

CONGREGATION
Dorshei Tzedek
AN AFFILIATE OF THE JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION



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Tevet/Shevet 5771 January 2011



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From Slavery to Covenant: **The Six Weeks of ShOVeVIM**

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



I LEARNED RECENTLY of an interesting Jewish mystical tradition: that the six weeks of the year corresponding to the first six *parshiot* (Torah portions) of the book of Exodus (known by their acronym “ShOVeVIM,” standing for *Shemot-Va’era-Bo-Beshallah-Yitro-Mishpatim*) are a time for intensive reflection and fasting. This year, those six weeks began on December 25 and continue through January 29. During the darkest and coldest part of the year, those who originally engaged in this tradition were seeking to do *tikkun*, to make repair. I won’t go here into repair of *what*, as it’s a bit obscure and bizarre. What I find interesting in this tradition is the notion of a need for deep self-reflection and even *teshuvah*, life change, in connection to the chapters of the Torah that recount the slavery in Egypt and the liberation from that slavery.

continued on next page

Photo: Coalition of Immokalee representative Cruz Salucio and Student/Farmworker Alliance member Meghan Cohorst, with members of CDT and the Workman’s Circle Shule at the Workers’ Rights Rally. See page 6 for more Tikkun Olam.

CDT Mission Statement

The book of Exodus begins with an account of the enslavement of the Israelites by a Pharaoh who feared this expanding population of “strangers” within the Egyptian kingdom. Enslavement soon escalated to attempted genocide, as Pharaoh ordered his people to throw the baby boys of the Hebrews into the Nile. We then read about the birth of Moses, his early life, and his eventual encounter with the divine Power of Liberation at the burning bush. In the ensuing weeks, Moses returns to Egypt after having fled to Midian, confronts Pharaoh, bring plagues upon Egypt, and eventually wins the release of the Israelites. The ensuing chapters include the great mythic moments of our “master narrative”: the first Passover; the crossing of the Reed Sea; the communal encounter with God and the receiving of the *Aseret HaDibrot*, the “Ten Sayings” (otherwise known as “Ten Commandments”) on Mount Sinai.

This incredible narrative, one which has inspired and continues to inspire liberation struggles around the world, contains so many themes that continue to resonate. Slavery still exists on many levels—whether the epidemic of human sexual trafficking around the globe, worker oppression in the fields of Immokalee, Florida, or the many ways in which our minds and hearts are not really free.

But just as slavery is real, so is the potential for liberation. And as the Exodus story makes clear, liberation is not simply “getting out of Egypt.” By describing the creation of a holy community predicated on the notion that our actions should be guided by Godly principles of *tzedek*, justice, and *chesed*, lovingkindness, the Torah teaches that real freedom entails commitment and dedication. That is why these six weeks culminate in the Torah portion *Mishpatim*, also called the “Book of the Covenant” by scholars. These chapters give instructions for the sanctification of everyday life, and imperatives for how we treat one another as members of a covenantal community.

How might we take on the “ShOVeVIM” practice today? Perhaps we can begin by committing ourselves to learning and thinking about the reality of slavery in our world, on whatever level that is meaningful for us. I often think about how while I do not literally own slaves, there are in fact many many people around the globe laboring to “serve” me—to produce the clothes, appliances, foods, and other goods that I purchase so cheaply. I don’t know them, but in some way I am responsible for them, and for the degrading conditions that so many of them are reduced to.

What is the *tikkun*, the repair, that I can do to address this situation? Or perhaps we can do something to foster the very real Power of Liberation in our own little corner of the world. We might seriously consider taking on a spiritual discipline that will begin to free us from the attitudes of anger, anxiety, or cynicism that constrict our spirits and cloud our vision.

We might commit ourselves to specific acts of *chesed*, lovingkindness, within the CDT community or in other communities of which we are a part. We might meditate on the “plagues” afflicting our society, our country, our world, and think about how our own actions contribute to those plagues, and what actions might help bring them to an end. For all of us, may these weeks of darkness and cold also be a time for reflection and insight, as seeds of redemption are planted that will sprout in the warmer months to come.

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

Executive Committee

President: Paul Hattis

First Vice President:

Peter Katz

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VP Finance: Michael Cohen

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Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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School Liaison: Lisa Goodwin-Robbins

Website: Stan Fleischman

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Education Director:

Annette Lawson

Administrative Director:

Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant:

Jon Sarner

CDT Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and high-resolution photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 15th of the month for the following month’s issue.

Volunteer Staff

Tim Rosa (Chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Deb Albenberg, Stephanie Hackett, Barbara Pittel, Jo Ann Share, Emily Shumsky, Dan Halbert (Emeritus)

Shabbat

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. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 112.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services

January 7, February 4, March 4,
April 1, May 13
6:00pm Candle Lighting, 6:45pm 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 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

January 29, February 26, March 12,
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 will 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_aronsh@hotmail.com or **Alison Lobron** at auderial@yahoo.com for more information or with any questions.

Junior Congregation

January 22, February 12, March 12,
10:45am–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 Shira

Friday, January 14, 7:30pm

The Shabbat that we read the “Song of the Sea” is known as “Shabbat Shira,” the Shabbat of Song. Join Rabbi Toba and other wonderful musicians for this special musical erev Shabbat service, for adults and older kids (elementary school-aged and up). Wear your dancing shoes!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Shabbat

Shabbat morning, January 15, 9:45am

Join us for our yearly celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including a special “Civil Rights Hallel” medley, readings from Dr. King, and more! This is also the Shabbat morning when we chant the “Song of the Sea” in the Torah, the great moment of liberation in the Exodus narrative. Kids as well as adults welcome!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Saturday mornings, 8:45am
January 22, February 12
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!

Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Halwitz

January 8

Please join us on January 8 as our son, **Jesse**, is called to the torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jesse attends the Manville School in Boston and the Gateways Jewish Education Program. In his spare time he likes to swim, ice skate, take yoga classes, and visit favorite places in the Berkshires and Vermont. Jesse has also been a life-long “regular” at Dorshei Tzedek’s Friday night family service. For his Tikkun Olam project, Jesse is working at Family Table, which provides food for families in need. Please join us for a celebratory Kiddush luncheon following services, including klezmer music.

—Dan Halbert and Carole Slipowitz

Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Roll

January 22

Please join us on January 22 as our son, **Jacob**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jake is a seventh grader at Day Middle School and enjoys baseball, soccer, basketball, snowboarding, and playing the guitar. For his Tikkun Olam project, he volunteers with the Newton Tigers sports program for kids with special needs. We invite everyone to celebrate with us at a Kiddush lunch following the ceremony.

—Elizabeth and David Roll

CDT Events

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

Rosh Chodesh

January 6, 7:30pm–9:00pm
60 Highland Street, Living Room

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. Join the conversation and creativity as we welcome the month of Sh'vat. The month is cold, but our celebration of the new month will create much warmth. CDT women of all stages and ages are welcome.

Feel free to send any questions to: **Kristen Petersen** (petersenka@hotmail.com) or **Laurie Schloff** (speaksmart@aol.com).

Tu'biSh'vat

Wednesday evening, January 19, 7:00pm
First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

The holiday of Tu'biSh'vat is a time to celebrate the natural world and the diversity and abundance of earth's incredible resources. This Tu'biSh'vat brings an awesome responsibility: we must act to save the very creation that we celebrate. Join Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for a Tu'biSh'vat seder that will honor the ways that our members have acted as responsible custodians and champions of food justice, sustainability and local agriculture. We will eat the traditional fruits of the holiday, representing the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual symbols that inspire our feelings of vulnerability, creativity, abundance, and gratitude. These fruits give us an opportunity to discuss our relationships to creation, our part in the web of life, and how to sustain the resources we share. The seder is oriented towards older kids, teens and adults.

For a potluck nosh, you are invited to bring something that includes any one (or more!) of the Biblical "seven species" of the land of Israel that are also associated with this holiday: figs, dates, olives, barley, wheat, pomegranates, and grapes.

Film Club

January 22, 6:00pm Potluck, 7:00pm Movie and Discussion
Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx, 271 Woodward St., Waban, MA (617-964-2791)

The January offering of the CDT Film Club will be *Eyes Wide Open*. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you're coming and know what you'll bring, please let us know). We hope you can join us!

Eyes Wide Open focuses on a married Jerusalem butcher, Aaron (Zohar Strauss), who takes pity on a homeless student Ezri (Ran Danker) and hires him to work in his shop. When romantic sparks fly between the unlikely pair, Aaron's wife, Rivkeh (Tinkerbell), becomes increasingly suspicious. The stern Orthodox community disapproves, and a menacing group of "modesty guards" monitors Aaron's every move in this tragic drama, an official selection at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

If you'd like to host a film, all you need to provide is the house and TV. Or, we can borrow the CDT projector to hook up to a laptop. Please let us know which date you would like to host:

2/12: *My Mexican Shiva*
3/12: *Ajami*

Contact Stan Fleischman at 617-332-5433 or Emily Sper at 617-332-5033

Explore "Shoresim": Jewish Roots and Branches

Sunday, January 23, 2:30-5:00 pm
First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Explore and celebrate the diversity of Jewish culture at our community education program "Shoresim: Jewish Roots and Branches." As part of our exploration of the diversity of Jewish cultures around the world, there will be workshops for children (grades 1 and up) and for adults, featuring music, cooking, crafts, adult study with Rabbi Toba, and an activity room for families with young children. Join us for a tour of Jewish communities in different times and places created by our students in Kitot Gimmel-Vav (3rd-6th grades).



Photo: Annalisa Flynn and Lily Gomberg working on the Kitah Zayin Family Exhibit (Rabbi Toba in background).

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson

OUR SATURDAY PROGRAM for younger students (Pre-K-grade 2) is called Shabbat B'Yachad (Shabbat together) because parent involvement is an important part of the program. We begin the morning with students, parents and staff celebrating Shabbat together with song, movement, and a family-oriented Torah discussion. This year, on Fridays I email the parents the bit of text we will be discussing the next day, along with a few related questions for parents and children to think about and discuss. A number of families have told me that they have begun to use this for family discussions at their dinner table on erev Shabbat!

Another aspect of parent involvement in the Shabbat B'Yachad program is our parent book discussion group, which meets periodically through the year when the Pre-K-grade 2 students are in class. This year, we are reading and discussing selections from *Raising a Mensch: How to Bring Up Ethical Children in Today's World*, by Shelley Rosenberg.

On December 14, our 7th graders in Kitah Zayin displayed the Family History Projects they had developed. Each student was asked to learn about their Jewish family tree and to interview a grandparent or other family elder to learn about their family's history. The students' displays featured family pictures and artifacts—like a grandparent's or great grandparent's shofar, tallit case, or passport from Europe—and samples of foods made from treasured family recipes.

As part of their interviews, students received these wise words of advice from grandparents: "be who you are and not anyone else," and "it's important to value being Jewish and appreciate the emphasis of the Jewish tradition," and "have a passion for justice and be outraged at injustice."

Kol Hakavod (good work!) to the students of Kitah Zayin for their wonderful work on this project and to their morah (teacher) **Cindy Shulak-Rome** who conceived the project and so ably guided her students through it.

Adult Learning

Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Wednesday evenings, 7:30–9:00pm
February 2, 9, and 16; March 16, 23;
April 6, 13

Where have we been, and where are we going—as Jews, as human beings? This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys, and to inquire into the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process. After a break, the class will re-convene to share what people have written.

Because class size is limited, you must contact Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) to register. No writing experience or expertise required!

Exploring the Bible

with Dr. Sanford Goldfless
Mondays at 3:30pm, at members' homes
\$15 per session (fee can be reduced to
whatever you feel comfortable with)

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the "Tanakh" or Torah, Prophets, and Writings) by reading and discussing large parts of it together, in English. We're currently reading the Wisdom Books, starting with Proverbs, and comparing it with wisdom aphorisms outside the biblical canon, such as Ben Sira and Pirkei Avot, along with taking a taste of Yiddish, Taoist and Zen proverbs. Where in the Bible we turn next will depend on you!

This class meets weekly through May, at members' homes. Contact Stan Fleischman at: stanfma@gmail.com or 617-332-5433 for more information.

Gender, Judaism, & Sexual Identities: An Exploration

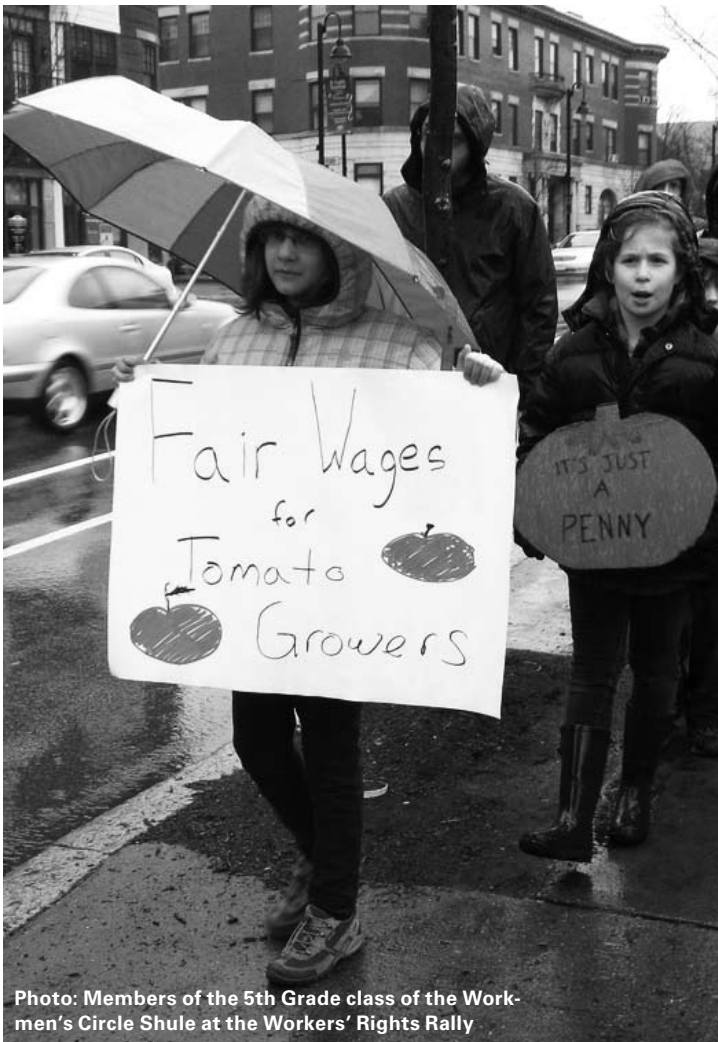
with Dr. Lori Lefkowitz
Sunday, February 13, 10am-noon
free of charge

Drawing on insights from her new book, *In Scripture: The First Stories of Jewish Sexual Identities*, Lori Lefkowitz will explore the Biblical origins of ideas about the sexes, human sexuality, family roles, and changing attitudes toward Jewish men and women from the perspective of both psychoanalytic and gender theories. Dr. Lefkowitz is an engaging and dynamic teacher, and has recently moved to Boston after many years heading Kolot: The Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia (where Rabbi Toba had the privilege of studying with her!). She currently holds the Ruderman Chair in Jewish Studies at Northeastern University, where she directs the Jewish Studies Program.

Surprisingly Happy: A Spiritual Journey

with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
Sunday, March 27, 2:00-4:00pm,
free of charge

Sheila Weinberg is a Reconstructionist rabbi, liturgist, teacher of Jewish meditation, and a wonderful writer. Join her for this reading from her new book, *Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir*. The book offers snapshots of Rabbi Weinberg's life and addresses her spiritual quests through yoga and meditation, providing a candid look at her struggle with addiction, her philosophy of feminism, and her life as a wife, mother, and grandmother.



Tikkun Olam Farmworkers' Rights Campaign

CDT Thanksgiving Postcard Push

Workmen's Circle Shule Rally

Ahold Responds

February 27 Stop & Shop March

by Alex Sugerman-Brozan

A S REPORTED IN last month's newsletter, Dorshei Tzedek's involvement in the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Campaign for Fair Food (see ciw-online.org for details) has been steadily increasing. Rabbi Toba and I participated in a delegation of faith-based activists that attempted to meet with Stop & Shop management in November to express our concerns and support for the CIW. Stop & Shop refused to meet with us. There have been, however, several positive developments since that time.

CDT Thanksgiving Postcard Push: Since the summer, we have been encouraging CDT members to sign CIW postcards addressed to the CEO of Ahold, Stop & Shop's parent company. At the members' meeting before Thanksgiving, we distributed stacks of postcards to members who agreed to bring them to their Thanksgiving celebrations, to tell their friends and families about the

plight of tomato pickers in Florida, and to ask them to sign postcards. **I am very pleased to report that CDT members gathered signatures on over 100 postcards over Thanksgiving!** This is a great accomplishment, and helped spread news of this campaign beyond our community.

Workmen's Circle Shule Rally: Every year, the 5th Grade class of the Workmen's Circle shule (school) organizes a rally in support of workers' rights. This year, the Workmen's Circle students chose Stop & Shop as their target, to call attention to the CIW's campaign to get Stop & Shop to agree to pay a penny more per pound for tomatoes and to sign an agreement with the CIW. CDT Hebrew school student **Julia Ansolabehere**, daughter of **Laurie Gould** and **Steve Ansolabehere**, attended the rally and wrote a report on it (see below). Julia selected the Campaign for Fair Food as her Bat Mitzvah Tikkun Olam project and has been

A penny more per pound is nearly **a 50% increase** in the amount that a farmworker receives for picking a pound of tomatoes.

hard at work gathering postcard signatures and educating her friends, family and classmates about the plight of the farmworkers. **Kol HaKavod to Julia for all her hard work!**

Ahold Reponds: The CIW has been trying to meet with Ahold management for a very long time. Our local interfaith delegation wrote to Ahold back in September, and were similarly ignored. Finally, this week, Ahold sent a response to the CIW, and forwarded a copy to me. (See the Tikkun Olam section of the CDT website for a copy of the letter). In a nutshell, Ahold invoked the recent victory of the CIW in reaching agreement with the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange as an excuse for inaction and for free-riding off of all of the work of other retailers who do have fair food agreements with the CIW.

The penny-per-pound agreements (which most of the major fast food chains and corporate food service providers have signed on to) are key to the success of the CIW's new relationship with the growers, and to improving the livelihood of farmworkers in Florida. A penny more per pound is nearly a 50% increase in the amount that a farmworker receives for picking a pound of tomatoes. It is hardly unreasonable to ask the supermarkets which earn the largest margin of anyone in the chain of distribution from field to consumer to shoulder the negligible burden of paying **one penny more per pound** for tomatoes. As I write this, fresh tomatoes at Peapod, Stop & Shop's delivery service, are listed at about \$1.99 per pound. This means that a penny per pound would be just about a **one-half of one-percent (0.5%) increase**.

Because of Ahold's refusal, the CIW will continue building support for its campaign and for ramping up the pressure on Stop & Shop and Ahold's other supermarkets.

February 27 Stop & Shop March: On the afternoon of February 27, 2011, several dozen CIW members will travel by bus to the Boston area to march at a local Stop & Shop, along with what we hope will be hundreds of local supporters. (Exact location & time TBA.) The local coalition in support of the CIW is growing every day. Recently, fellow CDT member and CSA maven extraordinaire **Tom Brown** and I had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the CIW, the Student/Farmworker Alliance, the Workmen's Circle, the Boston Faith & Justice Network, the Mass. Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, the Moishe/Kavod House, and others to begin planning this exciting mobilization. Stay tuned for more details!

If you are interested in getting involved in CDT's support for the Campaign for Fair Food, at whatever level of involvement, please contact me at tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org

Rally Report: Coalition of Immokalee Workers Rally

by Julia Ansolabehere

FIFTEEN DORSHEI TZEDEK members, including **Julia Ansolabehere, Laurie Gould, Barbara Shatkin, Steve and Leila Zisk, Abby, Juliet and Elizabeth Roll, Robert Warren, Liam and Sophia Wilcox-Warren**, and the **Sugerman-Brozans**, braved the rain on Sunday, December 12, so they could protest the unfair wages of tomato growers. The rally included walking from Trader

Joes to Stop and Shop and chanting things such as "Stop and Shop, shame on you. Farm workers deserve rights too!" Many people had signs, most of which got very wet. Then we paraded around in front of Stop and Shop for a little bit, while the 5th graders from Workman's Circle, who organized the rally, went in and talked to the manager inside, where it was dry. He claimed that he had never heard of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. He also said that he would talk to his boss about it. I think we accomplished something by raising awareness about this issue.

CDT Members Help Family Table Every Month

FOR THE PAST few months, the **Slipowitz/Halbert** family (with Jesse at the helm) has transported our food collections of tuna and vegetables to Family Table in Waltham. We are grateful to them for driving and delivering our donations. In this way, our small contribution of tuna and canned vegetables makes its way to the Family Table distribution center where groceries and household items are collected, sorted, and bagged. Then, volunteer drivers arrive to deliver one or two households the monthly allotment. With our contributions, and that of other area synagogues and schools, we are able to reach 550 individuals who need our help.

Yasher koach to all of you who have donated food items, driven the food to Family Table, helped with bagging and sorting, or delivered bags of groceries to recipients. Many of you have said how rewarding it is to be involved in the various pieces of this process. Anyone can help!

If you'd like to know more, contact Pamela Schoenberg Reider at jomela@rcn.com.

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 Schoenberg at jomela@rcn.com. ■

Announcements

Welcome New Members

CDT welcomes **Kim Ockene** and **Andrew Milsten** and their two children, **Sonia** (age 4) and **Ezra** (age 1).

CDT welcomes **Meiera** and **Hadley Stern** and their three children, **Miles** (age 9), **Alec** (age 6), and **Dahlia** (age 2).

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.

Membership Committee

Like to talk to people? Don't really like to talk to people but want to do something kind of nice and welcoming without the use of speech? Think it'd be cool to see *your* name in **bold**? We have stuff for everyone to do, and I could use your help. **Lisa Dee Port White** (ldpw@rcn.com).

CSA Farm Share Sign Up

It's time to sign up for next year's farm share! Following a successful inaugural year, CDT's partnership with Red Fire Farm is continuing for a new season. Red Fire Farm is a community-supported agriculture (CSA) farm offering its members a weekly supply of fresh, local, organic produce. As part of its Food Matters initiative, CDT has arranged for Red Fire Farm to distribute produce every week during the main growing season at a site close to our congregation. Join other CDT members as we raise our awareness of

where our food comes from, while enjoying delicious vegetables ranging from acorn squash to zucchini – and of course kale. Full or partial shares are available. For more information or to sign up, please contact **Tom Brown** at tom@brown.name.

First CDT Salon: A Success!

On December 4, the first CDT Salon took place at Elaine Bresnick's home. Eight CDT members offered delightful performances, including a dramatic reading, two singer/songwriters, a mezzo soprano, an aspiring Broadway musical singer, and instrumentalists featuring trombone, clarinet, cello, and piano. Participants were **Rachel Greenberg, Laurie Gould, Sarah Arnold, Jeff Arnold, Karen Arnold, Julia Ansolabehere, Ben Newman, and Elaine Bresnick**. We hope to have a second salon soon – stay tuned for details! For a copy of the program, please email ebresnick@comcast.net.

CDT Member Andrew Sofer's New Book of Poems, Wave

Andrew Sofer's book of poems, *WAVE*, has been published in the Main Street Rag Editor's Select Series. Information is available at www.mainstreetrag.com/ASofer.html. Discount copies are available for \$10. Please contact Andrew if interested.

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.

Chesed

Mazel Tov

To **Corinne Lofchie** and **Noam Shore**, on the birth of **Eytan Gil Shore**, on December 14 in the afternoon, weighing in at 6 lbs 3 oz. Mom, dad and Eytan are doing well!

To **Susie Tanchel**, for being selected as the new Head of School for the Jewish Community Day School in Watertown!

To **Andrew Sofer**, on receiving the inaugural ASTR Essay Prize of the American Society for Theatre Research for his *Theatre Journal* article on 'Doctor Faustus,' and for the arrival of his book of poetry, *Wave*, published by Main Street Rag!

A big Todah Rabah

to all those who helped make the Chanukah party such a wonderful event.



Photo: From left: **Amalia Mireles-Shorr, Maayan Magaziner, and Noa Nasoff** with **Benjamin the Clown** at the CDT Chanukah Party.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617.965.0330) or Linette Liebling (netgrace@aol.com) and Ellen Pashall (elpashall@aol.com) of the Chesed Committee. 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

We want to give a big Todah rabah to all those who helped make the Chanukah party such a wonderful event: to our coordinating team, **Susan Silberberg, Vivienne Schein, and Barry Ingber**, and to other folks who helped out with a variety of kids' activities and arts & crafts projects—**Rachel Putterman, Michele Arons, Norman Schein, and Tom Robinson**. Thanks to our teen helpers, **Nellie, Isabel, and Mara!** And last but far from least, our intrepid latke-makers—**Rachel Nemeth-Cohen, Laya Steinberg, Janice Cole, and Vilunya Diskin!** And for all their help with organizing, setting up and cleaning up from the Chanukah party, many thanks to **Ilana Mainelli, Wendy Falchuk & Matt Sarrett, Jennifer Hochschild, Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Stephen Zisk, Jessica Keimowitz & Polly Crozier.**

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in November and December: **Matilda & Edward Bruckner, Linette Liebling—in memory of Zelda Liebling, Wendy Gedanken, Rick Glassman, Jennifer Greenberg, Miriam Bolkosky, Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert, Gail Harris & David Reider, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Steven Siegel, Meg Wilcox, Liam Wilcox-Warren, and Sophia Wilcox-Warren, Stacey Chacker, Karen Arnold, Clifford Goldsmith, Rachel Ross, Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore, Rochelle Hahn, Elaine Pollack, Valerie Graf—in honor of Evan Gan's third birthday, Karen Wasserman, Jeff Kichen—in honor of Abraham Kichen, Sarah Hartman, Amy Mazur, and Abby Cohen.**

Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Susannah Zisk, Carol Hemley, Steve Robins, Debbie Sher, Cindy Shulak-Rome, and Tess Siegel.**

Condolences

To **Rob Greenly**, on the death of his mother, Lucille Greenly. May her memory be for a blessing. May the Source of Comfort bring comfort to Rob and his family, along with all those who mourn.

To **Theresa St John-Siegel**, on the death of her father, Chuck St John. May his memory be for a blessing. May the Source of comfort bring comfort to Theresa and her family, along with all who mourn.

To **Becky Herst**, on the death of her grandmother, Ethel Dorfman. May her memory be for a blessing. May the Source of comfort bring comfort to Becky and her family, along with all who mourn.

To **Andrew Sofer**, on the death of his mother, Elaine Sofer. May her memory be for a blessing. May the Source of comfort bring comfort to Andrew and his family, along with all who mourn.

Yarzheit

This month we remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose tenth yarzheit falls this year on January 4.

We will be remember Marty at erev Shabbat services on January 7. May his memory be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

*January 10, 8:00-9:30pm
Home of Jamie Tessler, 28 Cotton Street #1,
Roslindale, MA*

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)**.

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.

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments **you would like to share with the community.** (See page 2 for details.)

CDT Calendar

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.						1 Shabbat Morning Service (lay led) 9:45a–12p Kiddush 12p–1p
2	3	4	5	6 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library Rosh Chodesh Celebration Members-Only 7:30p-9p, Living Room	7 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Candle lighting and dinner 6p, Fellowship Hall Service 6:45p	8 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Halwitz 9:45a–1p Kiddush 12p–1p
9 Avelut 8p–9:30p Monthly Support for CDT Mourners, Members Only, at the home of Jamie Tessler, 28 Cotton Street #1, Roslindale, MA	10	11	12	13 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	14 Shabbat Shira Service 7:30p	15 Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a–12p Kiddush 12p–1p
16	17	18	19 Tu B’shevat Seder 7p-9p, FUSN: Head Start Room. upstairs kitchen	20 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	21	22 Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45a–9:45a Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Jake Roll & Kiddush 9:45a–1p Junior Congregation 10:45a-12p, Room 111, Led by Elana Rom CDT Film Club Members Only, Home of Herzig-Marxes, free 6p
23 Explore Shoreshim: Jewish Roots and Branches 2:30p-5:30p, First Unitarian Society of Newton	24	25	26	27 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	28	29 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p–1p

Kiddush Assignments

Shabbat 1/1: Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Linda Kramer, Laura Katz

Erev Shabbat 1/7: Elaine Bresnick, David Greenberg, Vilunya Diskin, Ellen Pashall

Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Halwitz 1/8:

Ushers: Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn Sanctuary

Cleanup: Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg

Shabbat Shira 1/14: Jeff Goldman, Staci Rubin & Jamie Wilson, Irena Fayngold

MLK Shabbat 1/15: Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Rachel Zakuta, Ora Gladstone

Tu B'shevat Seder 1/19: Deb Albenberg, Tatjana Meschede & Dani Krasa, Debbie Waber

Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Jake Roll 1/22:

Ushers: Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis Sanctuary

Cleanup: Jan Gortler-Small, Barry Ingber

Shabbat 1/29: Sandra Sedacca, Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow, Bruce Gore

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.

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.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

The Power of Pictures and Words Together

*January 12, 3:00-5:00pm for Educators, 7:00-8:30pm for Parents
Location: Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton*

Explore the power of visual cues and stories to teach children about the world they live in. Make and take samples to use in class or at home. Presenters: Gateways Developmental Educators Sherry Grossman and Judy Weinberg. For more information: 617-630-9010, www.jgateways.org

The 43rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr., Newton Community Celebration

*Monday, January 17, 2010, 10:00am
Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 300 Hammond Pond Parkway, Chestnut Hill, MA. 02467*

This annual celebration features honored guests: Congressman Barney Frank, Mayor Setti Warren, and Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools. The program includes reflections by Newton School Students, and musical selections by Newton All City Honors Chorus, Newton North Jubilee Singers, and Myrtle Baptist Church's—The Love Tones. Co-sponsored by the City of Newton, Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, The Newton School Department, and The Foundation for Racial, Ethnic & Religious Harmony.

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

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 www.newtonseniors.org.

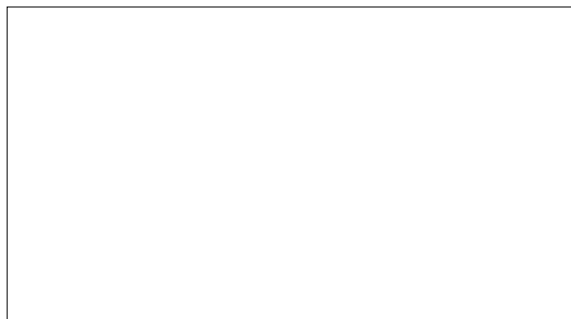
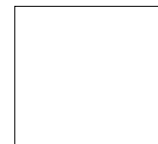
Rashi School—Open House & Tubish'vat Program

Rashi School: 8000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham, MA

Parents interested in learning more about Rashi, the Boston area's Reform Jewish independent school for grades K-8, are invited to an Open House on Thursday, January 13, 7:00-9:00pm. To RSVP, please contact Adrienne Frechter at 617-969-4444 x7316 or admissions@rashi.org. Children ages 2-5 and their parents/caregivers are invited to Tubish'vat: A Birthday Party for Trees on Friday, January 21, 1:00-2:30 pm. Curious Minds programs are free, but preregistration is required. Contact Anne Puchkoff at 617-969-4444 x7317 or admissions@rashi.org.



**Congregation
Dorshei Tzedek**
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465



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

Barbara Beck—*In memory of my parents, Irving & Edith Beck, and my brother, Stephen Beck*

Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts

Sandra Gertz—*To the speedy recovery and years and years of good health for Cindy Shulak Rome; thank you to Nancy Ellen Gertz, just because I love you for all you do and for who you are*

Ellie Goldberg—*In honor of the memory of Chuck St. John, father of Theresa St. John-Siegel*

Danielle Klainberg and Family—*In honor of Rabbi Toba*

Barbara Magaliff—*In recognition of the Hemley/Bronstein Family*

Marion Ross—*In memory of my brother, Leslie David Levenson*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Aryeh Lieberman; in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Hakwitz; in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jake Roll; in memory of Norman Marcus, father of Hilary Marcus; in memory of Chuck St. John, father of Theresa St. John-Siegel*

Lisa Vinikoor

Leila Zisk—*In honor of everyone who has driven me to and from school, and those who have helped us by bringing dinner. Thanks for making our lives easier.*

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Kate DeBethune—*With gratitude for Rabbi Toba's support at the time of my father's death*

School Fund, Holy Books Fund

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