. For example, one worker described a typical day in which he earned only $13.76 for an all-day shift.

One worker described a typical day in which he earned only $13.76 for an all-day shift.

CTD has been working with the CIW on a campaign to convince Stop & Shop to join other supermarkets and restaurants in the Campaign for Fair Food, under which retailers would purchase tomatoes only from farms that meet basic human-rights standards. We are hoping to maintain pressure on Stop & Shop and its parent company, Ahold, to join McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Whole Foods, Yum Brands and others in this agreement. If you want to learn more about the campaign or would like to get involved, please come to the Tikkun Olam Open House on Sept. 12 or email tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT & GBIO Anti Usury Thrust Moves Forward
by Ora Gladstone, gladstone@brandeis.edu

G BIO IS MOVING ahead with its “Enough is Enough” campaign to curtail some of the most egregious usurious practices of the biggest banks around.

Five members of CDT attended the GBIO Delegates Meeting on June 21st at which we were brought up-to-date on a number of current campaigns and actions and then met in small groups to delve more deeply into the future of the Enough is Enough campaign. As GBIO moves forward, we will be calling on more of CDT’s membership to become involved in this effort that will attack banking practices which include 30% interest rates on some account activities and loans.

Two training sessions for conducting the Individual Moving Our Money campaign happened on July 13 and August 4. The next opportunities for involvement are the next Delegates Meeting on September 20th, where we’ll prepare our demands of the gubernatorial candidates. Stay tuned for more news on these initiatives and on how to become a CDT activist as the campaign progresses.

For more information see GBIO’s website, www.gbio.org. To get involved, contact Ora Gladstone at 617-630-9050 or gladstone@brandeis.edu.

A Simple Mitzvah: Family Table Donations

CDT is one of many area synagogues supporting Family Table, the kosher food pantry in the Boston area which feeds 550 people each month. We need your help to fulfill our NEW monthly commitment of 25 cans of tuna and 25 cans of vegetables (any vegetable)—no more raisins and tomatoes. We also need to drive our food to Family Table once per month.

Here’s how to help:

1. Bring cans of tuna or vegetables to shul and/or to the Hebrew school (Special Note: If you do decide to bring Tuna as your Family Table donation, please consider buying a “dolphin safe” brand. Details here: http://www.earthisland.org/dolphinSafeTuna/consumer/

2. Drive our collection to Family Table one Sunday. Please see the calendar to sign up to drive: http://doodle.com/e5iuxerbq6cahfev

We need your help to fulfill our commitment to Family Table! If you have any questions or want more information, please be in touch with Pamela at jomela@rcn.com.
**Events**

**Tradition & Transformation: Reconstructionist Judaism Today**
*With Rabbi Toba Spitzer*
**Sunday, October 3, 2:00–4:00 pm**

What does it mean to "reconstruct" Jewish tradition for a contemporary world? How can ancient texts and rituals be meaningful to us today? Join Rabbi Toba Spitzer to learn more about the Reconstructionist approach to Jewish living, as well as to learn about the Dorshei Tzedeck community. While this event is geared toward prospective members, CDT members who are curious about Reconstructionist Judaism are encouraged to attend as well!

**From Herzl to Jellyfish—In 150 years**
*With Dr. Irit Aharony*
**Monday evenings, October 11, 18, 25, 7:30–9:15 pm**

Members: free of charge; non-members: $15/session, $36 for all three.

We are thrilled to have Dr. Aharony back at CDT; her classes on Israeli literature and culture have been greatly enjoyed in years past. There are a number of significant "birthdays" this year—the 150th year since the birth of Theodor Herzl, founder of the early Zionist movement, and the 100th anniversary of the creation of the first kibbutz, Degania. The first two classes will explore representations of both of these icons in Israeli culture—of Herzl himself, and of the "kibbutznik," in both literature and film. The final class will explore current issues facing Israeli youth, through movies, stories and songs. (All movies and stories will have subtitles/translations into English.)

Dr. Irit Aharony received her Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University in Modern Hebrew Literature, and wrote her thesis on the theme of wandering in Israeli literature. Since 1996, Dr. Aharony has taught Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature at Harvard University.

**Service of the Heart**
*With Rabbi Toba Spitzer*
**Thursday mornings beginning October 14 (ongoing), 8:00–9:00 am, in the Library**

With the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 C.E. and the end of animal sacrifice, the early rabbis declared that "service of the heart" would replace the Temple service. Their "service of the heart" evolved into the liturgy that we recite today. But what is our service of the heart? Can we still find personal meaning in traditional Jewish prayers? How might we connect new and non-traditional ways of thinking about God with ancient metaphors that no longer resonate? Join Rabbi Toba for this weekly exploration of the traditional morning liturgy and other forms of "prayer," from silence to singing to things we’ll invent ourselves. If "prayer”—Hebrew or otherwise—is a mystery (or worse) to you—then join us!

**Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners**
*No September meeting. Avelut will convene in October, details TBD.*

Avelut is a monthly gathering of CDT members in mourning, focusing on mutual support and a chance to share individual journeys in bereavement. Meeting dates have been set based on the schedules of those participating, and are posted in the newsletter and online member calendars. Please join us if you would like to remember a family member or friend. If you would like more information, or want to volunteer to host a meeting, contact Hilary Marcus at hrm99@hotmail.com.

**LimmudBoston is coming!**
*October 30-31, Temple Israel, Boston*

Dorshei Tzedeck, a co-sponsor of this program, welcomes Boston’s first annual LimmudBoston conference—a daylong festival of Jewish learning—which will be held at Temple Israel of Boston. Beginning on Saturday, October 30th, at 7:30 pm with Havdalah & entertainment, the conference continues all day Sunday, October 31. As LimmudBoston co-sponsors, CDT urges you to attend this community-wide celebration of lifelong Jewish learning (Limmud is Hebrew for learning). Limmud-Boston sessions will offer arts and culture, text and thought, music, spirituality, tikkun olam, peoplehood, Israel, Jewish parenting, music, storytelling & dance, cooking and a shuk. At Limmud conferences throughout the world, everyone is a learner and everyone can be a presenter. Bring your friends and family and be sure to register today ($36 adults; $18 teens 12–17; free for children 12 & under), by going to www.limmudboston.org.

The Synagogue Council’s Unity Mission to New York City

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts’ nationally acclaimed Unity Mission, now in its 24th year, will be held on Sunday and Monday, October 24th & 25th, in New York. This program brings together leaders of congregations and minyanim from throughout Massachusetts for a one-of-a-kind experience that will move you, uplift you and alter the way you perceive yourself and your fellow Jews for all time! Along with a diverse group of committed synagogue leaders, students from area schools, and delegates from Haifa, you will meet, face to face, with prominent national and international Jewish luminaries. Highlights include visits to seminary galleries, libraries and chapels, enabling you to view—up close—the sacred spaces, treasured archives and artifacts preserved and housed at each of the Unity Mission’s itinerary sites. For further information, go to www.synagoguecouncil.org, or call 617-244-6506.

Unless noted otherwise, all events are held at the Dorshei Tzedeck prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.
The CDT Board

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

Executive Committee
President: Paul Hattis
First Vice President: Peter Katz
VP Membership: Lisa Port White
VP Finance: Michael Cohen
Secretary: Josh Lieberman
Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Board Chairs
Communications: Susan Silberberg Robinson and Allison Hausman
Finance Secretary: Sivan Nasoff
Membership: TBA
Leadership Development: Esther Kohn

Ritual: Laurie Goldman
Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Broenthal
Member-at-large: Jonathan Rosenthal

Off-Board Chairs
Chesed: Jacqui Fleischman and Ellie Goldberg.
Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks
Newsletter: Tim Rosa
Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
School Liaison: TBA
Space Liaison: Josh Lieberman
Website: Stan Fleischman

Education Director
Annette Lawson

Administrative Director
Marla Lichtman

The Ritual Committee Wants You!

THE RITUAL COMMITTEE is always open to new members. If you are interested in the planning and coordination of services or other matters related to the spiritual life of our community, please contact Ritual Committee Chair Laurie Goldman at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu. We also offer training in lay service leading and leyning skills.

Call for CDT Photos

Have a great photo you took at this month’s CDT event? The Newsletter Committee may want to include it in the newsletter. Upload your photos to our account at Snapfish.com. You can log in with dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org, password “kvetch”. Caption your photos with the names of the people featured in it.

Please note: We’ll need permission slips from all CDT members in your photo in order to use it. Please contact our Administrative Assistant, Jon Sarner, at officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org, to find out if we already have your Photo Release Form on file or to get a form to fill out.

Getting involved

Wouldn’t you like to see your name in bold? You so can. And not just on your own word document, either—but in the CDT newsletter! It’s true. One of the ways we thank people for being involved and helpful is by bolding their names. It is more gratifying than one might think. And so is being involved. Most of us find that by being involved on projects or committees, and by showing up at events, we feel more connected to the congregation as a whole, and often times towards individuals, um, individually. If you are interested in becoming more involved, at whatever level that is comfort-

Photo: Caleb Weinraub with his new stained glass “Tree of Life” windows, generously created for the CDT sanctuary.
Rashi School Moves to Dedham
The Rashi School, the Boston area Reform Jewish Independent School, has moved to 8000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham. Rashi is now located on a beautiful multigenerational campus shared with Hebrew SeniorLife’s NewBridge on the Charles community.

Rashi’s 300 students in grades K-8 benefit from a rich, academically challenging education in an environment infused with Jewish values. Teachers value each child as an individual and help students engage with the world and grow into the people they can become.

Parents interested in learning more about Rashi are invited to attend an Information Session or arrange for a private tour. Parents and preschoolers are invited to free Curious Minds programs beginning October 6. For more information, check the website at www.rashi.org or contact admissions@rashi.org.

Support CDT Through Amazon
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 the CDT homepage (www.dorsheitzedek.org), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek.

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

Info for 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

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.
We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

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.

General Fund
Jacquelyn Bloomberg
Matilda and Edward Bruckner
Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein—In honor of Rob Saper, in appreciation of his help to Alan Epstein
Nancy Gertz—In memory of Lillian Schiff, Andrew Schiff’s mother; in memory of Dorothy Sokol, Jackie Fleischman’s mother; in honor of Judy Hersh and her commitment to a caring community; in honor of the birth of Rose Naumburg, beloved daughter of Carla and Josh, sweet sister of Frieda and lucky granddaughter of Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx; with gratitude to Rabbi Toba for another wonderful year of Thursday morning classes; with gratitude to Cindy Shulak-Rome for her friendship and ongoing commitment to CDT
Stacey and Bruce Gore
Allison and Ezra Hausman
Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx
Audra Karp and Deborah Altenberg—In memory of Ida Karp; in honor of Deb, who recently got a full-time job—congratulations!
Steffi and Eric Karp—In celebration of Josh and Carla’s new baby; in memory of Ellie Goldberg’s brother; in memory of Jackie Fleischman’s mother
Jessica Keimowitz and Patience Crozier
Mark Paley
Barbara and Elliot Pittel
Elaine Pollack
Liz Reisberg
Cheryl and Jeff Sacks—In memory of Eleanor Tessler, mother of Jamie Tessler—may her memory be a blessing; in memory of Dorothy Sokol, mother of Jackie Fleischman—may her memory be a blessing; in honor of the joyous occasion of the birth of Rose Emelinda Naumburg—Mazel Tov to Josh, Carla, Frieda, Chayim and Judy!
Lisa Schneier—In honor of Laurie Goldman, Amy Mazur and Carole Slipowitz, for their contributions to the CDT community
Sharon Memorial Park / I. Frederick Lappin—In honor of Sheree Galpert
Nessa Spitzer—In memory of Bill Spitzer (Rabbi Toba’s dad)
Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried—With appreciation of the leadership of Paul Hattis and the CDT Board; with thanks to our wonderful staff—Annette Lawon, Marla Lichtman, Jon Sarner and all of our teachers
Theresa St. John Siegel and Steven Siegel
Sima Storm—In memory of Jamie Tessler’s mother
Debbie Waber

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Lynn Graf—For the honoring of the birth of my granddaughter, Ruby Hazel Gan, and the wonderful service giving her her Hebrew name
Jamie Tessler—In memory of Eleanor Tesler

School Fund

Photo: Ethan Akresh Gonzales
Holy Books Fund
Barbara Beck—In memory of my parents, Irving and Edit Beck, and my brother, Stephen Beck
Linda and Peter Katz—In memory of Saul Weiss, Milton Katz and Vivian Katz
Jessica Keimowitz and Patience Crozier
Esther Kohn—In memory of Priva Kohn
Kristen Petersen—In loving memory of Phyllis Gerber Farrelman
Elaine Pollack—In memory of my mother-in-law, Shirley Miller Pollack
Marion Ross—In memory of Diana and Benjamin Levenson
Marion Ross—In memory of Leslie David Levenson
Laurie Schloff and Family—In honor of my parents, Gertrude and Milton Schloff
Chagit Steiner and Thomas Brown—In support of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's efforts to promote environmental sustainability
Chagit Steiner and Thomas Brown—In support of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's mission to promote social justice
Lisa Port White—In honor of the 5770 softball team: Stuart Snyder, Nathan Aronow, Michael Glazerman, Jeff Goldman, Richard Gomberg, Mike Gonzales, Paul Hattis, Jonathan Magaziner, Bruce Miller, Elliot Pittel, Ira Schor, Michael Singer, Alex Sugarman-Brozan, Jonathan Weisberg, and Ian Meyer, from your steadfast and true fan

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.

Building Fund

ask lisa dee
by Lisa Dee Port-White, Membership Chair

DEAR MY CHERISHED Brother and Sister Congregants,

It’s been awhile since there’s been an Ask Lisa Dee, but that does not mean people have not been asking (well, maybe not so much) or that I have forgotten this column. I had a couple different questions that were along the same lines. They had to do with who to be in touch with regarding different issues. We always have the board positions and members listed on the back page of the CDT Newsletter. Often it is fairly obvious whom to contact, but not always.

In general, you can ask anyone any question. We are a friendly group and most of us like to talk to other people and are generally glad to help folks find the answer to their concern, query, etc.

Please let me know if I have not covered your question or concern and I will hook you up with the right person. Hook you like a fish, baby.

Please consult your membership binder or the online membership list for contact information.

Questions about finance, the big picture—anything around paying dues, making contributions, needing to make special payment arrangements—go to Michael Cohen, the VP of Finance or to Rabbi Toba.

Questions about finance, the day-to-day—questions regarding monies owed for school, membership, rental hall fees (for b’nei mitzvah families) can be directed to Marla Lichtman, our Administrative Director.

Questions about ritual-related things—anything around what kind of food is allowed in the sanctuary or social hall, when we can start animal sacrifice again—go to Laurie Goldman, chair of the Ritual Committee, or Rabbi Toba.

Issues concerning the Rabbi—we have a Rabbinic Liaison, Ora Gladstone, who is available to talk with congregants who have an issue regarding the rabbi that they are not comfortable taking directly to Rabbi Toba.

Questions regarding the school—for classroom issues, it’s great to start with the student’s teacher directly, otherwise Annette Lawson, the Education Director, is the go to gal. For issues regarding the Ed Director, until a School Liaison is in place, Paul Hattis, the shul’s president is the person to see.

Questions about life, death, services, Jewish practice, meditation, writing a d’var, etc—Rabbi Toba is available 24/6. Although she does not have regular office hours, she is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues you might want to discuss.

Who to seek out if you have a fabulous idea:
Great ideas for an adult ed class—Rabbi Toba
Great ideas for fundraising—Jeff Sacks, Nediv Lev Committee
Great ideas for recruiting new members—Allison Daskal Hausman and Susan Silberberg-Robinson, Communications Co-Chairs
Great ideas for community building—Lisa Port White (me, lisa dee), Membership Committee
Great ideas for things not mentioned—Lisa Port White (me again)
Cheers, lisa dee

Have a question for the Ask Lisa Dee column? Anything you want to know about CDT? Anything you want to know about anything? I’ll do my best to get you the answers. Contact me at ldpw@rcn.com.
Committee Spotlight

CDT Newsletter Team on the Move
by Tim Rosa, Newsletter Chair

Do you like the new look of this month’s CDT newsletter? If so, be sure to thank CDT member Josette Akresh-Gonzales, who worked many hours on the redesign in time to kick it off with this September issue. If you have any comments, send them to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org.

As you may know from our last issue, the CDT Newsletter team has been on the move. Long-time Chair Dan Halbert has handed over the management reins to Tim Rosa. Karen Engels has moved on after more than five years of service. We’re very grateful to Dan and Karen for their outstanding contributions. Stephanie Hackett has been a faithful editor for many years. We’ve added a number of new committee members in the past few months, including Deb Albenberg, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Pittel, JoAnn Share, and Emily Shumsky.

We do most of our work virtually, though we do meet face to face occasionally. We’re still looking for one more person to join our design and production team. Interested? Have no experience but want to learn a new skill? Contact Tim Rosa, trosa@TRA360.com.

Every month of the year (except for a combined July–August issue) the CDT Newsletter team collects articles and announcements from CDT members, edits them for clarity and consistency, and then produces the CDT Newsletter, October issue, by the 15th of the month. This way, it gets into the next month’s issue.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

9/3  All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck
9/8  Erev Rosh Hashanah
9/9  Rosh Hashanah
9/11 Shabbat Shuvah Meditation Service
9/12 Tikkun Olam Open House
9/17 Kol Nidre
9/18 Yom Kippur
9/19 Sukkah building
9/26 Sukkot Trip to Red Fire Farm
9/26 Sukkot Harvest Potluck

SEE PAGES 8–9 FOR THE PULL-OUT CALENDAR!