

CONGREGATION
Dorshei Tzedek
AN AFFILIATE OF THE JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT



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Reducing the Deficit Mindset

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



LIKE MANY of us, I have been increasingly distressed by the draconian budget cuts coming out of Washington, cuts that will cause suffering and distress to people across America, especially those least able to afford it. As I reflected on this moment in our nation's debate about the economy, my thoughts turned to an unlikely source: the fifth book of the Torah, Devarim or Deuteronomy.

The setting is the plains of Moab, across the Jordan River from the Promised Land that the Israelites will soon enter. Moses is speaking to the people because he has been told he will not be entering that land with them. Deuteronomy is Moses' final soliloquy: a recap of the Israelites' shared adventures since leaving Egypt, and a series of reminders about the covenant that they have pledged to keep and uphold.

Deuteronomy is also a meditation on themes of scarcity and abundance. Moses tells his people about the bounty that the Promised Land holds—its fertile fields and ample pasture, a land “flowing with milk” (i.e., good for goats and sheep) “and honey” (date honey, a good place

continued on next page

to grow fruits and vegetables). Yet these promises are accompanied by a warning, as the Israelites are told, again and again, that there is danger in this abundance. Once they have become rich and satisfied, the people will be tempted to forget the covenant they have pledged themselves to. The covenant serves to remind them that they did not do this alone—that the Power of Godliness, the very Source of Life, is also the source of their freedom, and of the earth that provides this abundance. The covenant also makes demands on them, both ritual and ethical demands—to care for the poor, the powerless, and the stranger; to share the bounty of their harvest with those who do not own farmland; to judge fairly between rich and poor. Ironically, Deuteronomy implies that it is the fact of their abundance that will cause the Israelites to forget the covenant, and transgress, and ultimately lose the good land they were given.

In chapter 28, at the end of a very long, very graphic set of curses that the Israelites are told will befall them when and if they forget their covenantal obligations, we find this curious verse: “because you did not serve YHVH your God in joy and in good-feeling of heart out of the abundance of everything.” The Israelites have just been told they will be forced into slavery, suffer horrendous diseases and plagues, and be reduced to eating their own offspring—not because they are murderers and liars, not because they failed to bring sacrifices to the Temple, but because they did not serve that which is Ultimate “in joy out of the abundance of everything.” What does this mean? Perhaps it means that they will fail to realize that they actually *have* an abundance of everything, or will take that abundance for granted. Or perhaps they will forget that the blessing of abundance calls them to service, to enacting covenantal values of justice and love.

And so I come back to today’s headlines. The current orgy of cutting social spending—whatever the true intent of those advocating these cuts—is fed by a fear that the U.S. is on the brink of economic collapse. It arises in the context of a discourse in which the most prominent word is “deficit”—implying lack and scarcity. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. Whatever the size of the government’s debt, the reality is that America remains the richest nation in the world. Our gross domestic product in 2010 was \$14.7 trillion, approximately a quarter of global GDP. Nearly one-third of the world’s millionaires, and 34% of the world’s billionaires, reside in the U.S. We are truly a land “flowing with milk and honey.”

Like the ancient Israelites, our failure to acknowledge this abundance, and our failure to acknowledge the covenantal obligations that we owe one another as American citizens (as well as what we owe the rest of the world as global citizens), is sure to bring in its wake a Deuteronomic list of curses. We are already suffering the plagues of hunger, homelessness, illness, and despair in the human realm, and environmental depredation in the natural realm. While in the short term we can and must fight those budget cuts that target the most vulnerable, our real task is much larger: to shift the discourse so that we are no longer amplifying the deficit mindset, but rather acknowledging our nation’s abundance. We can then have a meaningful debate about how to best share and utilize that abundance, to end the travesty of poverty in a country—and a world—in which we have so much. In place of the deficit mindset, let us raise the possibility of serving in joy, out of the abundance we are so blessed to have.

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

Executive Committee

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VP Finance: Michael Cohen

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Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Board Chairs

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School Liaison: Lisa Goodwin-Robbins

Website: Stan Fleischman

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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, Barbara Pittel, Jo Ann Share, and Emily Shumsky; Karen Engels (Emerita), Stephanie Hackett (Emerita), and 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.

Junior Congregation

May 7, 10:45am–12:00pm—final one of the year! 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!

Tot Shabbat

May 7, 10:45am–12 noon—final one of the year! 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 for 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 or to participate in planning our programs.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services and Potluck

May 13, June 3, 6:00pm Candle Lighting and Dinner; 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 6:45pm. Please bring a dairy/veggie/fish main dish to share, enough for 15-20 people (drinks and dessert are provided).

Please join **Kitah Dalet** on May 13th, as they mark the siyyum, completion, of their 4th grade studies by co-leading the erev Shabbat service.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

May 14, June 4; 8:45am 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, thoughts, and your own caffeine!

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Fisher Gomberg

May 14, 9:45am-12pm

Please join us on May 14th as our daughter, **Lily Fisher Gomberg**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Lily is a 7th grader who loves acting in plays, being online, anything involving the color purple, and taking care of young children (including helping out with childcare for CDT!). For her Tikkun Olam project, Lily has been volunteering weekly at a preschool and she helped host a birthday party for homeless children through the organization Birthday Wishes. We invite everyone to celebrate with us at a kiddush lunch and dance party following the ceremony. —Richard and Diana Fisher Gomberg

Special Shabbat Service with Kitah Hay and Yartzheit of Jill Volk

May 21, 9:45am

To mark the siyyum, completion, of their 5th grade studies, our Kitah Hay students will be co-leading the Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Toba—come celebrate with them. In addition, we will be remembering CDT Member **Jill Volk** on the occasion of her 4th yartzheit.

Bar Mitzvah of Zev Hattis

May 28, 9:45am-12pm

Please join us on May 28th as our son, **Zev**, is called to the Torah as a

Bar Mitzvah. A 7th grader at Brown Middle School, Zev enjoys hanging out with his longtime friends, playing soccer and basketball, and keeping up-to-date on the latest news, particularly anything having to do with the Celtics. For his community service project, Zev volunteered at Jewish Family & Children’s Service’s Family Table, Greater Boston’s largest kosher food pantry. The pantry serves over 500 individuals every month. In the summer, Zev especially likes to spend time with his brother, Joey and go to Camp Bauercrest. —Paul Hattis and Elizabeth Samelson

Shabbat Thought

by Amy Dain

Every Friday afternoon, **Ziv** (4 years old) helps me prepare for Shabbat. I set this time aside for him to help me cook, and I’ve discovered that he likes cooking! He does lots of smart things like scooping the flesh of butternut squash (cooked in the microwave) out of its skin, breaking asparagus, cutting zucchini and portabella mushrooms with a table-knife, scooping margarine (the healthier version) into the pan and stirring it while it melts, ripping basil leaves off the stems, ripping kale leaves, breaking spaghetti into small pieces, dumping veggies into the soup pot, measuring stuff for cake batter, etc. (not all on the same afternoon).

Then he picks out a tablecloth, and we set the table together, using cloth napkins. All of the buildup makes it feel very important. It took me a while to get the Friday night ritual in place. Now Ziv counts the days every week until Shabbat, so we cannot miss it.

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.

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
None in May

Film Club

*Saturday May 7, 6:00pm Potluck, 7:00pm
Film and Discussion*

*Home of Jackie and Stan Fleischman, 28
Bowdoin St., Newton Highlands, 617-332-
5433*

The last offering of the CDT Film Club for the spring will be the Yiddish classic "*Der Dibuk* (The Dybbuk)."

Potluck dinner starts at 6 pm. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you're coming and know what you'll bring, please let us know). Movie starts at 7 pm, to be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

The Dybbuk (1937, Hebrew): In a Polish shtetl, two young men who have grown up together betroth their unborn children, ignoring the advice of a mysterious traveler not to pledge the lives of future generations. Soon after, one of them dies, and the wife of the other dies in childbirth. The children grow up in different towns, without ever knowing of the betrothal, but the power of the vow leads them to meet each other when they are of the right age. The young woman is promised to another man, but Channon, the son of the father who died, is a practitioner of mysticism, and seeks to win his bride through sorcery.

For more information, contact Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) or Emily Sper (emily@emilysper.com).

Torah of Chesed Inclusion Campaign: Havdallah, Film & Discussion

Saturday, May 14, 7:30–9:30pm

Come one, come all. Bring your whole selves to a *havdallah* service, followed by a short film and discussion. As part of CDT's Torah of Chesed Inclusion Campaign, we strive to make everyone feel welcomed, included, and affirmed. Join us to view a film about children with disabilities, and to discuss what lessons we can learn about our own community and how we already are or can become more welcoming.

How do we *all* benefit by being part of a community where everyone can bring their whole selves? This program is for all members, with or without children. We can all learn and grow together!

Shavuot

Tuesday June 7th, 8:00pm to 12 (midnight)

The holiday of Shavuot celebrates the receiving of Torah at Sinai—both the moment as recounted in the Torah, and the ongoing process of receiving learning and wisdom. There are a number of customs associated with Shavuot (one is to eat dairy products, especially cheese blintzes!), including a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, an all-night extravaganza of studying Jewish texts of all sorts. This year we will be joining with our sister Reconstructionist congregations, Temple Hillel B'nai Torah and Shir Chadash, for an evening of reflection, noshing, and study. We'll begin at **8:00 pm with a brief maariv service**, followed by dessert and schmoozing, and then study with a variety of teachers—including **Rabbi Or Rose**, Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College—beginning at 9:00pm and continuing until midnight. Come for all or part of the evening!

CDT Retreat: REGISTER NOW!!

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 weekend of fun in the sun and by the water. Join with congregants of all ages to participate in activities for teens, adults without children, families with young children and more. In addition to a variety of Shabbat experiences, there will be arts & crafts, swimming and other sports, learning opportunities and dancing!

This year we are committed to making the retreat as inclusive as possible for our families with children with special needs, and have received special funding towards that end. Please be sure to let us know what types of support would be helpful to you and your child to make this a wonderful retreat experience.

Go to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/retreat.pdf> to register.



Announcements

Our Nediv Lev Campaign

by Jeff Sacks

Our CDT Nediv Lev campaign is now underway. Fund raising through this effort is critical to the operations of our community, representing over 17% of our annual budget.

The Nediv Lev campaign is an expression of the values adopted by our community through our Torah of Money study that created our three-part revenue-raising program:

1. a "half shekel" per capita assessment of each member;
2. a sliding scale membership portion based on each household's ability to pay; and
3. a Nediv Lev donation made "from the heart" as the ancient Israelites each contributed to the building of the mishkan in the Sinai after leaving Egypt.

Please consider what you can give, and send your donation in soon.

The Passover/Shavuot season is a good time to reflect on the creation of the Jewish people and the creation of our CDT community. The building of our mishkan requires that we take stock of what CDT means to each of us and that we make a Nediv Lev donation to honor our commitment to this community.

Please consider what you can give, and send your donation in soon. Our campaign is scheduled to end on May 15th. You may send your check to the CDT office at 60 Highland St, Newton, 02465, or pledge on-line at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/nediv-lev-pledge.htm> and we will bill you.

Welcome New Members

Phyllis and William Kantor live in Brookline. They were drawn to CDT by the friendliness of the congregation and the style of our services.

Rebecca Cohen and Jacob Weinberg

live in Watertown with their two daughters, Ruby and Talia. Rebecca and Jacob share the CDT community's values of inclusivity, peace, seeking justice and social action. They are looking forward to participating in CDT's softball games and children's events.

Looking Ahead to Next Year: Kiddush Sign-up and School Registration 2011-12 Coming Up

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

Here at CDT, May is a busy month and a lot of planning for our next fiscal year has already begun. Please watch your email this month for an announcement from me that it is time to sign up for next year's kiddush assignments. Specific sign-up details will be included, along with the website link, username and password.

Also, for parents of new and returning students of our religious school, you will be receiving your 2011-2012 School Registration Packets mid-May. Registering early has the benefit of a \$25 discount, so check for deadlines on the form. This year, there will only be one paper mailing so please, complete forms early so that we can adequately plan for next year's staffing needs. Forms will also be available online for downloading.

Questions? Feel free to contact me at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330.

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.

Shabbat Service Greeters Wanted

Don't you like to be greeted with a welcoming smile when you arrive at services? We are looking for members who can volunteer to be a greeter (kind of like an usher) at Shabbat morning services. This means signing up ahead of time, arriving on time at 9:45 am at CDT, hanging out near the door to greet people as they arrive, handing them books, helping them find a seat, answering any questions, especially if they are visitors or new to CDT. This is mostly just for the first hour or so. We have a signup page on the website. Go to Members, Sign ups, Greeting Go to Members, Signups,

Helping with Shabbat Services, Greeting and Lockup Assignments. Or follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/iaOrxs>

If you notice that there is not a greeter present and you are there and see the need, feel free to step in to this role if you are willing. Please help set a welcoming tone at our services. This is something small that you can do which will make a big difference. Thank you!

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.



Tikkun Olam

Impressions of the Immokalee Workers Center

CDT MEMBERS Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner and their children, Noah and Maayan, were near Immokalee, Florida around the day of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) March to Stop Sweatshops in Boston (February 27, 2011), and were able to visit CIW and be shown around by a CIW staff member.

Here are their reflections on their trip:

Noah and Maayan's memory of our visit to the Immokalee Workers Center on the day of the Boston protest: "The bosses made the workers fill their tomato buckets over the top. The workers went to the boss of the bosses, and the boss of the bosses' boss to change this, so they don't have to fill their buckets too much."

Jonathan's impression: "The things that impressed me most in the stories we heard were the horror of the beating one worker endured after having asked for a glass of water, and the ensuing solidarity of the worker community. The workers marched to the foreman's house and demanded change."

Hilary: "It was very satisfying to connect what we talk about at shul to actual people and the place of Immokalee, to show our children a glimpse into another world not far from the sandy beaches of this vacation-destination-Florida."

Inspiring Shabbat Guest from Haifa

by Laurie Goldman

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9th, Samah Hamad, a Palestinian-Israeli activist from Haifa, joined us for Shabbat morning services. Samah is a participant in the Boston-Haifa Learning Exchange that brings together social change leaders from the two cities. Samah currently works as the Coordinator of Community Empowerment with the Social Development Committee of Haifa.

Following the Torah service, Samah shared her personal experiences of growing up in a disadvantaged and socially marginalized neighborhood of Haifa. When Samah graduated from college with a degree in Education and Society, her peers questioned why she would want to return to a neighborhood with few employment opportunities and little cultural activity. To explain this choice, Samah traced her evolution from a reluctant observer of poverty, crime, and despair to a change agent who empowers others.

She recounted her experiences mobilizing residents to develop the neighborhood's only park. Counter to predictions that the park would fall prey to vandalism and loitering, the park remains a vibrant gathering place for Arab and Jewish residents of all ages. She also told the story of how young mothers organized to convince the Haifa municipality to establish a preschool and kindergarten for the Arab children in the neighborhood. For many of the women involved, this effort was their first effort to speak up for their rights and take a stand as engaged citizens.

Samah stressed that experiences like these have reinforced her conviction that people working together can transform places, change perceptions, and awaken their sense of possibility in themselves and for their community.

Family Table Collection

CDT IS ONE of many area synagogues supporting Family Table, the kosher food pantry in the Boston area. We need your help to fulfill our NEW monthly commitment of 25 cans of tuna and 25 cans of vegetables (any vegetable). 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).

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! Many thanks to those members who support our efforts to participate in the Family Table. Our donations reach more than six hundred 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).

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson

APRIL SAW THE culmination of a number of long-term projects that students have been working on this year. Our Gan (kindergarten) students have been working all year to create "A Book of Blessings." Each month the class learns about a different bracha (blessing) and when it is said. Using stories, art, music and other learning experiences, teacher **Ayal Weiner-Kaplow** helps the students explore each blessing. With help from Moreh Ayal and teaching aides **Rebecca Ansolabehere** and **Isaac Silberberg**, who scribe, the Gan students "write" their own commentaries on each bracha. Each student's work will be assembled into their own book of blessings and commentary to take home on the last day of school.

The Beit Midrash (Gr. 3-6) students have been engaged in studying Jewish communities around the world in our Shoshanim (Roots) project this year. As part of that study, each

Our Gan (kindergarten) students have been working all year to create **"A Book of Blessings."**

class, with teachers **Alison Lobron**, **Vered Schreiber**, **Avraham Wachs-Cashman** and **Hillary Pinsker**, focused on a different Jewish community, and in particular, investigated unique Passover customs of their community. The students learned about the Jews of Ethiopia, India, Spain, and Iraq and practiced saying the Four Questions in the language of the communities they studied (Amharic, Hindu, Ladino, and Iraqi Judeo-Arabic). Each class prepared an exhibit sharing their learning for the community learning program, "Why is This Night Different?" on April 3, as well as food to sample from the different Jewish communities.

Our BaDerech (Gr. 8-9) students and teacher **Ben Rotenberg** have been meeting with Jewish artists who are members of CDT this year. In April they met with documentary filmmaker **Irena Fayngold**, who shared with the class her experiences making the documentary "Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School." The BaDerech students have put together a PowerPoint presentation about our CDT members who are artists. When the students attend the spring retreat of TEL programs at Camp JRF, they will show their PowerPoint presentation to the other Reconstructionist teens in attendance, highlighting what a unique (and talented) congregation Dorshei Tzedek is!

We congratulate all our creative and hardworking students, teaching aides and teachers. *Kol Hakavod* (good work)!

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 and Edith Beck and my brother, Stephen Beck. It is also in honor of my niece, Allison Longo's new found independence*

Matilda and Ed Bruckner

Rebecca Cohen and Jacob Weinberg

Carolyn Fine & Jeremiah Friedman

Rick Glassman

Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb

Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg

Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff

Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx—*In honor of Alison Lobron and Michele Arons for all of their hard work organizing the wonderful Tot Shabbat services. Thank you!*

Tim Rosa—*In honor of Stephanie Hackett's 5+ years of dedicated commitment to the CDT newsletter*

Linda Schiller and Steve Robins—*In appreciation for this wonderful community and all who supported us during the last*

several months with true chesed when Steve was injured.

Sharon Sevransky

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Amy Garnett—*In honor of the wedding of Stacie Garnett and Andrew Cook*

Inge and Robert Gould

Joyce Traister—*To honor the memory of my mother-in-law, Muriel Budd, who passed away on 3/20/11*

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.

Avital Lewis

Carol Sklar—*With gratitude for Rabbi Toba's gentle leadership and guidance of our spiritual autobiography group. In recognition of Rabbi Toba's ability to create a safe spiritual space in which to share our most personal stories. In honor of the ten brave souls, and I do mean souls, who reached into deep places and shared with themselves and with our group life's longings, disappointments and hopes.*

Building Fund

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617.965.0330) or Elaine Landes (erose116@yahoo.com) or Mei See Sandson (thesandsons@rcn.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.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Stacie Garnett and Andrew Cook** on their April 10 wedding!

Mazel tov to **Joseph Katz**, and to his family, on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

Mazel tov to CDT member and Newton North Senior, **David Gore** who is co-directing "Sunday in the Park with George," May 26-29th, in the auditorium at NNHS.

Todah Rabah

Many thanks to our Seder Match-makers, **Melanie Adler** and **Linette Liebling**, for their assistance in making sure that all of our members had a seder to attend this Passover!

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped with the Passover Learning Day—storyteller extraordinaire **Cindy Rivka Marshall**; gourmet chefs **Clifford Goldsmith** and **Cheryl Sacks**; our teachers and artists, **Adina Mailick** and **Vered Schreiber**; **Susan & Louis Silberberg**, for charo-set entries, and to all the students and teachers of Kitot Gimel, Dalet, Hay, and Vav, for all their hard work and wonderful recipes and teachings! Thanks most of all to **Annette Lawson** for organizing and overseeing the entire program.

A big thank you to all those who helped organize different aspects of Shabbat Unplugged: to our Shabbat Unplugged coordinators, **Stacey Chacker** and **Meryl Epstein**; to our erev Shabbat hosts **Esther Kohn**,

Stan & Jackie Fleischman, Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer, Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury; to **Andrew Sofer**, for sharing his poetry; and to **Doug Hersh** and **Tim Rosa**, for leading our Shabbat afternoon hiking and cycling activities.

Todah rabah to **Jonathan Rosenthal** for coordinating the import and sale of Sindyanna olive oil, which so many of us are enjoying!

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

Vivienne & Norman Shein (in honor of our 38th anniversary), **Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome, Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Doug Hersh, Karen Wasserman, Ellen White** (in honor of Paul White), **Nina & Jeremy Price, Liz Carver, Rachel Greenberg, Andrea Jacobs, Rick Glassman**.

Refuah Sh'leyma

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

Condolences

To **Joel Katz**, on the death of his mother, Ethel Mae Katz, may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Annette and Paul Lawson**, on the death of Paul's mother, Pearl Lawson, may her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheit

We remember beloved CDT founding member **Jill Volk**, whose 4th yartzheit falls this year on May 15th. We will be remembering Jill at Shabbat morning services on May 21st. May her memory always be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Monday May 9, 2011, 7:30pm at the home of Jamie Tessler, 28 Cotton Street#1, Roslindale

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). If you would like to volunteer to host a meeting or for scheduling details, contact **Jamie Tessler** (jtessler@igc.org or 617 469 1954).

If you are new to the group and would like to carpool with others coming from Newton, also contact Jamie Tessler by email or at the number above.

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

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Men's Softball 10a, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Temple Reyim, Auburndale			Intermediate Prayerbook and Biblical Hebrew with Michael Singer (Section 1) 7p-8:30p, Library	Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library		Shabbat Morning Service (Lay Led) 9:45a-12p Tot Shabbat 10:45a-12p, Rooms 110, 112 Junior Congregation 10:45a-12p, Room 111 Kiddush 12p-1p CDT Film Club "Der Dibuk (The Dybbuk)" 6pm potluck, 7pm film
Men's Softball 10a, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , Fiske School, 45 Hastings Road, playing Beth Elohim-4, Wellesley	AVELUT Monthly Support for CDT Mourners 7:30p, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , at the home of Jamie Tessler, 28 Cotton Street #1, Roslindale		Intermediate Prayerbook and Biblical Hebrew with Michael Singer (Section 1) 7p-8:30p, location TBD	Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services & Potluck / Kitah Dalet Siyyum 6p	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45a-9:45a, Library Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Lily Fisher Gomborg 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p
Men's Softball 10a, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Emanuel-2, Newton				Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library CDT Board Meeting 7:30p, Living Room		Shabbat Morning Service & Kitah Hey Siyyum 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p
Men's Softball 10a, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , Framingham High School, #2-115 A Street, playing Beth Sholom, Framingham				Service of the Heart with Rabbi Toba 8a-9a, Library		Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Zev Hattis 9:45a-12p Kiddush 12p-1p
Men's Softball 10a, <i>Members-Only Event</i> , Forte Park-233 California St (our home field), playing Or Atid, Wayland			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

Shabbat 5/7: Marla Cummins, Idit Klein, Jackie Fleischman, Meryl Epstein

Erev Shabbat / Kitah Dalet Siyyum 5/13: Stephanie Hackett - *in memory of Benjamin Lipka*, Trish Nuzzola, Arthur Lent, Susan Silberberg-Robinson

Shabbat & Bat Mitzvah of Lily Fisher Gomberg 5/14:

Ushers: Elizabeth & David Roll Sanctuary

Cleanup: Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller

Shabbat & Kitah Hey Siyyum 5/21: Lilly Platt - *in memory of Irene Platt*, Tim Rosa, Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander

Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Zev Hattis 5/28:

Ushers: Pamela & Steven Katz

Setup: Richard Cohen, Jeff Arnold, Gail Harris & David Reider, Lisa Goodman & William Weinreb

Cleanup: Susan Moser & Thea Breite, Mayumi Knudsen & Lewis Lear, Barry Ingber, Bruce Miller

Sanctuary Cleanup: Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Aufruf for Esther Kohn and Mary Hickie

Saturday, June 4, during Shabbat services

To celebrate their upcoming marriage, we will be honoring Esther and her partner Mary during the Torah Service.

Forming a Unified Movement: Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation (JRF) and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) Join Forces

At a special meeting in Philadelphia on April 10, lay representatives of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation passed a proposal to create a single organization. The new "Reconstructionist Movement" will have a united board made of lay leaders and Rabbis, a united professional staff and a single chief executive. The unified organization's new mission will be "to enhance Jewish leadership, learning and living and advance the Reconstructionist movement."

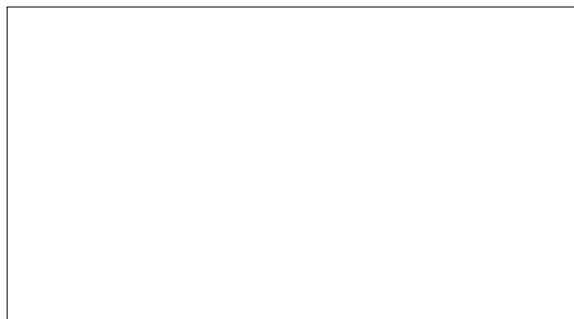
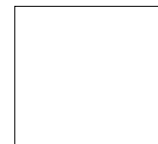
"The Reconstructionist movement is built to evolve as times change. We have been taught to approach our own evolution creatively, thoughtfully and proactively. To unify our organizations does just that. It will allow us to use our resources more efficiently, expand our role as an innovative leader in the Jewish community, and encourage and sustain engagement in Jewish life," said Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, current President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Correction from the April Issue

The photo caption on page 1 of the April newsletter was incorrect. The photo is of Noah Magaziner and was taken in Florida at the Immokalee Workers Center. The quote was from Noah and Maayan Magaziner.



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



CDT Men's Softball Team



Photo: Top row, L to R: Jonathan Magaziner, Richard Gomberg, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Nathan Aronow, Elliot Pittel, Jonathan Weisberg. Bottom row, L to R: Jake Weinberg (rookie), Michael Gonzales, Mike Glazerman, Jeff Goldman, Noah Magaziner, Stewart Snyder. (Not pictured: Michael Singer, Bruce Miller, Paul Hattis.)

The CDT men's softball team got off to a rough start but they have plenty of time to make up the deficit. If you want to help them win the "Kiddush Cup" and you are a CDT member (or son of a member), sign up for the team.

Come out and enjoy the warm spring mornings watching and cheering for CDT! If the Red Sox can turn their season around after their season opening losing streak, why not CDT?

Contact **Elliot Pittel** for more information:
epittel@comcast.net.