Being Seen

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

ON THE SECOND day of Rosh Hashanah this year, during our Torah discussion, congregational leaders from the Torah of Chesed committee led us in a reflection on the theme of “seeing,” and how it relates to our campaign for the inclusion of special needs children and their families. We heard powerful stories of people who have felt unseen in some way, and from a parent who wondered whether a stranger’s glance at her and her son as they sat at Shabbat morning services was kind or judgmental. In small groups we discussed our own experiences of feeling seen and unseen, and explored those times when we have averted our eyes from others, out of shame, confusion, or simple ignorance.

Over the past few years, as we have explored what it means to fulfill our mission as a “caring and inclusive community,” we have heard many stories about the “unseen” and thus unknown realms of our members’ lives. There are many circumstances that people have a difficult time bringing into the congregation, whether it is the pain of divorce, the struggles of a child with mental illness, the loss of a job, the agony of infertility. Despite our good intentions, there are topics and circumstances that our larger culture marks as at best private, and at worst shameful. There are messages we have received either at CDT or in

continued on next page
other Jewish communities implying that the synagogue is a place in which everyone has to appear to “have it all together,” at all times. Yet if we feel that we cannot bring important aspects of our lives into the circle of our community, then it is impossible to bring our whole selves to the spiritual and ethical work that we seek to do together. It is as if we leave a part of ourselves outside the door.

THE MANY CONVERSATIONS that we’ve had as part of the Torah of Chesed over these past four years have given me hope that it is indeed possible to create a Jewish community in which everyone can be embraced in his or her fullness. Not that the anyone needs to feel s/he must reveal anything they’d rather keep to themselves, or that we want the congregation to become a place where everyone knows everyone else’s business. But it can be a place where we push back against the American culture of extreme privacy, with its implication that any deviation from the perceived norm is a cause for shame. It can be a place where we realize that we are not weak if we ask for help, and that a community becomes more compassionate. It can be a place where we learn to be more understanding of the pain and struggles of others, and to examine our own discomfort from the perceived norm is a cause for shame. It can be a place where we can embrace everyone in his or her fullness. Not that the uniqueness of every child, of every adult, in our community.

TO BEGIN TO address this larger issue of the “unseen” issues that we want to bring into the light of awareness, we have launched a year-long campaign addressing how we can better include children with special needs and their families in the congregation. The focus of the campaign is not primarily on our educational program, but rather on how we can make sure that the families with children who may process information or behave in ways that are different from typical children feel fully at home here at Dorshei Tzedek, in all aspects of our communal life. It’s a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow together as a congregation, and to reap the benefits of seeing more fully the beauty and uniqueness of every child, of every adult, in our community. It is also a challenge, because each of us will be asked to examine our own assumptions, our own places of discomfort, the ways in which we sometimes jump to conclusions and judge others (or ourselves) too harshly. We may discover that as a community we need to devote greater resources to making sure that our activities, from Shabbat child care to our June retreat, are truly accessible to all of our members. Please join us at our first Members’ Meeting of 5771, on Sunday, November 21 (see page 4 for details), where there will be an opportunity to learn more about this campaign, and where we hope all of our member households will join in this important conversation.

The 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.

CDT Board

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

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

Board Chairs
Communications: Allison Hausman and Susan Silberberg Robinson
Finance Secretary: Sivan Nasoff
Membership: TBA
Leadership Development: Esther Kohn
Ritual: Laurie Goldman
Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Brozan

Member-at-large: Jonathan Rosenthal
Off-Board Chairs
Chesed: Jackie Fleischman and Ellie Goldberg
Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks
Newsletter: Tim Rosa
Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
School Liaison: Lisa Goodwin-Robbins
Website: Stan Fleischman

Staff
Education Director: Annette Lawson
Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman
Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner
Bar Mitzvah of Aryeh Rafael Lieberman
November 20, 9:45 am

Aryeh is in seventh grade at Brown Middle School. For his Tikkun Olam project, he has been volunteering at Urban Farms and SPIN, as well as helping with Charles River water sampling.

We look forward to seeing you at services followed by the kiddush lunch after services.

– Marcia Okun and Josh Lieberman

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services
November 5, December 10, January 7, February 4

6:00pm Candle Lighting, 6:45pm Service

Join us for this fun, musical erav Shabbat service, appropriate for all ages. Once a month, we gather for a potluck vegetarian dinner, beginning with candle lighting & Kiddush at 6:00pm, 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).

Tot Shabbat
November 13, 10:45am -12pm

60 Highland Street, Rooms 110 and 112

Tot Shabbat is a monthly program, run by parents, for children age 5 and under and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities. We begin each session with "Shira and Tefillah": songs and prayers, followed by free play for infants - age 2, and a special "Torah Time" story and craft for children ages 3-5. Please contact Michele Arons at m_arons@hotmail.com or Alison Lobron at auderial@yahoo.com for more information or with any questions.

Junior Congregation
November 13, December 18, 10:45am to 12pm

60 Highland Street, Room 111

This is a fun, participatory service for 3rd through 6th graders (kids only!), led by our very own Elana Rome! Spend a special Shabbat morning with your friends, or make some new ones!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study
with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Saturday mornings, 8:45 am

November 20, December 18, January 22

60 Highland Street, in the Library, Free of charge

Join Rabbi Toba for exploration of the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries ancient to modern. Whether you’re a Torah study maven or wouldn’t know Genesis from Deuteronomy, bring your questions, early morning thoughts, and your own caffeine!

Human Rights Shabbat
Friday, December 17, 8:00pm
Erev Shabbat Service with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah

Special Guest: Rabbi Brian Walt
at Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

We will be joining with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for a joint erav Shabbat service, followed by a talk by Rabbi Brian Walt, a Reconstructionist rabbi and former Executive Director of Rabbis for Human Rights-North America. Rabbi Walt will speak on “Human Rights and Judaism: A Personal Political Journey,” sharing his personal experience with anti-apartheid work in South Africa and Rabbis for Human Rights in the context of the history of Jewish involvement in the development and promotion of human rights.

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. During Rabbi Toba’s weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 112.
CDT Participates in Muslim-Jewish Weekend of Twinning

Saturday, November 6, 60 Highland St.
Sunday, November 7, 126 Boston Post Road (Route 20) in Wayland

by David Lobron

CDT is excited to be a participant in the 2010 Weekend of Twinning, a nationwide event that pairs synagogues and mosques for a weekend of learning. Sponsored by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement at the University of Southern California, the program has brought Jews and Muslims together for the past several years. We are the first Boston-area congregation to participate. On Saturday, November 6, a group from the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland will visit CDT’s morning Shabbat services, staying for the Torah reading and discussion and part of kiddush. On Sunday, November 7, interested CDT members are invited to meet at 1 p.m. at the I.C.B.’s mosque at 126 Boston Post Road (Route 20) in Wayland, where mosque leaders will give us a tour and presentation, and answer any questions we might have. Kids are welcome to attend this event. Any CDT member who wishes to go please RSVP to David Lobron (dlobron@gmail.com). Please respond by Monday, November 1, so we can give the ICB an approximate sense of how many visitors to expect. We are honored to be hosting the ICB at our shul, and we look forward to visiting them!

Winter Distribution for Red Fire Farm CSA members

Fridays/ November 5, November 19, December 3 and December 17

The winter CSA distribution days will take place on the following Fridays: November 5 and 19, December 3 and 17. The distribution will continue to be in Auburndale at the Corpus Christi church (indoors) for all of the dates except for November 19. For November 19th the distribution will be at 73 Canterbury Rd. in Newton (the garage at Chagit and Tom’s house). Please check Red Fire Farm’s weekly emails for specific times. Any questions, please email Tom (tom@brown.name) or Chagit (chagit@maczipit.com).

Rosh Chodesh

November 8, 7:30pm
60 Highland Street, Parlor Living Room

Join us for Rosh Chodesh. Each month, a group of CDT women of all ages gathers to welcome the beginning of a new Jewish month in a meeting full of sharing and ritual. We invite you to join us for the upcoming celebration of the month of Kislev, Monday, November 8. Feel free to send any questions to: Kristen Petersen (petersenka@hotmail.com) or Laurie Schloff (speaksmart@aol.com).

Film Club

November 20 (Please note change of date), 6:00pm Potluck, 7:00p Movie and Discussion
Emily Sper’s Home, 9 Frederick Street, Newton

CDT Film Club’s next film is Tehilim at the home of Emily Sper (617-332-5033). Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you’re coming and know what you’ll bring, please let us know). Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

Tehilim (Psalms) was photographed entirely in Jerusalem. The film opens with a typical day for an orthodox Jewish couple and their two sons. But a strange occurrence during the boys’ drive to school deepens into an enigma that tests the family’s bond and tries its spirit; God is questioned, prayers are recited, and faith is shaken. All the while Jerusalem itself remains a presence—at once bright, tenuous, and secretive. (2008, Hebrew with subtitles)

If you’d like to host an upcoming film, all you need to provide is the house, TV and DVD Player. Or, CDT has a projector that you can borrow to hook up to a laptop, for a big picture (you can use the latter without a TV or DVD player). Please let us know which date you would like to host:
December 11: Breaking Upwards
January 22: Eyes Wide Open
February 12: My Mexican Shivah
March 12: Ajami
April 9 The Shop on Main Street
May 7 Der Dibuk (The Dybbuk)

Please contact either Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) or Emily Sper (esper@blueirisdesign.com) for more information or to host.

Calling all performers!
Saturday December 4
2:00 pm

At the home of Elaine Bresnick, location to be announced

Are you a seasoned musician, composer, poet, writer, or performing artist? Would you like to perform a short (approximately 5 minutes) piece with fellow CDT members? CDT’s first salon will be held at Elaine Bresnick’s house on Saturday December 4 at 2 pm. If you’d like to be a performer, please contact Elaine and tell her what your artistic interest is. If you just want to listen, that’s fine, too – just put December 4 on your calendar, and stay tuned for more information. Contact Elaine at ebresnick@comcast.net or (617) 964-5199.

Members’ Meeting

Sunday, November 21
5:30pm Pizza dinner,
6:15pm Members’ Meeting
60 Highland Street

Childcare is provided

We hope that every CDT household will be represented at our first Members Meeting of 5771. Come learn more about our new Fair Trade Olive Oil initiative with Sindyanna, a cooperative Jewish-Arab venture in Israel. The meeting will feature a presentation and discussion of our new Torah of Chessed campaign, focusing on the inclusion of special needs children and their families. As we work to become a more welcoming community for all of our members, it is critically important that we are all a part of this discussion. Come join us!

Unless noted otherwise, all events are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.
SAVE THE DATES!
CDT Chanukah Party
Sunday December 5
4:30pm to 6:30pm
The party will include activities for all ages, candlelighting, latkes, music, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Temple Sinai’s Rainbow Weekend
CDT Co-sponsors Two Events on LGBT Aging
Friday, December 10, 7:30pm and Sunday, December 12, 10:30am
Location is at Temple Sinai 50 Sewall Avenue, Brookline, MA
On Friday December 12, Lisa Krinsky, LICSW, the Director of the LGBT Aging Project in Boston, will speak during Shabbat services about the work she does to advocate for LGBT individuals as they face unique obstacles in aging: “Gay and Gray: Growing Older in the GLBT Community.” On Sunday December 12, The award-winning film, Gen Silent will be shown. The film is about the barriers that LGBT individuals face as they age. After the film, Temple Sinai member Rabbi Karen Landy will moderate a panel to address issues faced by LGBT individuals as they age. Join us for bagels and coffee as we view the film and engage with our panel members.

Service of the Heart
with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Thursday mornings (ongoing), 8:00–9:00am, Second Church 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 them to 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!

Abraham Joshua Heschel: From Spirituality to Action
with Professor Ed Kaplan
Tuesday evening, December 14, 7:45pm, 60 Highland Street, in our Sanctuary, Free of charge
Abraham Joshua Heschel was perhaps the foremost American Jewish theologian of the 20th century, and was also known for his activism in the civil rights and peace movements. Heschel's spirituality and his commitment to social justice were rooted both in his Hasidic background and his reading of the Biblical prophets. This talk will offer an introduction and overview of Heschel's life and works, with a careful examination of his analysis of Prophecy and Prayer in the context of today's religious and ethical situation.

Edward K. Kaplan is Kaiserman Professor in the Humanities at Brandeis University and founding chair of the Program in Religious Studies. He has published several books on Heschel, including: Holiness in Words. A. J. Heschel's Poetics of Piety (SUNY Press, 1996); Abraham Joshua Heschel, Prophetic Witness (Yale University Press, 1998), and Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America, 1940–1972 (Yale University Press, 2007), winner of the National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies.

Exploring the Bible
with Dr. Sanford Goldfless
Mondays at 3:30pm, $15 per session (fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)
In this class we'll read together, in English, large selections from the Tanakh ("Torah, Prophets, a Writings"), the Jewish Bible. We'll aim at trying to answer some very basic—yet very deep—questions: "What sort of texts are these, after all? When, why, and by whom were they written? How should we approach the reading of these texts so that we can make the most sense out of them? How may we read them, also, to find some resonance in them with our own human situation?"

In this class last year we read the biblical book of Job and viewed the recent film based on it, A Serious Man. We looked at the parts of the Bible that address the Persian period of Israel's story, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah. We then turned back to the remote past and the stories of the Israelites' wanderings in the desert, in Numbers. We found this reading gripping, quite surprising at points, and often emotionally moving.

To start the current year, we're continuing with the story of the people's origins, bringing them from the desert to the "Conquest of the Land," as described in the book of Joshua. Where in the Bible we turn next will depend on you!

Sandy Goldfless has a PhD in biblical studies and Near Eastern languages, religions and literature from Harvard University. He has taught biblical Hebrew for adults and has led Bible study groups in the Boston area for several years, including weekly groups for the last three years at Dorshei Tzedek. This class meets weekly through May, at members' homes. Contact Stan Fleischman at: stanfma@gmail.com or 617-332-5433 for more information.
By November 17, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, along with religious communities and congregations throughout greater Boston, will work to close at least 500 accounts at large banks that charge “usurious” fees. These institutions are: Bank of America, Wells Fargo, JPMorganChase, CitiGroup, and Wells Fargo/Wachovia.

As part of a nationwide social justice effort, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) members are being encouraged to move their money to institutions that do not charge the high interest rates and fees common to our largest banking institutions. Not only will this be taking place in Boston, but over a dozen other cities across the USA are involved in the same initiative. The members of the GBIO (including CDT) and its counterparts nationwide believe that “10% IS ENOUGH!”

While there has been limited movement by our Massachusetts lawmakers to curtail some of the egregious practices of these “too big to fail” banks, we believe banks should follow Massachusetts lending laws. That’s where all of us come in. By mounting a national campaign, people, speaking through their bank accounts, will make it clear to the banking industry that banks will be held accountable for their greedy practices.

Over this next month, and leading up to a “GBIO action” on Wednesday, November 17th, 12:00-2:00pm in downtown Boston (location TBD), members of CDT will be receiving an email survey, and learning about how this campaign relates to Jewish values of social justice.

If you already know that you’re ready to close an account with Bank of America or another institution, please let Emily Sper (emily@emilysper.com) know. Or contact any of the other “Move Our Money” committee members: Ora Gladstone, Rick Glassman, Laurie Goldman, Paul Hattis, Staci Rubin, Erica Streit-Kaplan and Alex Sugerman-Brozan. We’re here to help you understand the issues, guide you in closing account(s), and make the campaign a success.

Family Table Contributions: Chanukah Collection

Family Table is the kosher food pantry for Jewish families or individuals in need in the Boston Area. The pantry, located in Waltham, serves about 550 people monthly. Dorshei Tzedek has a commitment to donate non-perishable vegetables and tuna fish monthly. Just for Chanukah, Family Table is collecting special foods needed for Chanukah celebrations. Dorshei Tzedek families have been asked to help by donating boxes of potato latke mix. Our goal is to collect at least 25 boxes of mix, but we can do better than that! You can bring your donations to either the Family Table collection box at the school or the sanctuary. We will be collecting them until November 18.

Buy Sindyanna Olive Oil to Support Jewish–Arab Co-existence in Israel

The Tikkun Olam Committee is starting a new project, the sale of Sindyanna Olive Oil. Sindyanna was founded in 1996 by Israeli Arab and Jewish women, to foster economic development within the Palestinian community and to promote better relations between Palestinian and Jewish communities within Israel. In addition to trainings and workshops for Israeli Arab women, Sindyanna works with Israeli Arab olive farmers and markets their fair trade organic olive oil in Israel and internationally. Sindyanna also markets artisan goods from the Israeli Palestinian community in the north of Israel as well as olive oil soaps from the West Bank.

In September, CDT hosted an evening with Hadas Lahav, director of Sindyanna, and members purchased our first bottles of (delicious!) olive oil. We are now planning our first congregation-wide sale of Sindyanna’s olive oil, zaatar (a wonderful herb mix made from the Biblical hyssop, also known as Syrian marjoram, purchased from Israeli Arab farmers and mixed in the traditional way at Sindyanna’s warehouse), and olive oil soap. Sindyanna products will be sold at our Chanukah party on December 5, but you can pre-order your olive oil now! Organic, fair trade olive oil is available in 750 ml. bottles for $16/bottle, zaatar (at $5 per 80 gram jar) and a limited amount of scented olive oil soaps (at $6/bar) will be available for sale at the Chanukah party. To reserve your olive oil, please send a check (payable to CDT member Jonathan Rosenthal) for $16 per bottle of olive oil to: Jonathan Rosenthal, 67 Capitol Street, Watertown, MA 02472.
Walking the Circle: A CDT Member’s Narrative of Protest
by Amy Mazur

February 14, 2009. It was a crisp, wintry day, and very sunny. I remember that part distinctly because I took the MBTA that day from my home in Newton to the Logan Hyatt in support of the Hyatt 100. Well, I did not actually take the subway all the way to the Hyatt. I got off at the Airport stop and took the Hyatt shuttle to the Hyatt. We started a short trip from the Airport stop to the hotel, but we stopped abruptly when the driver saw two more passengers waving the shuttle down. They boarded and he asked them, “Are you members of Local 26?” They said no, but they were union supporters. Confused, they sat down. I approached them and explained that the reason they had been asked that was because there was a protest going on that day. The couple was not aware of it.

Good thing the driver didn’t ask me. I got a free ride to the protest. I guess I don’t look like a trouble-maker.

I got off at the entrance to the Hyatt and walked over to where about 20 people were protesting. I found a bottle of detergent with rocks in it to shake, and I got in the circle and began chanting slogans against the disrespectful practices that the Hyatt had performed: summarily firing 98 staff people from the three greater Boston Hyatt locations all on August 31, 2009, none of whom had worked for Hyatt less than 5 years, and some of whom had worked there for 26 years. They were called into a room at 3:00pm, and told that the Hyatt was experiencing revenue problems, and they had to let employees go. They had to leave that day, and they could not return. Unbeknownst to them, this group of workers had been training their replacements, thinking they were there to help out with weekend and holiday scheduling.

I shook my noisemaker, shouted chants, held a sign, and walked around a very small circle for about an hour. I did not talk to anyone there; I did not know anyone there. I just did my walking. And in the company of the people also chanting and shaking their noisemakers, I felt very connected.

After about an hour, I decided to leave. I asked who the organizer was, took an MBTA bus back to the Airport stop (no Hyatt shuttle this time) and went home.

May 16, 2010, at another protest at the Cambridge Hyatt. This time, I attended with my 17-year old son and a colleague of mine who is a fellow career development professional and member of a group to which we both belong: Voices for Workplace Change: Career Counselors Advocating for Workers. We are a group that feels that beyond our important individual work with clients, we also have a larger obligation to the community to advocate for systemic changes that can transform the workplace. My son, my colleague, and I traveled together to the protest, arrived and picked up the picket signs and noisemakers, and walked the circle, this time a bigger one with more folks in attendance. The same circle, the same noise, the same chants, the same signs, the same connection. I recognized some faces, and saw someone who was a CDT member. At the end of the protest, we all came together and heard the words of former Hyatt workers, labor organizers and spiritual leaders. I approached one organizer, shared that I was a member of CDT, and mentioned that Rabbi Toba was very active and supportive of the actions we were taking. He knew of Rabbi Toba and spoke of her efforts to communicate with management at the Hyatt. (She had not yet been arrested.) A different experience than the first one, but each demonstrating how coming together collectively does make a difference.

Religious School News by Annette Lawson

Every month in our Beit Midrash (3rd-6th Gr.) program, we celebrate Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the new month on the Hebrew calendar. As part of our Rosh Chodesh activities, we learn about whatever holiday is celebrated in that month. Until recently, the fall month of Cheshvan presented a challenge, because there are no Jewish holidays in Cheshvan. Or so we thought.

Last year, the Knesset (Israeli parliament) officially recognized the Sigd as a holiday of the nation of Israel. Sigd is a holiday of the Jewish community of Ethiopia, a tradition that they brought with them when the community immigrated to Israel. Sigd, which is celebrated during Cheshvan, fifty days after Yom Kippur, celebrates receiving Torah and committing to the brit (covenant). Our Beit Midrash students learned about Sigd at our recent Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan assembly.

Our discussion also kicked off our learning initiative for the year, Shoreshim (Roots). This year we will be learning about Jewish communities throughout the world and in different eras where Jews have put down roots. Students this year will explore the history and culture of the Jewish communities of Spain, Iraq, Ethiopia and India, learning what these communities have contributed to the rich tapestry of Jewish civilization.

Shoreshim will also be the theme for our community learning days on January 23 and April 3. More details about these programs will follow in the months to come.

The other part of our Rosh Chodesh celebration each month is Breirot (choices) during which students get to participate in different Jewish cultural workshops. Some of the workshops we have offered have been Jewish cooking, Israeli folk dancing, Jewish drama and storytelling, Israeli kids games, Hebrew calligraphy, and Jewish ritual arts.

I would like to invite adults in the Dorshet Tzedek community who have a particular interest or skill related to Jewish culture to share it with our students during Breirot. The commitment can be as short as leading a one-hour workshop. If you think you might be interested, please call (617-965-5443) or email (school@dorsheitzedek.org) me and we can discuss a possible workshop.
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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.

Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.
Kiddush Assignments

**Erev Shabbat 11/5:** Ami Gordon, Jodie Siegel, Jan Gortler Small, Rachel Zakuta

**Shabbat 11/6:** Sherry Katz & Mark Farber, Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

**Shabbat 11/13:** Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Alison & David Lobron

**Shabbat 11/20:** Ushers: Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert
Sanctuary Cleanup: Gail Harris & David Reider
Setup: Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Meg Wilcox & Bob Warren, Theresa St.John-Siegel & Steven Siegel
Cleanup: Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Susan Silberberg-Robinson & Tom Robinson, Stacey Chacker, Jeffrey Arnold

**Shabbat 11/27:** Willa Kuh, Rick Glassman, Jennifer Greenberg, Miriam Bolkosky

**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.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

**Open the Gates for a Different Kind of Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training**

A bar or bat mitzvah is something a Jewish child really looks forward to. But is a large-class setting right for every child? Many Boston-area children have been able to celebrate this important Jewish milestone thanks to Gateways’ innovative and personalized Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. With its innovative and personalized program of individual tutoring, multi-sensory Hebrew instruction, classroom activities and prayer services, Gateways’ Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program prepares students of all types for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students who face a variety of learning challenges and other special needs benefit from Gateways’ small class size and individualized learning program. This class welcomes students age 11 and up from across the Boston area and runs 4:30-6:00 on Thursday afternoons in Newton. Limited spots still available! To learn more, contact Nancy Mager, Program Coordinator at nancyM@jgateways.org or 617-630-9010, ext. 104.

**Transportation Available for Seniors in Newton**

If you are over 60 and in need of transportation, the Newton Department of Senior Services is able to help. To arrange a ride, please contact the Newton Senior Center Transportation Services at 617-796-1288 to make a reservation. Vouchers are needed to travel, and are available to pick up from 345 Walnut Street (or can be mailed to you). For more information, go to http://www.newtonseniors.org.

Red Fire Farm Trip a Success, Chance to learn about our CSA

by Phoebe Cushman

In honor of Sukkot, CDT members Chagit Steiner, Tom Brown, Emily Sper, Phoebe Cushman, Joel Auslander, and Josette, Sebastian, and Ethan Akresh-Gonzales joined Rabbi Toba for a trip to Red Fire Farm in Granby, Massachusetts on September 26. It was a perfect crisp, fall day. Once we arrived, we took a very bumpy ride across several different fields. Farm owners Sarah and Ryan Voiland led the tour, explaining the basics of organic farming to us. They explained how they use crop rotation to preserve key nutrients in the soil over the years. And they showed us their compost heaps which were bigger than their barns!

At first glance, the Voilands do not look like they could possibly be in charge of running a 65-acre farm. After speaking with them briefly, however, it is clear that they have many years of wisdom. They both grew up on New England farms and were farming with their parents from an early age. Sarah and Ryan explained that it was the connections between local farms, the environment, and politics that inspired them to become career farmers. They are pleased to be able to share their enthusiasm with school children, farmers-in-training, and people who just want to eat fresh, local food.

See the article on page 4 if you are interested in signing up for Red Fire Farm’s Deep Winter share.

Joel Auslander, and Josette, Sebastian, and Ethan Akresh-Gonzales and Phoebe Cushman enjoy the sunshine at Red Fire Farm.
Mazel Tov
To Jamie Wilson and Staci Rubin, on their October wedding!
To our October b’nei mitzvah and their families - Annalisa Flynn and Elise Hausman!
To our newest Torah leyners, who debuted to all of those who helped with our Simchat Torah celebration: Michele Arons, Sarah Hartman, Sue Lancer, and Linda Schiller, and to their teacher, Elaine Pollack!

Todah Rabah


A belated thank you to Susan Nitkin for being one of the valued discussion leaders at Rosh HaShanah.

A big thank you goes to Noam Shore and his sukkah crew for setting up and taking down the congregational sukkah. This group includes: Jonathan Gordon, Doron Gan, Stephanie & Nem Hackett, Rochelle Hahn & Kenny Breuer, Tania Mireles, Bill Shorr, and Amalia Mireles-Shorr - in honor of Bernie Shorr

Other people who helped make our celebration of Sukkot a success include: Audra Karp, Deb Albenberg, Ami Gordon, Doron Gan, Stephanie & Nem Hackett.

Refuah Sh’leyma
We send blessings of healing to CDT members Susannah Zisk, Carol Hemley and Debbie Sher.

Condolences
To John Carroll, on the death of his mother, Estelle Carroll, may her memory be for a blessing. May the Source of Comfort bring comfort to John and his family, along with all those who mourn.

Yahrzeit
We remember CDT member Alex Fried, whose yarzheit this year falls on November 29 (the 22nd of Kislev). We will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on November 27. May his memory be a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners
Monday November 8, 8:00pm, home of Benita Danzing 79 Brookside Avenue, Newtonville
Monday December 13, Time and Location TBA
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 will be posted in the newsletter and the member calendar of the CDT website. Avelut meets on the second Monday of every month. Please join us if you would like to remember a family member or friend. If you would like more information about the group, contact Ellie Goldberg (ellie.goldberg@gmail.com). To volunteer to host a meeting or for scheduling details, contact Jamie Tessler (jtessler@igc.org).

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.

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.
Nediv Lev

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
Matilda and Ed Bruckner—In honor of our son Raphael’s wedding and the grandparents who couldn’t be there
Judith Elkin—With deep gratitude to the CDT Chesed Committee, an inspiration and a model to congregations everywhere
Peter Shapiro

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Deborah Issokson and Liane Bromberg — Thank you for Kol Nidre Services
Jamie Tessler — In memory of my father Ted Tessler, on his 29th yahrzeit
Staci Rubin and Jamie Wilson—To Rabbi Toba, with thanks for officiating at our wedding

School Fund
Holy Books Fund

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund
Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

Building Fund

Welcome New Members
Kristin Butcher and Scott Gordon
Carol Lobron, mother of member David Lobron and grandmother of Gabriel and Shira Lobron.
Harriet Budd and Joyce Traister
Ellie Baron and Kate DeBethune
Sue Weil and Sandy Goodman

Membership Committee
The membership committee would like to send a shout out to the team of people working to actively welcome our new members: Linda Hsu, Allison Andrews, David Lobron, Corrine Lofchie, Benita Danzig and Amy Dain.

Do you like to talk to people? Think it’d be cool to see your name in bold? Let Lisa Dee Port-White know. Lisa can be reached at her email: ldpw@rcn.com.

Shabbat Corner
At a recent Ritual Committee meeting, we discussed ways to promote greater Shabbat consciousness at CDT. One idea was to include occasional musings here in the newsletter, from different members, on what Shabbat means to them. If you’d like to share your Shabbat practice in the newsletter, please send it to Ritual Committee Chair Laurie Goldman at: laurie.goldman@tufts.edu.

Announcements
The CDT Film Club meets once a month on Saturday nights to watch and discuss films with Jewish themes. Many of the films have been screened in regional, national, or international film festivals. Emily Sper (esper@blueirisdesign.com) and Stan Fleishman (stanfma@gmail.com) have been organizing the Film Club since 2004. The evening starts with a potluck dinner and shmoozing at 6:00pm. The movie starts at 7:00pm, and is always followed by a lively group discussion. Filmgoers are asked to bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. It’s helpful to know in advance if you’re coming and what you’ll bring. That way, we don’t end up with a half dozen types of kugel.

The CDT Film Club is a great way to see great films, enjoy wonderful meals, and engage in stimulating conversations.

People are welcome to come for any part of the evening. Anyone can host the Film Club, so all you need is a house, a DVD player and TV. Or, CDT has a projector that you can borrow to hook up to a laptop, for a big picture (you can use the latter without a TV or DVD player). The CDT Film Club is a great way to see great films, enjoy wonderful meals, and engage in stimulating conversations. Come join us!