



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

NEWSLETTER

Tevet/Shevat 5772 January 2012

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

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Dorshei Chesed v'Tzedek

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



I AM WRITING this column a week after the funeral of Susannah Zisk, when so many from our community turned out to mourn her loss, and to support Stephen, Leila, and the Leonard family. It was powerfully moving to realize how many lives Susannah had touched and how many of us will miss her. I was also moved by the way this painful loss brought the congregation together, the ties of chesed/lovingkindness, as well as of sorrow, forging that connection.

My friend and teacher, Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, once remarked that in our hearts we are very similar and want the same things—it is at the level of our heads, our minds, where we diverge and often come into conflict. It was that “heart convergence” that I felt during these days of mourning: the way

in which we can all relate to what it means to lose a partner, a mother, a daughter, a sibling, a friend; the ways in which we all struggle with the fragility of human life. We all want to love and be loved, and we all grieve when we lose that which we love. While we may express our grief differently, there is a quality of vulnerability, of open-heartedness, which ultimately we human beings all share.

I was thinking about this in contrast to those places where it is more difficult for us as a community to feel connected, where our varying opinions and viewpoints raise the potential for conflict. This can be seen perhaps most obviously in a contentious topic like Israel, but it arises around other issues as well, especially those in the political realm. Then the question arises: what would it mean to be a community that is as bound

together by the demands of tzedek, justice, as we are by chesed, lovingkindness?

The challenge here is not to try to create a situation where everyone thinks alike and agrees—even if it were possible, why would we want to exist in an echo chamber of our own limited perspective? The challenge is also to not simply retreat into avoiding all topics that might bring about conflict, for then we fail to address the significant issues of our time. Instead, how do we create a space where we can challenge one another to live up to our expressed values, without the assumption that there is only one right answer on any particular issue? If we truly want to make the world a better place, then we can only gain by testing our views, by engaging in critical thinking and being pushed by those with whom we disagree. This may or may not lead us to change our opinion, but it will help us think more deeply, and help us avoid the arrogance of assuming that those who hold opinions different than our own are located somewhere on a spectrum from naïve to deluded to dangerous.

The Reconstructionist approach to decision-making may offer a path for engaging in this kind of conversation. When it was time to create a new dues structure for the congregation over a decade ago, we began not with ideas or specific recommendations, but with values. Once we had elucidated the core values that we held as a Jewish Reconstructionist community, we could weigh which types of financial policies would fulfill those values, and where compromises had to be made when values came into conflict.

Similarly, as we look at the broken world around us, perhaps we should begin not with ideas or ideologies, but with values. When I think about one of the most contentious issues not only for our congregation, but in the Jewish community at large—that is, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—I see many values at play, some of which potentially come into conflict with one another. Traditional Jewish values like Jewish continuity, connection to the land of Israel, and caring for “the stranger”; and more modern values like democracy, pluralism, and equality. As individuals, we may have very different takes on the historical context, on the relative value of nationalism, on the very meaning of what a “Jewish state” is and might be—and some of our differences around these questions might indeed be irreconcilable. But if we begin with an exploration of how our values play out in this particular arena, and where shared values might lead to a variety of opinions, we will have found a way to engage in passionate yet loving debate.

There is a famous Talmudic debate over which is more important, study or action. The ultimate decision is “study, when it leads to action.” Perhaps we can understand “study” as the kind of inquiry that we undertake not to convince others to agree with us, but to create a wider and deeper understanding of the issues at hand, an understanding from which we can take more effective action. As we enter 2012, a year in which the least productive kinds of political discourse will fill the airwaves, may we indeed be dorshei tzedek—those who “drash” justice, who seek all the various and imaginative ways of understanding what it means to work for a better world.

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: Ellie Goldberg and

Jackie Fleischman

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)

Meeting Notes

November Members' Meeting

CDT held a Members' Meeting on Sunday, November 20, convening following a meal and schmooze exercises at 6:45pm. After a welcome and introduction from President **Peter Katz**, **Rabbi Toba** shared an insight from the week's parashat Toldot in which Isaac redigs and renames wells in Philistine which his father Abraham had once dug. This activity is seen as representing a broader sense of careful study "revealing deep waters" and "rediscovering old truths".

Committee reports followed. **Sivan Nasoff** reported for the Finance Committee that last year the congregation ended up running a slight budget surplus of about \$30K. The budget planned for this year now comes to over \$500K with a goal of breaking even on expenditures. So far so good!

Amy Dain reported for the Membership Committee that the congregation now stands at 187 households. **Laurie Goldman** reported that the Ritual Committee continues to dig into wider possibilities for member involvement, and also plans a series of shared Erev Shabbat dinners beginning with one on December 9.

Jen Kaplan announced that a double chai fundraiser event is scheduled for March 24, 2012, representing the 21st year since the founding of the congregation and the 15th year of Rabbi Toba's service. More details to come as planning for the event proceeds. (See page 5 for more information.) **Steffi Karp** announced that LimmudBoston 2011 will take place on December 4 at Temple Mishkan Tefilla with 118 sessions including several with Rabbi Toba.

Judy Herzig-Marx, one of the congregation's founders, then shared with us some of her recollections, a journey of Reconstructionist Judaism beginning in Illinois and moving to Boston where 8 households

founded CDT in 1991. **Mordechai Liebling** at first helped with organizing services and leading High Holyday observances. **Elaine Pollack** was the first president. After 6 years and reaching to over 60 member families, the congregation decided to hire a rabbi part-time. The rest is also history, and Judy is happy to talk with anyone who has questions or would just like to learn more.

In celebration of this history, members shared some of their remembered moments of hope and inspiration over the last year, including:

- Shiva for **Bob Warren's** mother
- Noontime at Shabbat
- **Rabbi Toba's** morning classes of learning, sharing, and meditating
- **Toba's** Ghana trip presentation
- The spiritual autobiography class
- Unrolling the Torah at Simchat Torah
- Volunteerism and intentionality of membership
- Excitement in the Hebrew school classes and junior congregation
- The CDT Retreat
- Opportunities to grow personally within the congregation
- The wonderful participatory nature of b'nei mitzvah in the congregation
- Wall-to-wall shofarot at High Holydays
- The amazing number of members who leyn during the year
- The strong connection between life in the congregation and life day-to-day

Peter Katz then reviewed and revisited for us some aspects of the congregation's Strategic Plan which was developed in the 2005-2007

timeframe. Some of the major goals and outcomes:

- Embrace growth: the congregation has grown from ~150 to ~190 households
- Build a culture of giving: initiatives have included Nediv Lev and A Torah of Money
- Address space needs: the congregation has expanded into space at Second Church and at Gann Academy for the High Holydays
- Community of Learners: the community undertook an 18-month long process of exploring what it means to be a congregation of learners, resulting in the current Project LO"X pilot project, supported by CJP
- Leadership development: the congregation now has a leadership position concerned with leadership and a process for leadership transition,

Finally, **Allison Hausman** presented a preview of the new CDT website design. Phase 1 of the re-design deployment will focus on information presented to the public. Phase 2 will be a re-design and re-factor of member services offered through the website. Allison also led those present in an exercise in "imagining internal and external identity." Breakout groups worked to answer two questions:

- "If CDT were an animal, what would it be and why?"
- "How would you complete the sentence, 'Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is ...?'"

Answers were too varied and imaginative to do them justice in this report. Just a small sample of proposed animals included elephant, bees, octopus, ants, beavers, geese, and Jack Russell terriers. On that note, the meeting adjourned at 8pm.

December Board Meeting

by Josh Lieberman

The CDT Board met on Sunday, December 18. **Lisa Dee Port White** shared a d'var on the week's Parsha concerning Joseph's rise to power in Egypt and dealings with his brothers.

Sivan Nasoff reported for the Finance Committee that as of now we project that the CDT budget should break even for the year.

Lisa Dee Port White reported for the Membership Committee that a normal number of families seem to have decided not to continue this year. With new members joining, the membership at this point is down by one from last year. She also remarked that the Feb. 3/Feb. 4 Shabbat Shira services will be an opportunity to draw in new and prospective members.

Paul Hattis and **Linnette Liebling** reported on preparations for the fundraising event in the spring, in-

cluding a discussion of costs and a fundraising goal; the event committee continues to work enthusiastically on the event.

The Board discussed issues related to publicity including more systematic listings for regular events, and the possibility of occasional advertising and a new flier, budget permitting.

Peter Katz then asked the Board to prioritize some of the strategic issues identified from the recent Board retreat. Growth targets and school organizational structures came out as highest priority, followed by membership support issues such as considering how to enhance CDT as a safe place for conversations on difficult issues. There was also discussion of the possibility of forming a publicity or growth team, perhaps with emphasis on the school. Board members will follow up with ideas for working on these issues in the coming year.

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

AS EDUCATION DIRECTOR, I greatly value opportunities to learn from and with my colleagues about new ideas and best practices in congregational education. I was very fortunate this past month to have two such opportunities.

As part of our Program Experimentation Project (PEP) grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies, our Project LO"X team (Rabbi Toba, Adam Lavitt, our consultant Rena Gray Fein, and myself), meet periodically with groups from other synagogues that have PEP grants and pilot program grants from CJP. The meetings allow those working on educational innovations to come together to learn about what is working well, what is challenging, and to provide support and suggestions about each other's work. These meetings, known as the "Jewish Learning Connection Innovators Community of Practice" were developed by Nina Price, director of Jewish Learning Connections for CJP (and CDT member!). Our meeting in December featured activities guided by consultants from the Experiment in Congregational Education to help us evaluate our work by distinguishing "programmatic" changes from "systemic" changes.

Also in December, I traveled to Congregation Beth Hatikvah in Summit, New Jersey to attend the annual conference of RENA (Reconstructionist Educators of North America), the professional organization of education directors of Reconstructionist congregations. The three-day conference featured workshops on experiential education, teaching about God from a Reconstructionist perspective, and issues in developing Hebrew curricula for supplemental schools. I was honored to be invited to be one of the presenters at the workshop "Teacher Mentoring and Training in Real Time." A highlight of the conference was a meeting at the Jewish Educational Project in New York City at which we were introduced to JEP's new program—"Jewish Geolocating", an iPhone and iPad app that takes participants on a tour of Jewish sites in New York's Lower East Side. We were the first group to field test the program and we had a great time seeing such sights as the Streits Matzoh Factory and the Yonah Schimmel knish bakery. I was excited to learn that JEP is working on developing an app for a tour of Jewish Boston!

Best of all was the time spent in informal conversation with other ed directors talking about our schools, sharing ideas, asking questions and sharing our visions of Reconstructionist education.

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: Jan. 6, Feb. 10, Mar. 2, Apr. 13, May 4, and June 1, 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.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40am Winter dates: 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!

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 14, 9:45am with Special Guest, Ed Kaplan

Edward Kaplan, professor of French and comparative literature at Brandeis University and author of an acclaimed 2-volume biography of Abraham Joshua Heschel, will be joining us as we celebrate the life and work of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prof. Kaplan will share his personal experience of the Selma-Montgomery march and meeting with Dr. King, as well as his participation with Rabbi Heschel in protests against the Vietnam war. Prof. Kaplan is back by popular demand, after his insightful and engaging presentation on the life and work of Heschel last year, and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about the connections between Heschel and King and how each influenced the other. The service will also feature music of the civil rights movement!

Junior Congregation

*Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, Apr. 21, 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, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Mar. 17, Apr. 14, May 12, and June 9, 10:45am-12pm, 60 Highland Street, 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.

Bar Mitzvah of Louis Chaim Silberberg

Saturday, January 28, 9:45am

Please join our family in celebration and joy as **Louis Chaim Silberberg** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 28, 2012. Louis is a seventh grader at Lincoln School in Brookline where he has been a student since Kindergarten. Louis loves animals and thinks he would like to be a veterinarian some day. He is also a whiz at origami and he has combined both passions to sell beautiful origami constructions to raise money for the animal shelter and hospital at MSPCA/Angell. Louis spends most of his free time reading and he also loves video games. His love of life and creative ideas to solve almost any challenge are much appreciated by his family. Please celebrate with us at a Kiddush luncheon following the service.

-Susan Silberberg

Continued on page 6

Shabbat Shira

Friday, February 3, 7:30-9:00pm

The Shabbat that we read Chapter 15 in Exodus, the “Song of the Sea,” is known as “Shabbat Shira,” the Shabbat of Song. So come sing a song! Join Rabbi Toba, Hankus Netsky, and Terry Traub for a very musical Shabbat evening. We’ll sing, dance, and enjoy the beautiful music together.

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Welcome New Members Shabbat

Saturday, February 4, 9:45am

We will be celebrating Shabbat Shirah, the Torah portion with Miriam's song of the sea, a service full of song. We will read about the parting and crossing of the Red Sea and celebrate the new members among us who are now part of our community and journey.

Please help us welcome **Barbara Huggins, Dianne Lior, Jordan Namerow, Frances Malino and Eugene Black, Marjorie Salvodon and Mark Schafer, Lauren and Andrew Stefano, Madeline Steinberg and Mitchell Feuer and Jessica Engel and Scott Helman.**

A brief orientation on the how-tos of Kiddush will take place, appropriately enough, during the Kiddush lunch. Anyone who wants a refresher

CDT EVENTS

Film Club

Saturday, January 7 at the home of Stan and Jackie Fleischman, 28 Bowdoin St, Newton Highlands. Potluck dinner at 6:00pm, Movie at 7:00pm

The film club's next film will be Rashevski's *Tango*. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. It's 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 7 pm, followed by a group discussion. We hope you can join us! Please contact us **Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com)** or **Emily Sper (emily@emilysper.com)**

Rashevski's Tango (Le Tango des Rashevski) (2003) NR (in French and Hebrew). Director Sam Garbarski explores the complexities of Jewish identity in contemporary Belgium in this uplifting tale about family relationships, romance, religion and interfaith marriage. The Rashevski clan's secular matriarch, Rosa—

who puts more trust in the tango's curative powers than in God—seems to be the glue holding the family together. When she dies, her baffled brood strives to find meaning within their religious and ethnic heritage. —Netflix We are looking for hosts for upcoming Film Club events! 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 from 7:30-9pm
60 Highland Street, Living Room

The women of CDT are invited to welcome the new month of Sh'vat with the Women's Rosh Chodesh Group. This is an opportunity to join with other women for an evening of conversation and other explorations of the new month.

For more information, please contact **Kristen Petersen, petersenka@hotmail.com.**

CDT Chalkboard

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

Passport to Israel & Tax Statements:

What do Passport to Israel and year-end tax statements have to do with each other? Only that they are both due by the end of January!

Passport to Israel

For those of you who have children participating in the Passport to Israel program, expect to receive your 2012 invoices by mid-January. Payments are due back to CDT no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

If your child is now in 3rd or 7th grade and you are interested in having her or him participate in the program, member **Hilary Marcus** has

all the details and enrollment forms. Connect with her at hrm99@hotmail.com to get started in the simple enrollment process. Or, if your child will be ready soon to take their Israel trip, also connect with Hilary to arrange for CJP to issue payment.

2011 Tax Statements

For anyone who has contributed \$250 or more to CDT in 2011, a year-end tax statement will be issued. Deductible expenses include the dues you have paid or any other monies donated to CDT.

Expect to receive your statement by January 31, 2012. This will show in detail your deductible contributions for the 2011 tax year.

Save the Date!

CDT's Double Chai Event

Saturday, March 24, 2012 7:30pm

FUSN, 1326 Washington Street

Join us in honoring and celebrating the founding and leadership of Rabbi Toba and CDT's founders. We will begin with a Havdalah service, have a short program and then dance the night away to a live band with a desert reception.

Please stay tuned for other activities!

Adult Learning & Reflection

Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Wednesday & Thursday evenings,
8-9:30pm, February 2, 9, & 15; March 15 & 29*

Members' homes in Jamaica Plain (Dorshei Tzedek members only)

Where have we been, and where are we going—as Jews, as human beings? This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys, and to inquire into the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process, and after a break the class will reconvene to share what people have written. Class size is limited; contact Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) to register. No writing experience or expertise needed

Mindful Mornings

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Thursday mornings, 8:15am-9:00am, 60
Highland Street, Library*

Join Rabbi Toba for this weekly opportunity to practice *yishuv da'at*, the ability to bring a calm aware-

ness 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.)

Reconstructionist Judaism: A Social & Cultural History

with Dr. Avi Bernstein January 22, Feb 5 & 12, March 4 & 18 Sunday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm

Course fee: Sliding scale, \$85-\$130

Pre-registration required—please register by January 12.

This course will explore key cultural sources and historical landscapes that will help us understand the original project of Reconstructionism,

and the vision of its founder, Mordecai Kaplan. A distinctive feature of the class is the use of literature and film to bring history and ideas to life. This course will address Reconstructionism's place in Jewish and American history, and help place its founder in the context of the European and American Enlightenment. As a special treat, by screening *A Serious Man*, we will have the opportunity to respond as a group to a significant, controversial artistic statement by the accomplished film makers, Joel and Ethan Coen. The class will require some reading in between sessions.

Pre-registration required: Please go to the CDT website, www.dorsheitzedek.org, to register and pay for the class. Scholarships are available; please be in touch with Rabbi Toba.

Avi Bernstein received his PhD from Stanford University in 1998. He has published articles in Religious Studies Review, the Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook, and the Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy. For a decade he served as a Dean of Continuing Education at Hebrew College.

Tikkun Olam

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/mk9xnkf-w2tu7ai3e>. 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 Calendar

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 and candlelighting 6p, Service 6:45	Shabbat Morning Torah Study & Service 8:45a-9:40a, Library, 9:45a-12p CDT Film Club "Rashevski's Tango" 6pm potluck, 7pm film At the home of Stan and Jackie Fleischman
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a-9a, Library Free and open to the community			Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service (with special guest, Ed Kaplan) 9:45a-12p
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a-9a, Library Free and open to the community			Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p (Rabbi Toba off) Junior Congregation 10:45a-12p, Room 111, Led by Elana Rome
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Class with Dr. Avi Bernstein 7-8:30 p, Library CDT Board meeting 7:30 p, Living rm	AVELUT Monthly Support for CDT Mourners 8p-9:30p, Members-Only Event, At the home of Ellie Goldberg	Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9 p, Living room		Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a-9a, Library Free and open to the community		Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Louis Silberberg 9:45a-12p Tot Shabbat 10:45a-12p, Rooms 110, 112
29	30	31	February 1	2	3	4
				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Free and open to the community Autobiography class 8-9:30 Members' homes	Erev Shabbat Shira Service 7:30p-9p, No potluck	Welcome New Members Shabbat 9:45a-12p
5	6	7	8	9	Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.	
Class with Dr. Avi Bernstein 7-8:30 p, Library			Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Free and open to the community Autobiography class 8-9:30 Members' homes			

Kiddush Assignments

Erev Shabbat 1/6: Reinhard Engels, Susan Moser, Hankus Netsky, Michael Brann

Shabbat 1/7: Sue Lanser - in memory of Dave Sniader and Mildred Gerstein Sniader, Nancy Gertz - in honor of birthdays of loved ones!, Gail Harris, Tony Broh

MLK Shabbat 1/14: Michael Brann, Ora Gladstone, Sharon Sevransky - in memory of Betty Baum, Clifford Goldsmith

Shabbat 1/21: Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Elaine Landes, Doug Hersch

Shabbat & Bar Mitzvah of Louis Silberberg 1/28

Ushers: Marla Cummins & Gabby Cummins, Peter Shapiro

Sanctuary Cleanup: Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg

Setup: Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus, Linda Kramer, Stacey Chacker, Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere

Cleanup: Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg, Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer

Erev Shabbat Shira Service 2/3 Ellen Pashall, Marion Ross, Noam Shore

Shabbat 2/4: Laurie Schloff, Hilary Marcus, Trish Nuzzola, Lilly Platt - in memory of Jack Platt

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 members and 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 Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

44th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Newton Community Celebration

Monday, January 16, 10:00am

1529 Washington Street, West Newton, MA. 02465

Honored guests this year include Congressman Barney Frank, Mayor Setti Warren, and Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools. The program will include reflections by Newton School students, and musical selections by the Newton All City Chorus Treble Singers, Brown Middle School A Cappella Brown Tones, and the Myrtle Baptist Church's The Love Tones.

PLEASE BRING non-perishable food items, which are being collected for donation to the Newton Food Pantry. Co-sponsored by the City of Newton, Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, The Newton School Department, and the Foundation for Racial, Ethnic & Religious Harmony

LimmudBoston Leadership Development Program

The LimmudBoston Leadership Development Program is open to all past and future LimmudBoston voluticipants (volunteer + participant = voluticipant). This series of speaker events offers professional skills which are applicable to both Limmud-Boston program planning and our everyday lives. The first Leadership Development Program takes place on Sunday afternoon, January 22, at 2:00pm at Boston's Vilna Shul, 18 Phillips Street, Beacon Hill. Speech consultant, Lauren Garlick, addresses "The Challenges of Public Speaking." \$10 at the door. *RSVP: <http://lbleadership122.eventbrite.com>*

Open Doors with DeLeT and Inspire the Jewish Future Synagogue Council of Massachusetts

Become a Jewish day school teacher today. The DeLeT (Day school Leadership through Teaching) program at Brandeis University offers a unique opportunity to earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Brandeis University and MA state licensure through our 13 month program that prepares elementary Jewish, general studies, or (new this year!) Hebrew language day school teachers. De-LeT interns spend a full academic year working in a local day school classroom with a mentor teacher in addition to Brandeis course work.

Check out our website www.brandeis.edu/programs/DeLeT and contact us at delet@brandeis.edu.

Chesed

In Memory of Susannah Zisk

The CDT community mourns the death of **Susannah Zisk**, who passed away on December 11 after a two-and-a-half year struggle with metastatic breast cancer. Susannah's friendship, her honesty and dry sense of humor, her commitment to community and her artistic vision were an inspiration to all who knew her. Susannah served CDT as Membership Outreach Chair and as Vice President for Membership from 2007 through 2010, and in this capacity helped us grow and better integrate new members into the congregation. Our heartfelt condolences go out to **Stephen** and **Leila**, to Susannah's mother **Judith**, and to her sister **Alissa** and the entire Leonard family, **Gerry**, **Sarah**, **Talia**, and **Abigail**. May her memory always be for a blessing, and may her legacy and love continue to reverberate within the hearts of all who knew her.

A note from Stephen Zisk to the CDT community:

I want to thank you all for the support and love you have shared with my family. The past weeks of hospice and mourning have felt crazy, unfair, and surreal, and you, my community, have been a grace and support for Susannah, Leila, and me. With your help, I have been able to hold and then to mourn Susannah, and your memories of her have been a comfort and a spark for my own memories.

Many of you helped when Susannah was first diagnosed and again when her cancer recurred, and we have felt supported throughout this ordeal. Susannah was amazingly brave (yes, I am prejudiced on this!), and shared her thoughts about cancer, death, and life with many of you over tea, in the garden, and at shul. You have returned this favor to me,

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617.965.0330) or Ellie Goldberg (ellie.goldberg@gmail.com) or Jackie Fleischman (jackief@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.

and told me a great deal about her with your words, hugs, meals...and presence!

As Leila and I wend our way through rebuilding our life, I will keep calling on you for support and stories, and I expect to put my support into this beautiful community for many years to come.

Many CDT members asked **Hilary Marcus** about the making of her new tallit. She has written a piece about it in Memory of Susannah. You can find it in the Member's Writing (<http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/writings/>) section on the CDT website.

What Types of Chesed Does CDT Provide?

by Ellie Goldberg

The Chesed Committee is dedicated to creating a caring community by providing an expression of chesed or gesture of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness.

When Rabbi Toba notifies the Chesed coordinator about a member's need, the coordinator will call him or her to discuss ways that members of our congregation might help.

Typical Chesed activities have included bringing a Shabbat meal, food for shivas, doing errands such as grocery shopping or picking up medication, giving rides to doctor appointments or occasionally taking children to school or other activities. The request is posted as a task on the Lotsahelpinghands website.

The Lotsahelpinghands website enables us to fill needs efficiently. (Note: if the member requests privacy, the coordinator can make calls or send emails to selected mem-

bers such as the members' "affinity groups" within the congregation.)

Members are encouraged to sign up on the Lotsahelpinghands website to get notified of Chesed opportunities and to sign up for a Chesed task. In order to create your login password click on this link: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/625130/login/>

Chesed Resources

Healing Conversations: What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say by Nance Guilmartin

How to Be Sick: A Buddhist-Inspired Guide for the Chronically Ill and Their Caregivers by Toni Bernhard with a forward by Sylvia Boorstein

Mazel Tov

To our October/November b'nei mitzvah, **Teddy Lewis**, **Dalia Paris-Saper**, and **Mikayla Marshall**, and to their families!

To **Elaine Pollack**, on the birth of her grandson, Jacob Tevia Martz, born to Elaine's daughter, Lisa, and her husband Chris, on December 13, weighing in at 7 lb. 1 oz.

Mazel tov and yasher koach to **Steffi Karp**, on the wonderful success of the second LimmudBoston!

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in November and December: **Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx**, **Lissy Medvedow**, **Rebecca Gutman**, **Tom Brown**, **Stacey & Bruce Gore**, **Jennifer Kaplan**, **Ellen Hemley**, **Ellen Pashall**, **Jamie Tessler**—in memory of **Ted Tessler**, **Lisa Goodwin-Robbins**, **Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn**, **Ilana Mainelli & Teddy Seidman**, **Doron Gan**, **Willa Kuh**, **Andrew Littman**, **Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon**—in honor of

David and Dorothy Jablon, Rachel Ross, Laya Steinberg, Amy Mazur, Corinne Lofchie, Rebecca Herst, Phyllis Glazerman, Andrew Milsten, Rob Greenly, Janet Boguslaw, and Sheree Galpert.

A very big “Todah rabah” and “yasher koach” to everyone who planned and staffed our wonderful Chanukah party: the “latke brigade,” helmed by **Esther Kohn** along with **Janice Cole** and **Josette Akresh-Gonzales**; everyone who planned and ran the various activities—**Vivienne & Norman Schein, Susan Nitkin, Ora Gladstone, Michele Arons, Mark Schafer & Alison Lobron**; our teen helpers, **Celia Gittleman, Lily Gomborg, Noah Marcus, and Charlotte Robbins**; and last but not far from least, our Community Educator, **Adam Lavitt**, for coordinating the entire effort, teaching hooping and poi spinning, and introducing us to the wonders of Chanukah fire poi! Thank you also to the hard-working set-up and clean-up crew: **Polly Crozier, Jessica Keimowitz, Danielle Klainberg, David Stolow, Suki Tepperberg Stolow, Stacie & Andrew Garnett-Cook, Jane Fox, Jennifer Hochschild, Stan Meyer, Nina Price, Andy Littman, Vitaly Zakuta, and Kristin Butcher.**

To **Steffi** and **Eric Karp**, for making possible the visit by Torah Maven Aaron Freeman.

To everyone who performed an act of chesed for the Zisk/Leonard families, whether doing shmirah, cooking or delivering a meal, staying at the house during the funeral, making a shivah call or leading a shivah minyan, and to all the CDT members who did acts of chesed for other members this past month.

Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Ben Newman, Carol Hemley, Tess** and **Eli Siegel**, and **Lillian Lawson.**

Condolences

To **Barbara Beck** and **Robert Bahn**, on the death of Robert's mother, **Marie Bahn.** May the Source of com-

fort bring comfort to the entire family, along with all those who mourn.

To **Susan Moser**, on the death of her mother **Kayla.** May the Source of comfort bring comfort to **Susan, Thea,** and their family, along with all those who mourn.

To **Ruth Paris**, on the death of her older brother **Steven Paris.** May the Source of comfort bring comfort to **Ruth,** and to **Rob, Shoshi, Maya, and Dalia,** and Ruth's entire family, along with all those who mourn.

Yarzheit

We remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 11th yartzheit falls on January 23. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 21. May his memory be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

*Monday, January 23, 8:00pm
Home of Ellie Goldberg (and Jack the cat),
79 Elmore Street, Newton Center*

Avelut was founded in November 2009 by Hilary Marcus and Andrew Sofer to support avelim (mourners) as well as those observing the Yartzheit of a loved one. The Avelut group has been a time to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. The monthly meetings have included writing, sharing family photos, discussing feelings about the funeral, the unveiling, memorial services and emotional anniversaries as well as family history, relationships and roles and responsibilities. We meet in members' homes. The host decides the start time of the evening and facilitates the discussion. All adult CDT members are welcome on a regular or drop-in basis. Guidelines for the group are posted online at <http://tinyurl.com/Avelut>. For more information, contact **Ellie Goldberg, ellie.goldberg@gmail.com, 617-965-9637.**

New Members

We welcome new members **Madeline Steinberg** and **Mitchell Feuer** and their twins, **Ava** and **Samuel**

Feuer who have joined the students of Kitah Hay.

Jessica Engel and **Scott Helman** and their sons, **Jonas** and **Elijah Helman.** Jonas has joined the students of Kitah Gan.

And we want to re-welcome new member **Dianne Lior** with the correct spelling of her name.

The following members mentioned in last month's issue have written short bios introducing themselves to the CDT community.

Lauren and **Andy Stefano** live in Watertown with their daughter **Robyn** (age 2). They both work in online marketing. Both native mid-westerners, they first came to CDT as students at Brandeis, and after many High Holy Days and more than a few Tot Shabbats, are very excited to finally make their membership in the community official!

Mark Schafer and **Marjorie Salvodon** live in Roxbury, where they are eagerly awaiting their daughter, **Marie-Carmel** (2 years old), whom they are adopting. Mark is a visual artist, literary translator and Spanish instructor at UMass Boston. Marjorie is an associate professor of French at Suffolk. We love languages, books, dancing around the house, having friends over for dinner, music, Mexico, Haiti, France, and Acadia National Park. We really like the people we've met at CDT and the spirit of the congregation. We joined to find out if we want to be members of a congregation, specifically CDT.

Frances Malino and **Gene Black** live in Waban. Frances is Sophia Moses Robison Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Wellesley College and Gene is Springer Professor of Modern European History emeritus at Brandeis University. Gene continues to do research and write. Frances directs the Jewish Studies program at Wellesley and is completing a book titled *Teaching Freedom: Jewish Sisters in Muslim Lands*. The joined after attending High Holiday services, delighted to have found a congregation where they feel spiritually at home.



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



Address correction requested

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

Wendy & David Gettleman

Ora Gladstone—*In fond memory of
Susannah Zisk, who is and will be sadly
missed*

Ellie Goldberg—*In honor of the memory of
Susannah Elkin Zisk, who was so gifted at
creating beauty and bonds of friendship and
community*

Inge and Bob Gould—*In memory of
Susannah Zisk*

Pam & Steve Katz

Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried

Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner -
*In honor of Dalia Paris-Saper's Bat Mitzvah;
in honor of guest Torah Maven, Aaron
Freeman; in memory of our friend Susannah
Zisk*

Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury—
*In honor of our daughter Mikayla's Bat
Mitzvah. We appreciate the Dorshei Tzedek
community.*

Amy Mazur—*In honor of Ellie Goldberg, in
honor of her long-term commitment with the
work of chesed*

Elaine Pollack—*In honor of Dalia's
Bat Mitzvah; in honor of my dad, Jack
Friedlander's 102nd birthday*

Josephine & Lewis Schneider and Family—
*In memory of Ilse Weinberg, grandmother of
Erica Streit-Kaplan*

Gish & William Small

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Steffi and Eric Karp

Lilly Platt—*In memory of Susannah Zisk*

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

Elaine Pollack