

CONGREGATION
Dorshei Tzedek
AN AFFILIATE OF THE JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION



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Adar I/Adar II 5771 March 2011



A relaxing Shabbat afternoon at the 2007 CDT Retreat. Back row from left: Abby Cohen, Laya Steinberg and Barbara Pittel. Front: Rabbi Toba.

Reconstructing Shabbat

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



WHAT DOES IT MEAN to “observe Shabbat” from a Reconstructionist perspective? Why would a 21st century American even want to take on this ancient—and seemingly restrictive—practice? What’s it all about, anyway?

To me, Shabbat is one of the greatest gifts of Judaism to the human race. To understand what it might mean in our lives, we have to revisit how the whole idea of Shabbat is introduced in the Torah, and how the practice of Shabbat has evolved over the centuries. Then, we can begin to make it our own. This is the approach that Mordecai Kaplan, founder of

Reconstructionist Judaism, called “revaluing” a traditional concept or practice, in order to “reconstruct” it to be most meaningful for us today.

The idea of a day of rest on the 7th day is introduced at the very beginning of the Torah, in the story of Creation. In the Genesis narrative, God rests at the end of six days of making the world. As far as I know, this is the only ancient creation myth in which the process entails a day of rest for the Creator. It’s really a marvelous notion—that the Shabbat, the day on which God *yinafash* (literally, “became ensouled,” or “refreshed the soul”)—is part of the fabric of creation. Of course, in reality the Shabbat is a human creation, but it is fundamental to Jewish

INSIDE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Shabbat | 9 Religious School News |
| 4 CDT Events | 10 Calendar |
| 5 Shabbat Unplugged | 11 Nediv Lev |
| 6 Tikkun Olam | 12 Purim Celebration |
| 7 Announcements | |
| 8 Chesed | |

continued on next page

understanding that Shabbat is part of the “natural” order of things. To not “work” on Shabbat means, fundamentally, to refrain from any act that alters the natural reality of the created world.

Yet even as Shabbat is first portrayed as part of the natural order of the world, the Torah also includes Shabbat as one of the Ten Commandments, the fundamental instructions for living communicated to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. It’s always been intriguing to me that, even in ancient times, people had to be commanded to rest. Apparently it does not come so naturally to us! Thus Shabbat becomes a spiritual discipline, something that we need to be encouraged to do, to take on in spite of some of our impulses and desires.

Finally, it is clear in the Torah that the weekly Shabbat is part of a larger system of ethical and economic justice practice. Everyone in ancient Israelite society was given the day off—owners, workers, slaves, even beasts of burden. Over two millennia before the U.S. enacted laws creating the weekend and limiting workers hours, the Torah mandated a day of rest for all those who engage in productive work. Even more, the sabbatical principle gets extended to the entire realm of economic production in the institution of the sabbatical year, during which, the Torah instructs, the land is to lie fallow, and whatever grows naturally is open to all who need to eat, whether or not they own the land. It was a year of rest for workers, as well as a year of rest for the “means of production.” The Shabbat was also connected, in the story of the manna, to our role as consumers, and in this story comes to teach the Israelites what it means to trust that we have “enough,” and that one day of the week we can refrain from seeking our living, from shopping, from consuming and hoarding.

Observing Shabbat means creating a practice of both “do’s” and “don’ts” in order to create a day on which we can connect to the realm of creation, refrain from the constant drive to produce and consume, and *yinafash*, reconnect to our own souls. Some of the “don’ts” that I have found most helpful include turning things off—the TV and radio, the computer, the email. It might also include not shopping or spending money if at all possible, and refraining from work and other chores (laundry, fixing up the house, paying bills). The “do’s” include those things that nourish our souls and our connection to other souls—spending time with family and friends; going to services or meditating on our own; taking a walk in the woods; singing; enjoying a leisurely meal.

We have two wonderful opportunities coming up to experiment with creating a Shabbat practice, or for deepening your current experience of Shabbat. The first is **Shabbat Unplugged** (April 1-2, see page 5), when all CDT members are invited to think about what you might “unplug” from for 25 hours, and what special Shabbat activities you might want to “plug” into. The other, more immersive experience, is the wonderful **CDT Retreat**, happening this year June 10-12, at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire (see page 4). This will be an opportunity to really unplug from daily life over the course of a full Shabbat, to meet new friends and deepen old friendships, to sing and study, enjoy the waterfront and the woods, and just “be.” Registration materials will be coming soon, and I hope you’ll seriously consider attending!

CDT 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

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Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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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.

EDUCATION SHABBAT

March 5, 9:45am

Join us at this special Shabbat morning service as we honor the teachers in our religious school and our education director **Annette Lawson**, as well as enjoying the service leadership of some of our teens!

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

*March 4, April 1, May 13, and June 3
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).

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

*March 12, April 2, and May 7
10:45am–12:00pm*

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

*March 5, April 2, and May 14, June 4
8:45am*

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!

TOT SHABBAT

*March 12, April 2, and May 7
10:45am–12 noon*

60 Highland Street, Rooms 110 and 112

Tot Shabbat is a monthly program, run by parent volunteers, for children ages 5 and under and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities. We will begin each session with "Shira and Tefilah" (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_aron@hotmail.com or **Alison Lobron** at auderial@yahoo.com for more information, questions or to participate in planning.

BAT MITZVAH OF JULIA ANSOLOBEHERE

Please join us on March 26th as our daughter, **Julia Ansolabehere**, is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. A 7th grader at Bigelow Middle School, Julia plays a mean clarinet, both classical and jazz, and after many hours this past summer, she has (almost) mastered the opening clarinet wail from "Rhapsody in Blue." Julia also enjoys singing, dancing, acting, watching the Food Network, and taking exceptionally good care of King Garvin, her pet fish. For her Tikkun Olam project, Julia has been organizing in support of the Coalition of Imokalee Workers.

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 ADAR II

March 7, 7:30-9:00pm

60 Highland Street, Living Room

Join us to welcome the new month of Adar II. Warm up a winter night! Join us in the CDT living room to welcome the month of Adar II with learning, readings, and importantly, conversation and community. All CDT women are invited to this special gathering. Email **Laurie Schloff (speaksmart@aol.com)** with any questions. We look forward to welcoming a new month together.

FILM CLUB

March 12, 6:00pm Potluck,
7:00pm Film and Discussion

Home of Bill Shorr & Tania Mireles (The Franklin Street Co-op), 131 Franklin St, Allston, 617-787-1632

The March offering of the CDT Film Club will be Ajami. If you're coming for the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you know what you'll bring, please let us know). The movie will be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

Ajami (2009/120 min./ Arabic, Hebrew): When their uncle wounds an important clan member, 13-year-old Nasri and his older brother, Omar, fear he has put their whole family in terrible danger in this moving, Oscar-nominated drama. A truce is arranged, but Omar must start selling drugs to pay the fine he now owes. Meanwhile, a number of other locals struggle to negotiate the political and social tinderbox of Jaffa's Ajami neighborhood. Ajami won a special distinction award 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 contact **Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com)** or **Emily Sper (emily@emilysper.com)**.

4/9 The Shop on Main Street

5/7 Der Dibuk (The Dybbuk)

MEMBERS' MEETING

March 13, 5:30pm Pizza & Salad dinner,
6:15pm Members' Meeting

60 Highland Street

Childcare is provided

Join us for our mid-year Members' Meeting where we will get updates on congregational initiatives, discuss new and exciting developments in our exploration of congregational learning—Limmud 2010—and get a chance to meet new and old members! We hope that at least one member of every CDT household will be able to attend.

SURPRISINGLY HAPPY: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

March 27, 2:00-4:00pm

60 Highland Street, CDT Sanctuary (free of charge)

"Are you happy because you are getting older or because you've found spiritual peace?" Reconstructionist Rabbi Sheila Weinberg offers intriguing answers to that question in her new memoir, *Surprisingly Happy: an Atypical Religious Memoir*. Join Rabbi Weinberg for a reading from her book, chronicling her spiritual quest and providing a candid look at her struggle with addiction, her philosophy of feminism, and her life as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

An inspiring teacher and life-long advocate for peace and justice, Rabbi Weinberg has been active in Rabbis for Human Rights, an international organization that gives voice to the Jewish search for justice. She is a co-founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality in New York City, and leads workshops and retreats for Jewish professionals and social justice activists.

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT? A PASSOVER LEARNING DAY

April 3, 2:30-5:00pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Looking to spice up your seder? Learn some new Passover songs? Deepen your understanding of the holiday? Learn some new Pesach-dik recipes? Then join us for this afternoon of all-ages learning and exploration!

The afternoon will include workshops for children and adults, including, music, cooking, crafts, and adult study with Rabbi Toba, and an activity room for families with young children. Learn how Jewish communities around the world celebrate Passover from our students in Kitot Gimmel-Vav (3rd-6th grades).

Plan to enter our 2nd Annual "Top Chef: Charoset" Contest and win a valuable prize. Lots more details to follow!

SAVE THE DATE – CDT RETREAT

June 10–12, 2011

Camp Yavneh, New Hampshire

This is the year for our biannual CDT Retreat! We are returning to the lovely Camp Yavneh for a community-building Shabbat experience; fun in the sun and by the water; arts & crafts; sports; learning opportunities; and more! The retreat is for all ages. Registration materials will be going out soon. If you would like to be involved with planning any aspect of the retreat, be in touch with **Peter Katz** at **lpjkatz@verizon.net**

Shabbat Unplugged

Getting a Taste of Olam Habah: The World As It Should Be

April 1–April 2, 2011

CDT celebrates Shabbat Unplugged together starting on Erev Shabbat April 1st through sundown on April 2nd. Shabbat is a gift to us, a time to “plug in” to rest, a time to be with family and friends, or just be with yourself. We invite you to “unplug” from the business of daily life, and from all those things—phones, computers, television, work—that keep you tethered to distractions and stress. We hope everyone at CDT will take advantage of Shabbat Unplugged to taste Shabbat in a new or deeper way, either on your own or with the community!

Here’s how you can plug into Shabbat with CDT.

Friday April 1

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Potluck and Services

*Candlelighting & Potluck Dinner, 6:00pm; Services, 6:45pm
60 Highland Street*

Join us for a musical erev Shabbat service, beginning with candlelighting at 6:00pm, and a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 20 people). At this service, we will be welcoming guests from K’shari a program that provides opportunities for Jewish adults with disabilities to participate in synagogue life. Please come welcome our guests for this special “Shabbat Unplugged” opportunity!

For those not attending the All Ages Erev Shabbat, we encourage you to join other members for a Shabbat potluck. Potlucks will be held at a variety of members’ homes in Jamaica Plain and Newton. To sign up, go to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/signups/>, and click on “Shabbat Unplugged Potlucks.”

Shabbat is a gift to us,
a time to “plug in” to rest,
a time to be with family
and friends, or just be with
yourself.



Saturday, April 2

Shabbat Morning Study and Services

60 Highland Street

8:45 a.m. Torah Study with Rabbi Toba: Bring your own coffee or tea, no previous Torah study experience necessary! We will be exploring commentaries both ancient and modern on the Torah portion Tazria.

9:45am Shabbat morning services: Join us for musical, participatory Shabbat services. During the Torah discussion, we will discuss themes connected to ancient notions of exclusion from the community, and our Torah of Chesed exploration of inclusion of special needs children and their families.

10:45am, Junior Congregation (grades 3-6) and Tot Shabbat (ages 0-5).

All followed by Kiddush lunch at noon!

Shabbat Afternoon

After kiddush you can: Take a nap, go for a walk with some CDT friends, read a good book, go for a bike ride, hang out or play with your family, do nothing at all, or join CDT members in the following activities:

- **Attend a Poetry Reading**, 60 Highland Street. **Andrew Sofer** will be reading from his new book of poetry, *Waves*, following Kiddush at 1:00pm.
- **Go on a Nature Walk**, led by **Doug Hersh**.
- **Take a Bike Ride**, led by **Tim Rosa**. For details on the nature walk or bike ride and sign up, go to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/signups/>.
- **Havdallah**. While there is no formal program planned for this year, members are encouraged to join with others to celebrate the closing of Shabbat as a community.

Tikkun Olam

CDT Members: Family Table Pesach Collection

In addition to our continued collection of tuna and vegetables (canned), we have made a commitment to Family Table for Pesach. Please bring along a box of Kosher for Pesach matzoh meal to our drop boxes (next to the sanctuary and in the school). We will continue to collect matzoh meal in March and until mid-April. If you're coming to services on Purim to hear Megillat Esther, you might consider bringing along matzoh meal with you! Many thanks to those who continue to support our efforts with Family Table. Our donations reach many families in the Boston area.

If you have any questions or want to learn about how to become more involved, contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** (jomela@rcn.com).



Ask Lisa Dee

by Lisa Dee Port White

Dear Lisa Dee,

I would really like to be able to go up for an aliyah during Shabbat services sometime, but I haven't been bat mitzvahed. Do I have to have a bat mitzvah to have an aliyah?

Sincerely,

Ceremonially Bereft

Dear Lisa Dee,

The services at CDT are great and all, but some of the words are different from what I'm used to—even the ones at the Torah service. I'd like to have an aliyah, but I don't know the new-fangled way you kids do it.

Yours truly,

Old-school Sally

Dear CB and Sally,

I hope you don't mind my conflating your questions. I so rarely get to use that verb that when I can conflate things, I do, and then like to talk about it. Makes me feel smarter than I am. Anyhow, enough about me (as if, really, I know). These are good questions (not that the previous questions have not been good ones). It's important that everyone feels comfortable participating in services. Let's see if this helps:

CB, one does not need a ceremony to become bar or bat mitzvah; one becomes bar or bat mitzvah when a boy turns 13 and a girl turns 12 (or 13). What we have come to see as a 'bar mitzvah' or a 'bat mitzvah' is the Shabbat service (and, often, the party) around the kid's birthday. Before the catering industry got hold of this phenomenon, a bar mitzvah was when the boy (and back in the day, it was only boys) turned 13, he went up during the service, said the blessing over the Torah, got a pat on the back and a shot of schnapps, et voila, he was part of the minyan. So congratulations, CB, you are already there. Maybe throw yourself a party!

continued on next page

Announcements

Welcome New Members

Laurie and Jeff Friedman live in Newton Corner with their beloved labrador Jazzy. Their daughter **Gabrielle** is graduating from Middlebury, studying psychology and French, and son **Daniel** is a freshman at Oberlin and very into jazz drums. Laurie teaches in the Learning Center at Chapel Hill - Chauncy Hall School in Waltham. Jeff is a psychiatrist who sees adults in his private practice in Cambridge. They enjoy vacationing in the Berkshires, hiking, swimming, cross-country skiing, and taking long walks with Jazzy. They are returning to Dorshei Tzedek after an absence and looking very much forward to the smaller, friendlier, and more intimate confines of CDT.

Kim Ockene and Andrew Milsten live in Auburndale with their two children, **Sonia**, age four, and **Ezra**, age one, and their canine child, Milo. Kim works as a lawyer for the Humane Society of the United States, and Andrew is an emergency room physician based out of UMass Medical Center in Worcester. Kim and Andrew moved their family to Newton two years ago, after living for many years in the D.C. area. They love living here so far, are thrilled to have joined the Dorshei Tzedek community, and look forward to becoming more active in the congregation.

Kristin Butcher and Scott Gordon live in Newton Highlands with their daughters **Yannik** (9), **Temana** (7), and **Lev Josephine** (5). The household also includes a dog, Bingley (3), and two Guinea Pigs (Sparkles and Windy, 90 days old). Kristin is an economist and teaches at Wellesley College. She says the family enjoys the outdoors, reading, and cooking. Scott is a stay-at-home dad and he says that we apparently enjoy the things we actually do: vacuuming pet hair, searching for matching socks, and begging children to eat something other than a simple carbohydrate....We joined CDT because we like the values, and because Lisa Goodman said we should.

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.

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.

Ask Lisa Dee *continued from previous page*

Sally, the liturgical changes reflect the theological differences Reconstructionist Judaism have with the other denominations. While that is a larger question, and one which has answers from rabbis and teachers who know way more about it than I do, the short answer is this: we substitute the idea of being brought closer to the service of Gd (asher ker'vanu la'avodato, "who has called us to your service.") for the traditional idea of being chosen. There is a short essay called "Reconstructionism on One Foot," by Rabbi Les Bronstein on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation's website: <http://jrf.org/showres&rid=728> that might be useful.

Also, on our very own webpage, we have a link to an audio clip as well as a link with the print version (with full instructions of what to do and what to say): <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/torahblessings.htm>. And, in addition to that, once you are on the bimah, someone will hand you a blue sheet with the blessings for before and after the Torah reading that are in LARGE PRINT in Hebrew and transliterated. You are always welcome to speak the words rather than chant, if that makes you feel more comfortable, too.

So get your tzitzit on and come on up for an aliyah!

Have any questions 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.

Chesed

Mazel Tov

To **Ben Newman** and **Sarah Hartman** on their engagement! Wedding date TBA.

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in January and February:

Deb Albenberg, Tatjana Meschede & Dani Krasa, Debbie Waber, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis, Jan Gortler-Small, Barry Ingber, Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives, Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow, Bruce Gore, Wendy Falchuk & Matt Sarrett, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Diane Becker, Beth Brooks (in honor of Leon and Stacey Brooks), **Tessa Goldsmith, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Elaine Pollack, Janice Cole, Jo Radner** (in memory of Marjorie Newlon and Elsbeth Sanborn) & **Sue Lanser** (in memory of Dave Sniader and Mildred Gerstein Sniader), **Laurie Schloff**.

Refuah Sh'leyma

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

Yarzheit

We remember CDT member **Marion Weinberg**, whose 14th yahrzeit falls this year on March 10. We will be remembering Marion at Shabbat services on March 12th. May her memory be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Tuesday, March 8, 8:30pm (**note later time**), home of Hilary Marcus, 36 Bourne Street, JP (Boston)

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. 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). May comfort come to all those who mourn!

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.

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.)

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson

It should not come as a surprise that the more children feel connected to their classroom community the more they will look forward to Religious School as a time to spend with their friends.

But creating those friendships and bonds of community can be a challenge in the few hours each week students spend in our Religious School. Adding to the difficulty of getting to know their classmates is the fact that our students in Grades 3-8, for example, come from Newton, Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Watertown, and Medford and attend more than two dozen different elementary and middle schools.

Through the school, we have created additional opportunities for students to spend time together outside the classroom. Junior Congregation, for example, meets monthly during the school year and gives students a chance to experience their own prayer community as well as time to socialize at Kiddush with their peers.

Organized by the Kitah Captains (class parents), class Shabbat dinners are held for grades 3-6 during the school year. These dinners are not only a way for families to share a Shabbat experience, but a chance for both students and their parents to socialize and get to know each other better.

School staffer **Rebecca Richman** coordinates informal events for our students during the school year. In February, she organized a program for our 7th and 8th graders call "Just Desserts". Students enjoyed an afternoon together baking treats which they donated to Bristol Lodge in Waltham.

Upcoming in March, Rebecca will be leading our 3rd Annual Shul-In for our 5th and 6th graders. The shul-in begins with class Shabbat dinners, and then students spend an evening of fun activities at 2nd Church, have a sleepover and then have breakfast and attend Junior Congregation together the next morning. The Shul-In has become a highlight of the year for our 5th and 6th graders.

Also planned is our 2nd Annual "Bowling and Chametz Pre-Passover Party" (lots of pizza and cupcakes, before Passover begins) for the 3rd and 4th graders.

Another wonderful opportunity for students to get to know each other well is the congregational retreat scheduled for June 10-12, for which Rebecca will be heading up children's programming. Lots more information about the retreat will follow in the next few months.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

JRF News

The Reconstructionist Passover Haggadah, A Night of Questions, is on sale to JRF affiliates through March 15th. CDT members can purchase 1-10 softcover copies of the haggadah for \$18/book (regular price is \$24). If you purchase 10-50 books, the price drops to \$16/book. To get this special offer, call 1-877-JRF-PUB. This haggadah includes beautiful graphics, a wonderful collection of commentaries (including some by Rabbi Tobal!), and an accompanying CD with songs for the seder.

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts


Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, will deliver the 8th annual Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture. Rabbi Wernick's talk, entitled "Reimagining the Synagogue," will take place on Sunday, April 3 at 7:30pm at Temple Emunah of Lexington. The Birnbaum Lecture brings together all components of the Jewish community for an evening of learning and unity. The lecture is named in memory of Connie Spear Birnbaum, who worked at the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts for many years towards an ideal of uniting the entire Jewish people - K'lal Yisrael.

Second Annual Boston Jewish Music Festival

Just the antidote for this winter's blahs—the 2nd Annual Boston Jewish Music Festival runs March 6-20, 2011, presenting two weeks of outstanding Jewish performers and music. Check out www.bostonjewishmusicfestival.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

CDT Calendar

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless 8p-8:30p FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4	2 Telling Our Stories with Rabbi Toba	3 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	4 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Candle lighting and dinner 6p, Fellowship Hall Service 6:45p Sanctuary	5 Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45a-9:45a Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p
6 Purim Spiel Rehearsal 2p - 5p, 60 Highland St., Room 111 CDT Board Meeting 7:30p, 60 Highland St., Library	7 Rosh Chodesh Celebration 7:30p-9p, 60 Highland St., Living Room	8 Avelut 8:30p Monthly Support for CDT Mourners, 8:30p Home of Hilary Marcus 36 Bourne St., JP	9	10 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, 60 Highland St., Library	11	12 Shabbat Morning Service (lay led?) 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p Tot Shabbat 10:45a-12p, 60 Highland St., Rooms 111 & 112 Junior Congregation 10:45a-12p, Room 111, Led by Elana Rome CDT Film Club Home of Bill Shorr & Tania Mireles, (for details see page 4) 6p
13 Purim Spiel Rehearsal 2p - 5p, 60 Highland St., Room 111 Members Meeting & Dinner 5:30p - 8p, 60 Highland St., Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary & Rm. 112	14	15 Purim Spiel Rehearsal 2p - 5p, 60 Highland St., Room 111	16	17 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	18	19 Shabbat Morning Service and Kiddush 9:45a-1p Purim Party  7p - 9p, FUSN: Parish Hall, Downstairs Kitchen, Childrens Chapel (for details see page 12)
20	21	22	23 Telling Our Stories with Rabbi Toba	24 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	25	26 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Julia Ansolabehere 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p
27 Surprisingly Happy: A Spiritual Journey with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg 2p - 4p, 60 Highland St., Sanctuary	28	29	30	31 Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	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 3/4: Bonnie Tenneriello / Betsy Hinden / Haralie Alpert - in honor of Francis Greenberg / Ellen White

Shabbat 3/5: Sherry Katz & Mark Farber / Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Shabbat 3/12: Mark Paley / Matilda & Edward Bruckner / Ellen Pashall

Members Meeting & Dinner 3/13: Jen Kaplan & Susie Tanchel / Ilana Streit

Shabbat 3/19: Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome / Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein

Purim Party 3/19: Setup: Jeff Goldman / Sarah Little / Susan Manheim / Melanie Adler / Howie Kaufman / Irena Fayngold

Cleanup: Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa / Emily Sper / Ricky Greenly / Emily & David Shumsky

Shabbat 3/26: Ushers: Elizabeth & David Roll
Sanctuary Cleanup: Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your scheduled 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.

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

Steffi and Eric Karp—*In acknowledgment of the generosity of Tony Broh, who gave us a baby gate to keep our dog safely downstairs*

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Melanie Kalman and David Zimet—*In honor of the naming of Eva Joyce Pytel*

School Fund

Holy Books Fund

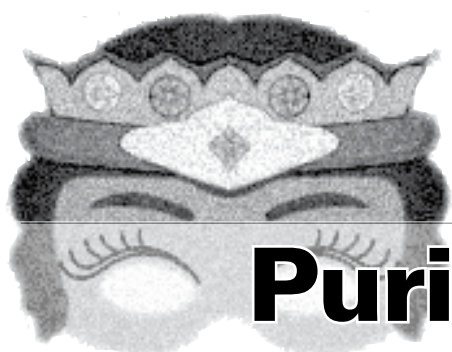
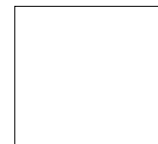
Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

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



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



Purim Celebration

March 19, 7:00pm



First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Rav Tiffany wants YOU! It's time for our yearly Purim bash, featuring zany costumes, Purim davvening, hamentaschen, Megillah reading, and of course, the Spiel! Join Rav Tiffany and the CDT Spielers for part or all of the evening (times are approximate):

- 7:00pm **Purim Davvening** with Rav Tiffany (for spiritual nourishment and business tips)

- 7:20pm **Costume parade:** prizes for kids and adults with costumes! Don't come as you are!

- 7:40pm **Megillah Reading and Tot Purim:** come hear the Megillah, with an alternate activity for the little ones

- 8:00pm **The Spiel:** it's back, and it'll make you kvell!

- 8:30pm **The Vashti Dancing Party:** wear your dancing shoes (at least)! This year we're having a professional DJ!



Calling all spielers: If you are a CDT member and would like to act, sing, or help out with the Purim Spiel, please be in touch with our Spielmeister, **James Kaplan**.

For any questions or if you are interested, please contact **James** at jameshkaplan@hotmail.com or **617-965-0655**.

There will be several rehearsals in the few weeks leading up to the Spiel. Rehearsals are scheduled for Room 111 at 60 Highland Street:

- Sunday 3/6, 2:00-5:00pm
- Sunday 3/13, 3:30-5:30pm
- Tuesday 3/15, 7:00-9:00pm

[But don't worry, you can still be in the Spiel even if you can't make all the rehearsals!]

Mishloach Manot: One Purim tradition is the exchange of sweets and other goodies with friends and neighbors. Bring a mishloach manot plate to the Purim party (plates can include hamentaschen, other sweets, fruit, whatever you like!), and take a different one home.

Matanot L'evyonim: It is also traditional to give gifts of food to those in need on Purim. We have taken on a special Passover commitment of matzah meal to Family Table. Collection boxes will be set up at the Purim party, so please bring a box or two!