



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

NEWSLETTER

Shevat/Adar 5772 February 2012

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INSIDE:

- 3** Shabbat
- 5** Chesed
- 6** CDT Events
- 8** Adult Learning & Reflection
- 8** Greater Boston Jewish Community
- 9** Tikkun Olam
- 9** Nediv Lev
- 9** CDT Chalkboard
- 10** Calendar
- 11** Religious School News



January Birthdays

by Peter Katz, President



AT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL, which I visited over New Year's weekend with my family, the statue of Martin Luther King emerges from a carved stone; his feet, part of his legs and his back are encased in the stone. This incomplete figure seems to symbolize that his work was unfinished.

To me, this was a reminder that most good works, great and small, by their nature are unfinished and unfinishable. The social justice work that Dr. King joined was and remains work in progress. We can achieve forward motion, but not rest. Or as it says in the Talmud, it is not up to you to finish the work, but you cannot abstain from it.

The same is true of the more manageable needs of Dorshei Tzedek. We adopted a strategic plan several years ago; we are now re-examining, revising, and renewing the themes of the plan. This is part of the work for Dorshei Tzedek that we can expect to engage in as a community on a continuing basis.

A joyful occasion for supporting Dorshei Tzedek is the **Double Chai Gala Event on March 24, at FUSN**. We will honor the founding members of CDT and Rabbi

continued on next page

Toba's 15 years of service. The celebration begins at 7:30pm with a Havdalah service and a brief program, followed by dessert and dancing—bring your dancing shoes. (See page 7 for more information on double chai event.)

Another January birthday worthy of tribute was that of my mother-in-law, Lina Weiss, who turned 95 on January 13.

Lina was born and raised in Germany, her parents having moved there from Poland. As a Polish Jew living among German Jews, she was a minority within a minority. She went to work at 14 and met her future husband, my late father-in-law Saul Weiss, while working with him in the same bakery. Members of Saul's family started leaving Germany in the early '30s. Saul and Lina became engaged shortly before Saul left for New York in 1936. After a few suspenseful months, he was able to bring Lina to join him in 1937. She landed in New York with \$20 in her pocket. They were married within a few days of her arrival, when Lina was just 20 (but "not a child bride" she insisted to me once). America was still in the midst of the Depression, so while Saul continued to work as a baker, Lina took on a variety of jobs, including assembling light switches. During these years, she and Saul lived for some time in Borough Park, the neighborhood of Brooklyn where my parents grew up. Saul was drafted in 1943 and spent close to three years in the army, while Lina worked and took care of her family.

After the war, the Weisses began to achieve some economic stability. It no doubt helped that circumstances had removed them from history's direct line of fire, which had had such an effect on the first part of their lives. They moved to Buffalo in 1954, where Saul made a living by selling cameras and camera equipment at wholesale; it is interesting to reflect that most of the products he sold for two decades do not exist anymore. Eventually they retired to the Washington area, where Lina still lives with a daughter and son-in-law.

Lina has three children and seven grandchildren and she continues to care for and support them all. She enjoys reasonable health, an agile mind, and a passion for Chinese checkers. Her one flaw may be an unaccountable fondness for Fox News. May she live to 120!

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

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Membership: Amy Dain
Leadership Development: Jonathan Rosenthal
Ritual: Laurie Goldman
Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Brozan
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Off-Board Chairs

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Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks and Sharon Sevransky
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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, Barry Ingber, 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, Feb. 10, Mar. 2, Apr. 13, May 4, June 1

6:00pm Candle Lighting and Dinner; 6:45pm Service, 60 Highland Street

Join us for this monthly, fun, musical erev Shabbat service, appropriate for all ages. We begin with candle-lighting 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.

On February 10th, in addition to our usual dinner and service, we will be celebrating Tubishvat (see page 6 for more information).

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45–9:40am

Feb. 11, Mar. 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9

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, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, Apr. 21, and May 12

10:45am–12pm, 60 Highland Street, 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, 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 age 5 and under 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.

Bat Mitzvah of Grace Anna Kellman Fennell

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9:45am

Please join the Kellman family in celebrating as my daughter **Grace Anna** is called to the torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 11, 2012. Grace has been a member of CDT since birth. In fact, her first introduction to our community was at her older brother Isaac's Bar Mitzvah when she was two weeks old! Grace has a younger brother, Amos. Grace is currently a 7th grader at F.A. Day Middle School and has many interests. Grace wants to study fashion design in her college years. She was born with good taste and style and is my personal stylist! Grace is on the dance team at Dance Center of Waltham. Her summers at Camp Med-O-Lark complete her expression of fun, friendship, art and dance. Services start at 9:45 am and will be followed by a Kiddush lunch. Everyone is warmly invited.

—Hope L. Kellmann

Community Shabbat Dinners

Friday, March 9, CDT members' homes

Please save the date, Friday March 9, for our next round of community Shabbat dinners in members' homes. People really enjoyed themselves last month, eating, talking making music together. If you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact **Linda Kramer** at lindalex@earthlink.net. We have found there to be interest in adult-only events, family events, musical events, and are open to other ideas. We also are hoping for geographical diversity, e.g., Watertown, JP, etc.



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.

continued on next page

Shabbat Corner

New Member Shabbat

Saturday, February 4, 9:45am

Please join us on Saturday February 4, 2012 to welcome our newest members.

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.

A brief orientation on the how-tos of Kiddush will take place, appropriately enough, during the Kiddush lunch. Anyone who wants a refresher course is also welcome to do participate.

by Sivan Nasoff

Last week I attended Shabbat services; something I'm able to do a few times each month. While the service was not a special event like a Bar Mitzvah or Shabbat Shira, the ambiance in the room had a powerful effect on me and I took the time to reflect on why that was so.

As a long-standing member (10 years?), a member of the board, and as an acquaintance/friend of many of the people in the room, it was evident to me that our prayer-space held, at that moment, many individuals in the midst of his/her own particular life-cycle event. Some were there in the immediate wake of the death of a family member or friend, others were there to recognize the birth of a grandchild, the anniversary of a Bar Mitzvah, a *yahrzeit*, or another major transition or life-event.

Coincidentally, we also read the final verses of Bereshit (Genesis) before the Torah switches over to Shemot (Exodus). So I had in my head an image of this fleeting lifetime we have on earth, the relentless passage of time and the constant change we all undergo as we spin through the cycle of a life. And it seemed to me that attending Shabbat services, or acknowledging Shabbat each week as one week transitions to the next, is my way of putting my stake in the ground to mark the passage of time, to be present and acknowledge the moment. I imagined myself leaving a trail of these stakes in the ground behind me on my journey. Then I imagined each person with her own path, his own stakes in the ground, and all of the paths intersecting again and again.

Attending services in a community is a way that we can all come together and acknowledge the ways in which our lives intersect, each of us on a slightly different path, at a different point in the cycle, etc. I don't have much more insight than that to share about the experience—but it was deep and powerful for me. And I'm grateful to have a place like CDT to bring me to moments like those.

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 members 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

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 **Louis Chaim Silberberg** and his family on becoming bar mitzvah.

To **Marion Ross** and **Rachel Ross** on the birth of their grandson and nephew, Henry Moses Hardcastle-Ross! Henry came into the world on January 14.

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in January: **Reinhard Engels, Susan Moser, Hankus Netsky, Sue Lanser**—in memory of Dave Snider and Mildred Gerstein Snider, **Nancy Gertz**—in honor of birthdays of loved ones, **Gail Harris, Tony Broh, Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Debbie Isenberg, Lisa Schneier, Barbara & Elliot Pittel**—in honor of Aaron & Dorothy Pittel, **Phyllis & Bill Kantor**—in memory of Phyllis' mother, Sylvia Waltzer.

Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT member **Sheree Galpert**.

Condolences

To **Jen Kaplan**, on the death of her cousin, Remy Kirshner.

To **Stan Meyer**, on the death of his stepfather, Anthony Gatto.

To **Lissy Medvedow** on the death of her father, Leon Medvedow.

May the Source of comfort bring comfort to the entire family, along with all those who mourn.

Yahrzeit

We remember CDT member **Francis Greenberg**, whose 7th yahrzeit falls on February 24, and **Marion Weinberg**, whose 15th yahrzeit falls on February 27. May each of their memories be for a blessing. We will be remembering Francis at Shabbat morning services on February 25, and we will be remembering Marion at Shabbat morning services on March 3.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

For information about the next meeting, watch for an email or check the Dorshei Tzedek web calendar.

Avelut was founded in November 2009 by **Hilary Marcus** and **Andrew Sofer** to support avelim (mourners) as well as those observing the Yahrzeit 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.

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 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.

Tubishvat

Tubishvat, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat, is the "New Year of the Trees." This holiday is an opportunity to appreciate the natural world and reflect on our place in it, while also celebrating the "seven species" traditionally associated with the land of Israel—olives, grapes, wheat, barley, figs, dates, and pomegranate (learn more at <http://judaism.about.com/od/holidays/a/The-Seven-Species.htm>).

Tubishvat falls this year on February 8, and we will celebrate with two special programs that week.

From Tubishvat to Thoreau: How Jewish Prayer Connects us to the Earth

with Rabbi Howard Cohen

Sunday morning, February 5, 10am–noon

60 Highland Street, West Newton

(Co-sponsored by Congregation Shir Hadash)

Every year on Tubishvat, we celebrate the "new year of the trees," and our Jewish connections to the cycles of nature. Join Rabbi Howard Cohen, Jewish wilderness guide and founder of Burning Bush Adventures, for a talk about the connections between Jewish liturgy and the teachings of transcendentalists from Emerson and Thoreau to Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, in an exploration of how Jewish tradition can help us foster our own relationship with the natural world.

Rabbi Howard Cohen is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the former rabbi of JRF affiliate Congregation Beth El in Bennington, VT, and a former Outward Bound program director (as well

as a marvelous teacher, writer, canoe-builder, and volunteer fire fighter).

All-ages Tubishvat Celebration & Erev Shabbat Service

Friday evening, February 10

60 Highland Street

6:00pm candle lighting and dinner; 6:45pm service

At our monthly all-ages service, we will also celebrate the New Year of the Trees! Bring a main dish or salad to share (enough for 15-20 people), and see if you can use one or more of the "seven species" named in the Book of Deuteronomy: olives, grapes, wheat, barley, figs, dates, and pomegranate. There's a great Tubishvat recipe list at www.jewishfood-list.com/recipes/tu_bshevati&tu_bshevati_index.html.

Film Club

Saturday night, Feb. 18

at the home of Emily Sper

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

The film club's next film will be *The Two of Us*. 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.

The Two of Us (Le Vieil Homme et L'enfant) (1967) Not Rated. When Nazi soldiers flood the streets of Paris, a young Jewish boy (Alain Cohen) is sent to live in the relative safety of the French countryside with an elderly Catholic woman and her anti-Semitic

husband (Michel Simon), who warms to the boy while not knowing of his religion. Acclaimed director Claude Berri makes his feature film debut with this semiautobiographical story, laced with comedy and tragedy that is based on his wartime experiences. —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

Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:30–9:00pm

60 Highland Street, Living Room

The women of CDT are invited to welcome the new month of Adar with the Women's Rosh Chodesh Group. This is an opportunity to join with other women for an evening of learning, readings, and, importantly, conversation and community. All CDT women are invited to this special gathering. For more information, please contact **Kristen Petersen**, petersenka@hotmail.com. We look forward to welcoming the new month together.

Save the Date! CDT's Double Chai Event

Saturday, Mar. 24, 7:30pm

FUSN, 1326 Washington Street

Join us in honoring and celebrating the founding and leadership of Rabbi Toba (15 years) and CDT's founders (21 years). 15 plus 21 equals 36 for double "chai"! The following are the Founders we honor and remember: **Rabbi Elaine Pollack, Cindy Shulak and Dan Rome, Ellie and Efrem Goldberg (z"l), Jill Volk (z"l), David Roberts and Sue Fischlowitz Roberts, Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx, Rabbi Herb Tobin, and Steffi Karp.**



We will begin with a Havdalah service, have a short program including a slide show and then dance the night away to a live band with a dessert reception.

Please stay tuned for other activities and tie-ins to the event including a special speaker at Shabbat services.

If you have pictures from anytime over the last 21 years, please send jpgs or hard copies to **Jen Kaplan—jkaplan12@rcn.com**—or mail to 221 Linwood Ave., Newton, MA 02460. More recent pictures are welcome too—we want to provide a slideshow full of the breadth and depth of our community.

Softball Team Opens 2012 Training Camp



Need something to take your mind off the darkness and the cold? How about thoughts of manicured green fields, dazzling royal blue uniforms, and the crack of an aluminum bat on a slowly arcing softball. Yes, men of Dorshei Tzedek, batting practice for the softball team starts in February.

The CDT Men's Softball Team will be entering its 6th season in the Men's Synagogue Softball League this spring. Games are played on Sunday mornings from mid-April to early-June, with playoffs starting in mid-June. The winner of the championship earns the "coveted" Kiddush Cup. Wouldn't you like to be on the team that brings the Kiddush Cup to our congregation?

If you are over 25, a member or the son of a member, can swing the bat and flash some leather, you're on the team.

Join us for Sunday morning batting practice sessions at a local batting cage in February, or outdoor practices in March.

For more information, or to sign up, contact **Elliot Pittel (epittel@comcast.net)**.

Adult Learning & Reflection

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

Mindful Mornings

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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

NOTE: The group will not be meeting on February 23

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.)

Learn to Chant from the Torah

with Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Sunday evenings, Feb, 26, March 18 & 25, April 1 & 15 (and one session TBD)

Learning to chant from the Torah is a powerful way to reclaim the joy of our oral tradition. This six-session class with our very own **Elaine Pollack** will introduce you to The torah trope, or cantillation, and teach you

an easy system to help you prepare to leyn at our Shabbat services.

The class is open to all CDT members who have basic Hebrew reading skills. The participation fee is \$60 for the course (if finances are an obstacle, please let us know). The location will be around Elaine's dining table at 6 Colgate Circle, Newton Lower Falls. Please let **Laurie Goldman** know if you are interested (lgoldman@alum.mit.edu).

From Tubishvat to Thoreau: How Jewish Prayer Connects us to the Earth
with Rabbi Howard Cohen

Sunday, February 5, 10am-noon
See page 6 for more information.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

Summer Fun at Camp JRF – Kids & Families!

Camp JRF is a wonderful overnight camp in the Pocono mountains, for children in grades 3 through 10. The sense of community, immersion in a vibrant, progressive Judaism, and overall fun can't be beat. Many CDT kids have had great experiences at Camp JRF, and Rabbi Toba will be there for a week this summer! For more information, visit www.campjrf.org

Shemesh is a one-week camp experience at Camp JRF for children aged 10-14 with developmental disabilities, including autism, cognitive delays, developmental challenges, and some forms of physical disabilities. The program is run by Sheira Director-Nowack, Associate Director of Camp JRF and all-around fabulous person. For more information, visit <http://www.campjrf.org/parents/shemesh>.

Family Camp—August 15-19, at Camp JRF: Adults and kids are invited to have a camp experience including swimming, sports, arts & crafts, experiential learning, singing and dancing, and much more, highlighted by a special Shabbat. Space is limited, so check this out soon! Visit www.campjrf.org/parents/family-camp for more information.

Scholarships are available for Camp JRF programs from the CDT Camp JRF Scholarship Fund; please contact **Marla Lichtman** in the CDT office for more information.

Natan Sharansky and SAFAM Highlight Birnbaum Lecture

Sunday, March 11, 7:30pm
Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Chestnut Hill

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts is proud to announce that Natan Sharansky, the iconic symbol of the Soviet Jewry movement and current Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), will deliver the 9th annual Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture. Sharansky's talk, entitled "Risks to Our Future: Together We Can Win!"

The Boston-based SAFAM, with their unique Jewish-American sound, will perform several numbers that evening, including Leaving Mother Russia, written 25 years ago about Sharansky's struggle for freedom from Soviet oppression.

For further details, visit www.synagoguecouncil.org or call 617-244-6506.

Tikkun Olam

Family Table Update

by Pamela Schoenberg Reider



Family Table welcomes volunteers one Sunday per month to pack and deliver. Please contact them if you'd like to participate (TMoskowitz@jfcsboston.org).

And remember: this year, our food contributions are **WHOLE GRAIN CEREAL and CANNED VEGETABLES**. Please keep 'em coming. You can drop off the donations in the collection boxes near

the sanctuary or the school.

And one final request: we need drivers to deliver the CDT donations to Family Table. Please go here to sign up: <http://doodle.com/mk9xnkfw2tu7ai3e>

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

CDT Chalkboard

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

Statements, statements, statements!

By the time you read this, you should have received your 2011 donor tax statement from CDT. Donor tax statements are issued to anyone who contributed \$250 or more during 2011. If you have not received yours, or if you have questions about its content, please be in touch with me to discuss—617-965-0330 or administrator@dorsheitzedek.org.

Mid-February, you will also be receiving your next CDT invoice. Please note that tuition payments were due in full on 12/31/11 so please, if you have children in our school and have not yet had the opportunity to make your final tuition payment for the year, please do so now. Dues are to be paid in full by 3/15/12.

As always, if you have questions about your bill, please feel free to contact me. Or, if you have financial concerns or need a personalized payment schedule, please don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Sivan Nasoff at snasoff@hotmail.com or at 617.924.7551. She will be happy to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

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

Michael Cohen

Sue Fischlowitz & David Roberts

Nancy Gertz

Steffi and Eric Karp—*In honor of Rabbi Toba; in honor of being a part of this community of learners and a caring congregation*

Ruth Kraut and Michael Appel

Susan Lanser

Alice Perry and Charles Pillsbury—*In honor of Cindy Rivka Marshall*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In memory of Susannah Zisk; in memory of Steven Paris—brother of Ruth Paris; in memory of Leon Medvedow, father of Lissy Medvedow; in memory of Kayla Moser, mother of Susan Moser; in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Louis Silberberg*

Marion and Robert Ross—*In memory of my father, Benjamin Levenson, and in celebration of the birth of our grandson, Henry Moses Harcastle-Ross.*

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Linda and Peter Katz—*In memory of Vivian Katz*

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

CDT Calendar

February 2012

| 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 | 4 |
| | | | | Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a–9a, 60 Highland St., Library Prayerbook Hebrew with Sandy Goldfless 7p–8:30p FUSN: across from Room 4 Telling Our Stories with Rabbi Toba <i>Members-Only</i> 8p–9:30p, Members Homes in JP | Erev Shabbat Shira Service 7:30p–9p, 60 Highland St., Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary | Welcome New Members Shabbat 9:45a–12p Kiddush 12p–1p 60 Highland St., Sanctuary Fellowship Hall, Room 112 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| From Tubishvat to Thoreau with Rabbi Howard Cohen 10a–12p Our Music Our Heritage 3p–4:30p, 60 Highland St., Living Room Reconstructionist Judaism with Dr. Avi Bernstein 7p–8:30p, 60 Highland St., Library | | | | Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a–9a, 60 Highland St., Library Prayerbook Hebrew with Sandy Goldfless 7p–8:30p FUSN: across from Room 4 Telling Our Stories with Rabbi Toba <i>Members-Only</i> 8p–9:30p, Members Homes in JP | All Ages Tu B'shevat Service & Potluck 6p, 60 Highland St., Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary | Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45a–9:40a, 60 Highland St., Library Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Grace Kellman Fennell 9:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Room 112 Junior Congregation 10:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Room 111 Tot Shabbat 10:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Rooms 111, 112 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Reconstructionist Judaism: A Social & Cultural History with Dr. Avi Bernstein 7p–8:30p, 60 Highland St., Library | | | Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Biography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8p–9:30p, 60 Highland St., Library | Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a–9a, 60 Highland St., Library Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless 7p–8:30p, FUSN: Classroom directly across from Room 4 | | Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Sanctuary Fellowship Hall, Room 112 CDT Film Club "The Two of Us" (France) 6p - Potluck 7p - Film Location TBD |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | | | Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless 7p–8:30p, FUSN: Classroom directly across from Room 4 Rosh Chodesh 7:30p–9p, 60 Highland St., Living Room | | Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Sanctuary Fellowship Hall, Room 112 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | March 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CDT Board Meeting 7:30p, 60 Highland St., Living Room | | | Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7p–9p, 60 Highland St., Room 111 | Mindful Mornings with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:15a–9a, 60 Highland St., Library Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless 7p–8:30p, FUSN: Classroom directly across from Room 4 | All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck 6p, 60 Highland St., Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary | Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a–12p 60 Highland St., Sanctuary Fellowship Hall, Room 112 |

Kiddush Assignments

Erev Shabbat 2/3: Ellen Pashall / Debbie Waber / Noam Shore

Shabbat 2/4: Mark Paley / Amy Mazur / Doug Hersh / Janice Cole

Erev Shabbat 2/10: Emily Shumsky / Misha Dudnik / Rachel Zakuta / Irena Fayngold - in honor of Rosalia Michailovna Padolskia

Shabbat 2/11: Ushers: Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess
Sanctuary Cleanup: Jan Gortler Small / Elizabeth Roll
Setup: Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere / Dan Halbert / David Reider / Meg Wilcox & Bob Warren
Cleanup: Carole Slipowitz / Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman / Ora Grodsky / Lisa Dee Port White / Elaine Pollack

Shabbat 2/18: Karen Arnold / Louise Enoch / Ellie Baron & Kate deBethune

Shabbat 2/25: Andrew Schiff (in honor of Jack Schiff) & Susan Manheim (in honor of Charles Manheim) / Kristen Petersen / Rick Glassman

Erev Shabbat 3/2: Ellen White - in honor of John S. White / Haralie Alpert - in honor of Francis Greenberg / Allison Andrews / Thea Breite

Shabbat 3/3: Esther Kohn - in honor of Priva Kohn / Mark Bronstein / Alissa & Gerry Leonard

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.

Religious School News

by **Annette Lawson, Education Director**

Families were the focus in January as our students learned about their families and with their families.

One evening in January, our Kitah Zayin (7th grade) class, led by their teacher, **Adina Mailick**, transformed their classroom into a Jewish "heritage museum". The class had been studying Eastern European Jewry and immigration to the United States. As part of their studies, the students explored their own families' experiences. Students conducted interviews of relatives and, working with their parents, created family trees and gathered family photos and "artifacts" from their families' pasts. The students assembled all of this into displays about their families' history. Some displays even included samples of family recipes! Parents were invited to class to see the displays as students answered questions about what they learned about their families. Did you know that the family trees of our Kitah Zayin students include an art dealer from Germany, the founder of Breakstone cream cheese, and a young Jewish woman who lived in Vermont and was awarded a trophy for horseback riding by General Pershing! *Kol hakavod* (good work!) to Kitah Zayin and Morah Adina.

As part of Project LO'X (Learning Outside the boX), our pilot program for 1st-3rd graders and their families, we are experimenting in moving learning outside the classroom and giving children

and parents an opportunity to learn more about Shabbat by experiencing it together in new ways. Families gather one Friday night each month to learn about a different element of erev Shabbat practice and to celebrate erev Shabbat together. Some months this happens in connection with the all-ages erev Shabbat service (LO'X@shul) other months at the homes of Project LOX families (LO'X@home).

January was a month for LO'X@home. Families gathered at three different homes to celebrate the home rituals of erev Shabbat, lighting candles, blessing children, reciting Kiddush and hamotzi, and having dinner together. At each home was a CDT staffer or two (including **Rabbi Toba**, community educator **Adam Lavitt**, teachers **Dale Norman** and **Vered Schreiber** and myself) as well as member **Bill Shorr** to facilitate the study sessions. After dinner, the adults studied the text of the Kiddush blessing and discussed the themes of liberation and creation found in it. While the adults talked, a staffer led the children in a parallel learning activity, including making their own Kiddush cups. Children and parents then joined together to share their learning and think about how they could apply it in their own families. The evening, shared with family and friends, was a wonderful way to experience the beauty and joy of Shabbat, in a way that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.



Address correction requested



Save the Date: Purim is Coming!

Wednesday, March 7, 7–9:00pm

Our annual Purim celebration will once again feature a fabulous Megillah reading, sparkling costume parade, hilarious and timely Spiel, tasty hamentaschen, dance party, and more!!

Mark your calendars now, more info to come.