



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

NEWSLETTER

Kislev/Tevet, 5772

December 2011

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
617-965-0330 | www.dorsheitzedek.org | info@dorsheitzedek.org



Visions of CDT

by Peter Katz, President

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AT THE Members' Meeting on November 20, **Judy Herzig-Marx**, one of the founders of CDT, reminisced about the founders' hope to create a Reconstructionist congregation that would be welcoming and spiritual, serious about Jewish practice and learning, and attentive to social needs. I think we can say that they succeeded brilliantly.

This year we will be looking both backward and forward at CDT's history and future. This started with a Board/Off-Board chairs retreat in November, and will culminate in a CDT double-*chai* (21 years for CDT, 15 years for Rabbi Toba) celebration and fundraiser on March 24, 2012.

The strategic plan adopted by the members in 2007 described a number of themes, including a need for growth, fostering a cul-

continued on next page

ture of giving to support CDT, attention to space concerns, nurturing leadership, continuing to recognize and meet spiritual needs, and understanding and articulating the goal of a community of learners.

At the Board/Off-Board retreat, we noted the activities and achievements that have supported these goals. CDT has grown steadily since 2007, and the combination of growth and successful **nediv lev** efforts has resulted in a generally stable financial situation. The positions of full-time Education Director and Administrative Director have become key assets of the congregation. We have relieved the members of a major burden by engaging a High Holydays Coordinator, and we have moved High Holyday services to a more pleasant and appropriate location. Leadership training, a formal nominating process, the development of board “job descriptions,” and a structured presidential succession, are among the steps that have strengthened leadership.

Members have devoted countless hours to teaching and learning how to *leyn*, and to helping and supporting their friends and fellow members through Chesed opportunities and the Avelut group. And looking outward, many and varied *tikkun olam* actions have embodied our concern about the society we live in. Finally, in addition to ongoing adult education opportunities and regular school programs, we launched a congregation-wide discussion of what it means to be a “community of learners” a few years ago. One of the products of this process has been the creation of a pilot program involving our 1st-3rd grade families, Project LO”X (Learning Outside the boX), for which we are receiving financial and consulting support from Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

We achieved all this because of the work, involvement, and enthusiasm of CDT members and staff who have helped develop CDT life by energetic participation in activities that are interesting and important to them.

One topic of the strategic plan was how to understand, define, and communicate the identity of CDT. The members renewed this conversation at the Members’ Meeting. Thoughts were shared on the question: if CDT were an animal, what animal would it be? (responses included: an octopus, using its arms to carry on many activities; a hive of bees, producing sweet honey and honoring female leadership; an elephant, who has a long memory and makes a sound like a *shofar*). Individuals spoke about moments at CDT during the last year that they found personally inspiring, and members had the opportunity to break into small groups to talk about their thoughts and feelings on how to describe CDT’s qualities. In addition, **Allison Hausman** (Board Co-Chair, Communications), on behalf of the website team, previewed the proposed new CDT website.

In the months ahead, the CDT Board will be considering and engaging members on these themes and, as there is no road without bumps, on the challenges that we may still face.

Of course, we all have very individual views about CDT. To close on a personal note, for me what continues is as significant as what changes. My wife and I were drawn to CDT by the energetic, musical, and warm services, and the welcoming and friendly people. Over the years we have absorbed the insights and spiritual values of Reconstructionism as taught by Rabbi Toba and other members of the community. For me, those particular characteristics are the keys to the identity of CDT, and I like to think that they reflect and respect the vision of CDT’s founders.

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

President: Peter Katz
Past President: Paul Hattis
VP Finance: Sivan Nasoff
VP Membership: Lisa Dee Port White

Secretary: Josh Lieberman
Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Board Chairs

Communications: Susan Silberberg and Allison Hausman
Membership: Amy Dain
Leadership Development: Jonathan Rosenthal
Ritual: Laurie Goldman
Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Brozan
Members-at-large: Jen Kaplan, Linette Liebling

Off-Board Chairs

Chesed: Elaine Landes and Ellen Pashall
Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks and Sharon Sevransky
Newsletter: Tim Rosa
Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
School Liaison: TBA
Space Liaison: Josh Lieberman
Website: Stan Fleischman

Staff

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 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, John Holohan, Barbara Pittel, Rachel Ross, 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 and Potluck

Fridays: Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 10, and Mar. 2

6:00pm Candle Lighting and Dinner; 6:45pm Service

Join us for this monthly, fun, musical erev Shabbat service, appropriate for all ages. We begin with candle-lighting and kiddush at 6:00pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a dairy/vegie main dish or salad, enough for 15–20 people). The service begins at 6:45pm.

Special Guest – Aaron Freeman!

Shabbat morning, December 3

At this pre-LimmudBoston Shabbat service, we'll be welcoming Aaron Freeman, a Torah Maven, and an alum of Chicago's Second City Improv troupe and teacher of Bibliodrama. Aaron will lead us in an interactive exploration of the Torah portion and special Torah reading. Aaron brings humor and insight to the study of Torah, so don't miss this opportunity!

Shabbat at Members' Homes

Friday, December 9, times TBD, more information can be found on the CDT website

A number of CDT members are hosting Shabbat dinners in their homes. The dinners are planned to cover various locations and interests. This is a great opportunity to share Shabbat with other CDT members in a home setting. The community dinners are at the homes of **Bill Shorr** and **Tania Mireles** (a musical Shabbat in Roslindale), **Esther Kohn** (Shabbat dinner for adults in Jamaica Plain), **James Kaplan** and **Erica Streit-Kaplan** in Newton (for families with young kids and all others who enjoy the chaos and noise level), **Alison Andrews** and **Arthur Lent** (for families with young children), also in Newton. Please go to

the <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/> to sign up! Organized by the Ritual Committee, we hope to see you there! If you are interested in hosting next time, please contact **Linda Kramer** at lindalex@earthlink.net.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40am

Dec. 10, Jan. 7, Feb. 11, and Mar. 10

Each month we will explore the *parshat hashavua*, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both traditional and contemporary, before the Shabbat morning service. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

Junior Congregation

Saturdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, Apr. 21, and May 12

10:45am-12pm, Room 111

This is an awesomely fun, participatory service for 3rd through 6th graders (kids only!), led by our very own **Elana Rome**—teacher, singer, and youth leader extraordinaire! Spend a special Shabbat morning with your friends, or make some new ones! Kids enjoy their own kiddush after the service.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Mar. 17, Apr. 14, May 12, and June 9

10:45am-12pm, Rooms 110 and 112

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program, led by **Susan Moser**, CDT member, musician, and Jewish educator, for children who are in Kindergarten or younger and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities! Contact **Susan Moser** at mosersm@yahoo.com for more information.

Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, December 17, 9:45am

This special Shabbat morning service will combine singing and silence, as well as Torah study (beginning at 11am). This alternative service is an opportunity to explore the Shabbat morning service in a new way, combining chant with guided meditation. The service will be co-led by **Rabbi Toba** and CDT member **Linda Kramer**, who has many years of experience with Vipassana (Insight) meditation. Whether you're an experienced meditator or have never tried it, come join us! If possible, we ask that you come no later than 10am for the first part of the service, so as not to disrupt the silence.

Men's Shabbaton in November "Wonderful"!

by David Lobron

On Friday, November 11, a group of about 20 men—mostly members of CDT—gathered for our first annual Men's *Shabbaton*. Our facilitator was Rabbi Steve Nathan, a Jewish educator and graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. We had a wonderful erev Shabbat service, with traditional Hasidic *zmirot* (songs), and then a dinner that featured the excellent cooking of our own **Clifford Goldsmith**. On Shabbat morning, we gathered again to discuss the challenging Torah portion of *Vayera*, which includes the *Akedah* (Binding of Isaac) story. We had a great conversation over *kiddush* lunch, and then later on a *Havdalah* service to close the program.

We are hoping to build on this weekend with future men's events at CDT. Please be in touch with **David Lobron** (dlobron@gmail.com) if you would like to help organize our next event. Many thanks to Rabbi Toba for suggesting this idea and for putting us in touch with Rabbi Steve.

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.

Film Club

*Saturday, December 10 at the Home of
Linda Schiller and Steve Robbins, 98 Chan-
ning Road, Watertown, MA 02472*

Potluck dinner at 6:00pm, Movie at 7:00pm

The Film Club's next film will be *Barney's Version*. For the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. It's really helpful to know ahead of time if you're coming and what you'll bring, but feel free to come for any part of the evening. Movie starts at 7pm, to be followed by a group discussion. We hope you can join us! Please contact **Stan Fleischman** (stanf@rcn.com) or **Emily Sper** (emily@emilysper.com) if you have any questions.

Barney's Version (2010), rated R: Golden Globe winner Paul Giamatti stars as Barney Panofsky, a Jewish Canadian television producer who reflects in flashbacks on three strange decades—and three wives—in this adaptation of Mordecai Richler's acclaimed novel. There's Clara (Rachelle Lefevre), a free-spirited proponent of free love; "Mrs. P" (Minnie Driver), a self-centered princess; and Miriam (Rosamund Pike), the right woman who comes along at the wrong time. (from Netflix)

We are always looking for hosts! All you need to provide is the house and TV, or white wall. Please let us know if you are a potential host.

Rosh Chodesh

*Wednesday, January 25, 7:30pm-9:00pm,
Living Room*

Rosh Chodesh is an ancient ritual where women gather to greet the new moon and new month. Join us to welcome the month of Kislev with conversation, crafts around the themes of the month. Members new to Rosh Chodesh, of all stages and ages, are especially welcome. If you have a reading, or special talent to share, please let us know. You will find the experience most social and spiritual! Contact **Laurie Schloff** at speaksmart@aol.com or 617-571-0944, or **Kristen Petersen** (petersenka@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Chanukah Party on Dec. 22

See back page for more info.



Adult Learning & Reflection

Mindful Mornings

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8:15am-9:00am, Library

NOTE: The group will not be meeting on December 29

Free and open to the community

Join Rabbi Toba for this weekly opportunity to practice *yishuv da'at*, the ability to bring a calm awareness to all that we do. Whether you think you're "bad" at meditating, have never tried it before, or have a regular practice, there will be something here for you! We will begin with instruction at 8:15am, followed by a silent sitting period. The practice of mindfulness meditation is profoundly helpful in navigating the ups and downs that life hands us, as well as helping foster greater joy and presence in the moment and deeper insight into our own lives. No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! (And please arrive no later than 8:15am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started.)



Frontiers of Gender and Judaism with Dr. Lori Lefkowitz

Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00pm, December 1, 8, & 15

(free for CDT members; \$12/session for non-members)

Back by popular demand, Dr. Lori Lefkowitz will engage us in scintillating study and discussion of Biblical texts that have come to shape Jewish self-understanding, bringing her unique integration of psychoanalytic, literary, and feminist theories to bear on well-known Bible stories:

December 1: "The Book of Ruth as the Fundamental Jewish Story"

December 8: "You Are Who You Aren't: Jewish Identity & Masquerade"

December 15: "The Secrets of the 7th Candle (A Chanukah Story)"

Dr. Lefkowitz holds the Ruderman Chair in Jewish Studies at Northeastern University, where she directs the Jewish Studies Program. She is the former Director of Kolot: The Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia.

Tikkun Olam

UPCOMING EVENT

CIW (Coalition of Immokalee Workers) Rally at Trader Joe's

December 11, 2011, location TBD

For more information contact **Alex Sugerman-Brozan** at asugermanb@gmail.com.

Sindyanna Olive Oil Project

DELICIOUS FAIR TRADE, Organic, Kosher Olive Oil from this collaborative Jewish-Arab project in Israel is still available from the most recent order.

We have plenty of oil in 750 ml bottles for \$18. If you would like to order, please email **Jonathan Rosenthal** at jonathan@just-works.com to arrange.

We also have a new pick up site. In addition to Watertown, we will have oil at **Bonnie Tenneriello's** house in Jamaica Plain. If you want to pick up your oil from Bonnie, please email her directly at bonniet4@gmail.com.

For more information about the project, go to: <http://sindyanna.com/> or view the 10 minute video about the project at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Flozju-08V4>

Sukkot at Family Table

AS PART OF the community Sukkot celebrations at CDT, several members (including families from Kitah Vav) participated in our October volunteer commitment to Family Table. Members sorted, packed and delivered groceries to Family Table recipients. Participants had this to say about the experience:

"It was a good process. I like to go to Family Table to help people in need of food." **Heather Goldman** (age 9)

"It was easy putting the groceries in the bag, but harder carrying them up to someone's apartment building." **Spencer Goldman** (age 6)

"It was so great seeing how happy the person was to receive the food. It was an immensely satisfying experience." **Susannah Zisk**

Bring Whole Grains for Family Table

by Pamela Schoenberg Reider

THIS YEAR, FAMILY Table launched the "Food Revolution", an initiative to provide whole grain products (whole grain pasta, crackers, cereal, and brown rice). Dorshei Tzedek has been assigned new items to donate toward this goal—**whole grain breakfast cereal and canned vegetables**. Additionally, we will again need volunteer drivers to deliver our food items to Family Table one Sunday per month. This is a wonderful and easy way for you and/or your family to help others in our community. To sign up as a driver, go to: <http://doodle.com/mk9xnkfw2tu7ai3e>. **Drivers are needed on January 8 and July 8.**

Please remember to bring along whole grain cereal or canned vegetables whenever you come to shul or religious school! You can drop off the donations in the collection boxes near the sanctuary or at the school.

Questions? Contact Pamela Schoenberg Reider at 617-244-3373 or jomela@rcn.com.

CDT Chalkboard

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

BY THE TIME you read this, we will have hopefully had a successful changeover to our new listserv service. Many thanks to **Dan Halbert** for all his thoughtful research and effort in making this happen.

Both the CDT-LIST and CDT-ANNOUNCE email lists have changed addresses. From now on, you will be able to post messages as you have always done, but will send them to the new CDT-SHARE address listed below. All you have to do is to take a moment to update your address books by doing the following:

DELETE: CDT-LIST@shamash.org

ADD: CDT-SHARE@lists.dorsheitzedek.org

Just to be clear, the share list is a members' forum where you may share information with one another. If you do not want to participate in this list, you may opt out of receiving these messages—just let me know if you wish to do so and you will be removed. Or, if you do want to participate but would prefer getting all the daily posts in a single email once a day, let us know that and we will change you to a “digest” setting.

As always, if you wish to post to this list, just write your email from the address to which you receive other's messages and send to cdt-share@lists.dorsheitzedek.org. Every member who is signed up to this list will see your message. You may only send messages while you are subscribed to the list and not if you have opted out.

As before, the **CDT-ANNOUNCE@lists.dorsheitzedek.org** is for mass broadcast messages from Rabbi Toba, myself and select Board members. The messages you will receive are important in nature, regarding issues related to the congregation and as a member, you may not opt out of this list.

We hope this is a smooth transition but if you have difficulties, email Marla Lichtman at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org.

FAQs

Q: Do I have to do anything to stay on the list?

A: You don't have to do anything to stay on the lists you are already on. Please start sending your emails to the new list addresses, and change the entries in your email address books.

Q: What happens if I forget and use the old CDT-LIST@shamash.org address?

A: The old lists will reply to you with a reminder that they are no longer valid if you forget and send to them by mistake.

Q: Why are you making this change?

A: Shamash.org is discontinuing its email list service as of the end of 2011 for financial reasons.

Q: What if I need to change my email address?

A: Please send an email to Marla Lichtman at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org; she will take care of it. It's better if you don't try to do it yourself, as we need to keep your email address up-to-date in several different places.

Q: Can I still get a daily digest?

A: Yes, we will try to set up digests for people who are currently getting them. If we forget, send us an email and we'll fix it. You can also set it yourself by clicking on the link at the bottom of every message and following the directions, but we're happy to do it for you.

Q: Why did you rename the CDT-LIST?

A: We chose CDT-SHARE to make its purpose a bit clearer, and to make it clear it was not the official announcement list.

Q: Why didn't you switch to Google Groups?

A: Google Groups (as of August) only lets you invite people onto lists, and not add them directly. The invitations often get lost in spam filters, or people don't respond. For lists like ours, it's a large headache.

Q: Will there be searchable list archives?

A: There is an archiving mechanism for the new lists, but it is not easily searchable. We are investigating various solutions for this desirable feature.

CDT Calendar

December 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	2	3
				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Frontiers of Gender & Judaism 7:30p-9p, Living Room	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6p-Candle lighting & dinner, Fellowship Hall; 6:45p- Service, Sanctuary	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112 Kitah Dalet-Hey Family Education 5p-7:30p, Members-Only Event, Room 111, Living Room, Kitchen
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Frontiers of Gender & Judaism 7:30p-9p, Living Room	Shabbat at Members' Homes , Members-Only Event, contact <i>laurie.goldman@tufts.edu</i> for info	Shabbat Morning Torah Study & Service 8:45a-9:40a, Library; 9:45a-12p Junior Congregation Rm 111 & Tot Shabbat; Rms 110, 112 10:45a-12p CDT movie "Barney's Version" 6p potluck, 7p movie. p4 for details
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Avelut, 8p, home of Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner		CDT Board Meeting 7:30p	Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Frontiers of Gender & Judaism 7:30p-9p, Living Room		Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Chanukah Party 5:45p-8p, FUSN: Parish Hall, various rooms		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112
Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a-9a, Library, Free and open to the community	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6p-Candle lighting & dinner, Fellowship Hall; 6:45p- Service	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112

Kiddush Assignments

Erev Shabbat 12/2: Ilana Mainelli, Doron Gan, Rebecca Herst, Barbara Shatkin

Shabbat 12/3: Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon—in honor of David and Dorothy Jablon, Rachel Ross, Laya Steinberg

Shabbat 12/10: Amy Mazur, Corinne Lofchie, Willa Kuh, Phyllis Glazerman

Shabbat 12/17: Andrew Milsten, Ricky Greenly, Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman

Chanukkah Party 12/22:

Setup: Polly Crozier & Jessica Keimowitz, Danielle Klainberg & Mark Rosenberg, David Stolow, Stacie & Andrew Garnett-Cook, Jane Fox

Cleanup: Jennifer Hochschild, Stan Meyer, Nina Price, Andy Littman, Vitaly Zakuta, Kristin Butcher

Shabbat 12/24: Barbara & Elliot Pittel - in honor of Aaron & Dorothy Pittel, Phyllis & Bill Kantor

Shabbat 12/31: Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Debbie Isenberg, Lisa Schneier

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

LimmudBoston 2011

Sunday December 4, 9:00am–9:00pm

Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Chestnut Hill, MA

LimmudBoston is a volunteer-run celebration of Jewish culture for the entire community including nearly 100 workshops and presentation for all generations. Founded by CDT member, Steffi Aronson Karp, LimmudBoston promises tastes of the best in Jewish scholarship, arts, music, movement and community opportunities. Evening concert: Kol B'seder, Josh Nelson, Sue Horowitz and Arnie Davidson, with Aaron Freeman as emcee. Register now at: www.LimmudBoston.org.

Programs at Rashi School

Open House

Sunday, December 11 from 10:00am–12:00pm

8000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham, MA (use 45 West Street for your GPS).

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. Learn about Rashi's integrated academic program of secular and Jewish studies, with its emphasis on differentiated instruction. Come see our campus and hear about extracurricular activities, transportation and financial aid. To RSVP, please contact Adrienne Frechter, Director of Admissions and Marketing, at 617-969-4444 x7316 or email: admissions@rashi.org. For more information, go to www.rashi.org.

Curious Minds Preschool Program

Thursday, December 15 from 1:00pm–2:30 pm

8000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham, MA (use 45 West Street for your GPS)

Children ages 2-5 and their parents/caregivers are invited to Hanukkah: Giving and Receiving, featuring Stephanie Rotsky, Rashi's Social Justice Coordinator and Matt Stern, Song leader at Gan Elohim Nursery School in Wellesley. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift suitable for either a young boy or girl to be donated to a child in need. Curious Minds programs are free, but preregistration is required. Contact Anne Puchkoff at 617-969-4444 x7317 or email admissions@rashi.org.

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 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.

Mazel Tov

To **Diana Fisher Gomberg** and **Steve Siegel**, on their election to the Newton School Committee!

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in October or November: **Jodie Siegel, Nem Hackett, Michele Arons, Benjamin Newman, Beth Brooks, David Greenberg, Benita Danzing, Liz Carver, Scott Gordon, Rob Greenly, Jacob Weinberg, Judy Hersh, Diana, Richard, & Maya Fisher Gomberg, Josette Akresh-Gonzales & Michael Gonzales, Alison & David Lobron, Linda Schiller & Steve Robins, Elaine Pollack, Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Lisa Dee Port White**—in honor of Amelia and her dad's memory, **Hope Kellman, Abby Cohen, John Holohan, Tim Rosa, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Marc Steinberg, Allison Andrews, Kim Ockene, Erica Streit-Kaplan**—in honor of James Kaplan's birthday, **Hope Kellman, Sheree Galpert, Susan Silberberg, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal, Sue Weil & Sandy Goodman, Linda Kramer, Pam Katz, Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis, Ezra Hausman, Steve Katz, Mark Paley, Amy Mazur, Douglas Hersh, and Janice Cole.**

To **Noam Shore** (who coordinated), **Audra Karp & Deb Albenberg, Ra-**

chel & Chad Pytel, Tania Mireles, Bill Shorr & Amalia Mireles-Shorr, David Shumsky, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Sue Weil, Emily Sper who either helped set up our CDT Sukkah and/or take it down.

Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Ben Newman, Susannah Zisk, Carol Hemley, Tess & Eli Siegel, Lauren Gibbs, Lilliana Lawson, and Thea Breite.**

Condolences

To **Bob Warren** on the death of his mother, Bette Warren. May the Source of comfort bring comfort to Bob and his family, along with all those who mourn.

To **Erica Streit-Kaplan** and **Ilana Streit** on the death of their grandmother, Ilse Weinberg. May the Source of comfort bring comfort to Erica and Ilana and their family, along with all those who mourn.

Yarzheit

We remember CDT member **Alex Fried**, whose fourth yartzheit falls on December 18. **We will be remembering Alex at services on Shabbat morning, December 10.** May his memory be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Monday, December 12, 8:00pm

Home of Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner, 36 Bourne Street, Jamaica Plain

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 **Andrew Sofer (sofer@bc.edu)**. If you would like directions please contact **Hilary Marcus** at **617-522-0037** or **hrm99@hotmail.com**.

New Members

Welcome to **Diane Lior, Lauren, Andrew & Robyn Stefano, Frances Malino & Eugene Black, Mark Schaffer & Marjorie Salvodon.**

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.)

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

ATTENDING OUR SATURDAY morning school program, especially on the weeks when Nitzanim (Pre-K) and Gan (K) meet, one can see how many very young students we have in our school. The teaching staff and I continually think about how best to create an educational experience that meets the needs of young learners. Hebrew College's Annual Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference, held in November, was an opportunity for our staff to explore new ideas in the field and I invited **Alison Lobron**, our Nitzanim teacher, and **Adam Lavitt**, our community educator, to attend the conference.

Adam writes about his experience at the conference: "The two workshops I attended explored how to create a joyous Shabbat experience for young children. One workshop, 'Torah Alive!' demonstrated how to create immersive environments in which children can build understanding by entering and acting out Torah stories. The second workshop, 'Sing it! Stamp it! Clap it!' taught Shabbat songs that conveyed early childhood skills through lots of movement, self-expression and fun music."

Reflecting on her experience at the conference, Alison adds: "It was a real pleasure for me to attend the Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference. I participated in two workshops. In the first session, 'Many Faces of the Divine: Teaching Young Children About God' I had the opportunity to think about the many ways that educators can help children to deepen their own spiritual understanding. The next session, 'Building Bias Free Foundations' was presented by a facilitator from the Anti-Defamation League. We explored ways in which we can thoughtfully present messages to children about taking pride in their Jewish identities, as well as their identities as a whole. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for me to reflect on my teaching practices in the company of many talented and seasoned Jewish educators."

Adam and Alison's participation in the conference was made possible by the synagogue's Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund. The fund, created in memory of CDT member Jill Volk, provides 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 allows her love of Judaism and Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

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

Sunny and Meier Fein
Ricky and Robert Greenly
Susannah and Stephen Zisk

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ellen and David Newman
Lorna Shapiro—In memory of Debbie Sher

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

Address correction requested



Chanukah Party

Thursday, December 22, 5:45pm to 8pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Come welcome the third night of Chanukah at CDT! The evening will feature candle-lighting (please bring your own menorah with 4 candles), latkes, and activities for all ages! We'll begin with **candle-lighting at 5:45pm**, followed by **dinner at 6:00pm—please bring a salad** to accompany latkes—green, veggie, tuna, pasta, whatever you like, enough for 20 people. Drinks, dessert, and latkes will be provided. At approximately **6:45 we'll begin activities**, including arts & crafts, dreidel, text study for adults, and fire juggling by our very own Community Educator, **Adam Lavitt!** And tell your friends, this is a great way for folks to learn about CDT.

