



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

NEWSLETTER

Adar/Nissan 5772

March 2012

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Inspiration in Immokalee

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

To learn more about the CIW, visit www.ciw-online.org, and come hear about Rabbi Toba's trip at the CDT Members' Meeting on March 11.



I DIDN'T KNOW what to expect when I went to visit the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) with a delegation from Rabbis for Human Rights. Since Dorshei Tzedek became involved with CIW's Fair Food Campaign two years ago, I've learned that this farmworker organization has had remarkable success in getting major retailers who purchase tomatoes—from Taco Bell and Burger King to Whole Foods and Trader Joe's—to sign on to a Code of Conduct to improve field working conditions, and to pay a premium of a penny per pound of tomatoes that goes directly to the farmworkers. I've participated in a wintry march to a local Stop & Shop, gone on delegations to local Trader Joe's outlets, and even met with the VP for Corporate Responsibility of the Ahold Company, the parent corporation of Stop & Shop. But what exactly would I experience in Immokalee?

Immokalee is an unincorporated town in southwest Florida, near many of the tomato fields that provide the majority of winter tomatoes eaten east of the Mississippi. During the growing season, it is home to thousands of migrant workers. In the late 1990s, some of those farmworkers began to protest horrific conditions in the tomato fields—conditions which, in some cases, descended into outright slavery. We visited the Farmworker Modern Slavery Museum, a portable exhibit organized by the CIW. We saw chains that had held migrant workers captive, and read newspaper accounts of workers being locked into trailers and having their shoes taken away overnight to prevent escape. The CIW, working with the Department of Justice, has been instrumental in exposing these cases of human trafficking, freeing over 1,000 people from slavery since 1999. Since the 2002 launching of its "Fair Food Campaign," the CIW has won historic concessions from the Florida tomato industry, and is finally eliminating the kinds of abuses that provided fertile soil for slavery.

I was also able to experience the CIW's creative, fun approach to campaigning for fair food. Our little group of rabbis planned and participated in two actions: an abbreviated "pray-in" over the tomatoes at a local Publix (the manager ushered us outside rather

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quickly!), and the installation of a symbolic “mezuzah” on the doorpost of a soon-to-be-opened Trader Joe’s, with a blessing calling on the supermarket to chain to “establish justice.” At least one of those actions was successful—the day after we returned from our trip, Trader Joe’s signed on to the Fair Food Agreement!

In Immokalee, I saw firsthand what powerful, inspirational—and successful—grassroots organizing looks like. Membership in the CIW is free and open to anyone who is a farmworker. Its staff are current and former farmworkers. The group holds open meetings every Wednesday to which all members are invited. At these meetings, the staff engages the members, mostly immigrants from Mexico, Haiti, and Guatemala, in creative analysis of the issues they face and strategies for moving the Campaign forward. Through a consensus process, they decide on actions—whether a bike ride from Immokalee to a new Trader Joe’s, a hunger strike in response to the Publix chain’s refusal to sign on to the Fair Food agreement, or a trip to some far-off locale like Boston. As I remarked to one of our hosts from an ally organization, Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida, “Americans would have no patience for this!” Every proposed action goes through weeks and even months of discussion, until everyone who participates is on board. It is time consuming, but it means every step has the full commitment of the membership behind it. Ally organizations—including Interfaith Action and the Student-Farmworker Alliance, which organize in the faith community and on college campuses—bring folks like me into the mix, to add needed voices and pressure.

I learned in Immokalee that is indeed possible for the poorest, least powerful people in our society to achieve victories that those with many more resources could barely imagine. Not one tomato grower or major retailer entered into dialogue with the CIW without facing intense pressure, and one by one, they have realized that it is ultimately in their best interest to do the right thing. With its belief in the leadership potential of every person no matter how poor or uneducated, in the possibility of respectful alliances across ethnicity and class, and in the basic decency of human beings at each end of the food supply chain, the CIW has inspired me to believe that, when it comes to achieving justice, anything is possible.



Photo: Rabbi Toba with the Rabbis for Human Rights outside a Trader Joe’s in Immokalee, Florida.

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: Corinne Lofchie and Mei See Sandson
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, 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: 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/veggie 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
Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12, and June 9, Library*

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, Mar. 10, Apr. 21, and May 12
10:45am–12pm, Room 111*

This is a fun, participatory service for 3rd through 6th graders (kids only!), led by **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, 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.

Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

Saturday, Mar. 24, 9:45am

Mordechai Liebling, Director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and the guest rabbi at the very first High Holydays services organized by the founders of CDT (and brother of CDT member **Linette Liebling**), will be joining us as a special guest speaker. Mordechai has been involved in the Reconstructionist movement for many years, and will share his insights and teachings with us during the Torah service.

Community Shabbat Potluck Dinners

Friday, March 9, CDT members' homes

Enjoy the opportunity to welcome Shabbat and share a good meal in the company of CDT members! We have 4 Shabbat potlucks planned so far. You can sign up by going to the website. **Ellen Hemley** and **Mark Bronstein** are hosting a dinner for adults at their home in Newton. (They can accommodate 10). They have a dog and a cat. **Becca Gutman** and her son **Nuri** are hosting a musical family Shabbat in Roslindale. All are welcome, and please bring guitars and/or *Rise Up Singing* books. **Ellie Goldberg** is hosting dinner at her home in Newton for 6–8 “Women of a Certain Age.” Please bring a vegetarian dish, and contact Ellie about what you plan to bring. **Allison and David Lobron** are hosting up to three families with young children, in Newton. They have no pets and no dietary restrictions, but prefer veggie. If you are interested in hosting this time (it may not be too late), or next, please contact **Linda Kramer** at lindalex@earthlinknet.

Bat Mitzvah of Allison Frances Robbins

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:45am

Please join us on March 10 when our daughter, **Allison**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. In the seventh grade at Brown Middle School in Newton, Allison is a creative, thoughtful person, a good friend, and a great younger sister to Charlotte. She enjoys soccer and the flying trapeze. She likes to sing, to dance, and to participate in musicals at Watertown Children's Theatre. For her Tikkun Olam project she has collected supplies for Occupy Boston, Family Table, and Cradles to Crayons. We look forward to sharing this day with the CDT community. Please join us for services and Kiddush luncheon.

—**Lisa Goodwin Robbins and Andrew Robbins**

Bat Mitzvah of Tema Bliss Siegel

Saturday, March 17, 2012, 9:45am

Please join us on March 17 to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter **Tema**. Her parsha is *P'kudei*, and describes the construction of the Tabernacle. Tema fulfilled a CDT destiny 2 years ago when, in the title role of Annie in a Newton Youth Player's production, she sang “The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow” after first publicly belting this at age three on a CDT retreat. Her love of performance led to her Tikkun Olam project volunteering with the Spotlighters, a musical production program for youth and adults with disabilities. Tema, far more organized than the rest of her family, attends 7th grade at Oak Hill, plays sax in two school bands, performs in youth theater, plays soccer, and sings in the Newton Troubadors. We are delighted to share this day with the Dorshei community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch following services.

—**Steve Siegel and Theresa St. John-Siegel**

Board Meeting Notes

The CDT Board met on Sunday evening, January 22. **Paul Hattis** opened with a d'var on the parashat Bo, describing how Moses and Aaron "come" reluctantly to a meeting with Pharaoh. It is hoped that board members feel instead that they "go" eagerly to each monthly meeting. **Sivan Nasoff** then reported for the Finance Committee that we are on budget for the year to date. President **Peter Katz** reported that the Sabbatical Committee is considering how to make sure all tasks are covered during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical portion later this year

(October to January). A portion of CDT's sabbatical fund will be used for guest scholars and leaders and related purposes. **Laurie Goldman** of the Ritual Committee noted that for the most part Shabbat services will be lay-led and not substitute-led in Toba's absence. This an opportunity for us all to step up and become more involved in leyning, giving d'vars, and becoming service leaders. **Jen Kaplan** and **Linette Liebling** reported that the committee for this Spring's Double Chai event has been busy arranging a caterer, a band, and invitations, as well as home baby-

sitting assistance for those attending the adults-only event. **Sharon Sevransky** and **Jeff Sacks** reported on this year's Nativ Lev kickoff with a goal of \$74K, the same as last year. Ed Director **Annette Lawson** then led a discussion of Project LO"X. A CJP grant has helped fund a community educator and support developing a more family-based and Shabbat-centered curriculum. Initial feedback has been very positive, giving us much to think about in terms of how our school can improve and grow.

Purim

Wednesday, March 7, 7–9pm

**First Unitarian Society,
1326 Washington Street**

Purim is coming! This is the one time during the year when we're commanded to get wild and crazy – so come join the fun! Join Rav Tiffany and the CDT Spielers for our yearly Purim bash, featuring:

- **Costume parade** (prizes for kids and adults in costume – comes as you wannna be!)
- **Purim davvening** with Rav Tiffany
- **Megillah reading** (give a shout when you hear You-Know-Who's name!)
- **Young children's** activities
- **The Purim Spiel** (featuring Mordechai, Esther, and the rest of the 99%...)
- **Purim dance party**, and hamantaschen galore!

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



Matanot l'evyonim—It is also traditional to give gifts of food to those in need on Purim. We have two opportunities to give this Purim: bring along cash or your checkbook for a donation to **Yad Chessed**, the Boston Jewish free loan society that distributes food vouchers to Jewish families in need on Purim day—dependent on how much participating congregations collect on Purim! In addition, **please bring an offering for Family Table** for a special Passover collection—**Kosher for Passover matzah meal, and/or our usual donations of canned vegetables and whole grain cereal.**

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 night, March 10 at the home of
Jen Kaplan & Susie Tanchel
Potluck dinner at 6:00pm, Movie at 7:00pm*

The film club's next film will be *Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger*. For the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Jen and Susie keep a kosher home so any potluck items should be dairy/vegetarian. 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.

Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger (Australia, 2008 PG-13): A total outcast at her private school, Esther (Danielle Catanzariti) suffocates under her mother's (Essie Davis) constant pressure at home. But after forming an unlikely friendship with well-liked Sunni (Keisha Castle-Hughes), Esther starts taking daring risks and suddenly becomes popular. A smart, good-natured comedy about learning to be yourself, this Australian coming-of-age story also features Toni Collette. -- Netflix

We are 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.

Members' Meeting

*Sunday, March 11
Pizza dinner at 5:30pm, Meeting at 6:15pm*

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

We hope at least one member from every CDT household will be able to make this important meeting, where we will begin planning for Rabbi Toba's 2012 sabbatical. Rabbi Toba will be off from mid-October 2012 through mid-January 2013. Come

learn more about what is planned for her time away, and how you can help make it a time of learning and growth for the congregation!

Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

Saturday, March 24, 9:45am

Please join us for a special Shabbat morning service with Mordechai Liebling, Director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. See page 3 for more details.

CDT Double Chai Gala

Saturday, March 24, 7:30pm

*First Unitarian Society,
1326 Washington Street, West Newton*

Think of a joyous moment you've experienced as a member of the CDT community. Was it during services, a retreat, a Tot Shabbat? Playing softball or attending Rosh Chodesh? The Film Club? Our wonderful community engages us in so many ways. Now we have a unique opportunity to honor the people who created, nurtured, and built this community. CDT Members and the larger community are coming together to celebrate CDT's first 21 years plus Rabbi Toba's 15 years with the congregation, which add up to 36 – "Double Chai"!

Please join us for our Double Chai Gala Event honoring our founders and Rabbi Toba's inspiring leadership. In addition to celebrating these individuals, this event is also an opportunity for the CDT community, and its friends, to raise money to help sustain and enhance our vibrant and caring community. Our goal is to raise \$25,000. Thus far we have raised \$14,000; we need your help to meet our significant goal.

We hope to see you at the gala, and please make whatever donation you

can to a community that gives us all so much.

Join us as we honor CDT's founders **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 and Rabbi Toba** for a special evening that begins with a Havdalah service and short program including a slide show, all followed by dessert and dancing with the band "Hush"! Tickets and donation opportunities are available on-line, please go to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/gala>. Support Dorshei Tzedek and have a great time, all on one night! This is an adult event, but we are making a limited amount of free babysitting available to CDT members – please contact **Alison Lobron** (auderial@yahoo.com, 617 332-0780).

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 her home (address available on the online members' list). More recent pictures are welcome too—we want to provide a slideshow full of the breadth and depth of our community.

Rosh Chodesh

*Tuesday, March 27, 7:30–9:00pm,
Living Room*

The women of CDT are invited to welcome the new month of Nissan with the Women's Rosh Chodesh Group. This is an opportunity to join with CDT women for an evening of learning, readings, and, importantly, conversation and community. All CDT women are invited. For more information or if you have questions, please contact **Kristen Petersen**, petersenka@hotmail.com.

Adult Learning & Reflection

Mindful Mornings

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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

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, Mar. 18 & 25, Apr. 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 in Newton. Please let **Laurie Goldman** know if you are interested (lgoldman@alum.mit.edu).

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

Parents are involved in a variety of ways in our school. On Saturday mornings, parents join their children to celebrate Shabbat in our minyan and Shabbat Circle. Parents also participate in adult learning as part of Project LO"X and take part in various family learning activities for grades 1-7.

We are fortunate that parents have opened their homes to other school families to host erev Shabbat dinners. Other parents serve as "kitah captains" (class parents) helping to organize class dinners and year-end celebrations, some organize and supervise the before-class dinners for our 7th and 8th graders, and others volunteer to drive, making field trips possible for our students. Parent participation enriches our school experience and communicates to our

children the importance of Jewish education.

There has been, however, no working Education Committee for the past two years, so I have missed having an ongoing group of parents to advise me as questions arise. There are two areas in which I would really appreciate parental input in the next few months, as I would like to consider these issues to see if any new policies or changes in our school practice are needed before the beginning of our next school year.

First, as the use of electronic media constantly expands, our school has no policies in place to advise our staff as to their helpful and appropriate use. For example, what role should email, texts, tweets, Facebook updates, blogs, etc. have in communication between teachers and students? Do parents have any info to share about how this is

handled in their children's secular schools or, for those of you who are teachers, in the schools you work in? What do you think works well, and what doesn't?

Second, I would value parental input to consider safety procedures in our school. This is not a response to a particular problem, but an attempt to be proactive in looking at different aspects of school safety, like fire drills, dismissal practices, etc.

I encourage parents and other CDT members who have interest or expertise in these topics to be in touch with me to share their thoughts. Your involvement can be as brief as a phone call or an email. You can contact me at school@dorsheitzedek.org or **617-965-5443**.

Is there another way you would like to be involved in the school? Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss your interest!

Chesed

Care for the Caregiver

*Sunday, April 1, 4:00pm
at the home of Judy Hersh*

On Sunday, April 1 at 4:00pm, the Chesed committee will be holding a tea for those of us dealing with difficult caregiving situations. We'll share stories, resources, ideas for self-care and laughter over tea and a roaring fire. Contact **Judy** at judyhersh@comcast.net or **Ellen Pashall** at elpashall@aol.com to RSVP.

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 or 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.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617.965.0330) or Corinne Lofchie (clofchie@gmail.com) and Mei See Sandson (thesandsons@rcn.com) of the Chesed Committee. For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential.

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/>.

Mazel Tov

To **Grace Fennell** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

To CDT Hebrew teacher **Michael Singer** and **Kerrin Wood**, on the birth of their son, Asher Cai.

Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT member **Sheree Galpert**, and to **Ruby Gan** and her parents, **Valerie Graf & Doron Gan**.

Condolences

To **Caroline Fine**, on the death of her mother, Sarah Fine.

To **Elaine Pollack**, on the death of her father, Jack Friedlander.

To **Barry Ingber**, on the death of his mother, Beatrice Ingber.

To **Sharon Gorberg**, on the death of her mother, Sylvia Gorberg.

May the Source of comfort bring comfort to the all of the mourners in our community.

Yahrzeit

We will be remembering CDT member **Marion Weinberg** at Shabbat morning services on March 3, on the occasion of her 15th yahrzeit, which fell this year on February 27.

We remember **Muriel Budd**, mother of CDT member **Harriet Budd**, whose first yahrzeit falls on March 9. May her memory be for a blessing. We will be remembering Muriel at Shabbat morning services on March 10.

Thank You

I am most grateful to the Dorshei Tzedek community for the wonderful support you offered me after my dad's death in mid-February. I had help with every aspect of shivah, from setting up my home, to meals, sweets and clean-up, to attending the minyan. I was warmed and comforted by your care. —**Elaine Pollack**

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

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.)

Tikkun Olam

by Alex Sugerman-Brozan

FOUR AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS receive food stamps (technically called the “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”). The food stamp program is critical to ensuring that millions of low-income families get enough to eat. But it has become a political football and an easy target for pandering political candidates in the past year. 93% of food stamp benefits go to people below the federal poverty line (which drastically undercounts the number of people in poverty) and 47% go to children.

The average food stamp benefit is \$4.50 per person per day, or \$1.50 per meal. Could you live on a food stamp budget? Could you eat healthfully on a food stamp budget? What would you have to give up? What hard choices would you have to make?

Join us in the week of March 25–31 to find out. CDT Households will be committing to spending no more on food than an average food stamp allotment for their families for a week. This is a good way to get a sense—albeit a self-imposed, and very temporary one—of what it’s like to try to feed a family adequately and healthfully on such a small amount of money.

We’ll begin the week with a showing of “Food Stamped,” a documentary film following a couple as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet on a food stamp budget. (Watch the trailer at www.foodstamped.com). Folks participating will be asked to write about their experience during the week on a group blog that will be available for others to view.

At a time when one in five children in the U.S. and one in six households are at risk for hunger, and during an economic recession when millions are out of work, the Food Stamp Challenge can help us begin to think about what impacts decisions about programs like food stamps have on low-income people and our communities. The week we are doing the Challenge is shortly before Pesach, a time when we use symbols of food to think and talk about oppression and freedom. The Challenge can help start a dialogue in our families and our community about these important issues and what we can do about them.

To sign up for the Food Stamp Challenge, if you have questions, or if you want to help organize it, please email tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org. To learn more about the Challenge, visit <http://is.gd/cdtfoodstamp>.



Join us in the week of March 25–31: CDT Households will be **committing to spending no more on food than an average food stamp allotment** for their families for a week.

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 at 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 (jomela@rcn.com or 617-244-3373).



ask lisa dee

Dear Members,

I've received a few questions regarding our Double Chai Gala Event so I thought I would try to answer some of the questions that have come my way.

What is this all about, really?

Well that's a very good question. The Double Chai Gala Event is a celebration of the founding members of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek—which was established 21 years ago--and Rabbi Toba's 15 years of service to the congregation—which add up to 36, or "double chai" (twice 18). This is about recognition of the vision of our founders and of Rabbi Toba's leadership, , and a celebration of how far we have come as a congregation.

What exactly are we fundraising for?

It's not sexy. We are fundraising for the same reason every other non-profit organizations fundraise: to

cover our operating expenses and make sure we have enough of a prudent reserve for the future. We are trying something new.

This doesn't seem like our usual fundraising event, what's that about?

Our usual fundraising events have focused on raising money from our own congregants—we rely on our yearly Nediv Lev contributions beyond our dues to make our budget (pay our professionals, keep that eternal light burning, rent, heat, etc.). The CDT Board decided that we would try what many other congregations and other non-profits do: offer the larger community as well as our own CDT community the mitzvah of honoring our founders and rabbi by making contributions to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.

This is also about fun. This is a get-dressed-up-hear-a-few-brief-words-say-Havdallah-then-boogie-the-

night-away-grown-up event. This is a get-a-sitter night out.

This is kind of helpful, but I have some more questions, whom should I call?

Jen Kaplan is the chair of this event's committee. You can email questions to her at jkaplan12@rcn.com.

Are you going? And, what are you wearing?

Of course I'm going! I'm not sure what I'm going to wear yet...the invite calls for festive attire. I'm thinking tinsel.

Cheers, lisa dee

Have a question for the Ask Lisa Dee column? Anything you want to know about CDT? Anything you want to know about anything? I'll do my best to get you the answers. Contact me at ldpw@rcn.com.

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

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.

Greater Boston Jewish Community

Natan Sharansky and SAFAM Highlight Birnbaum Lecture

Sunday, Mar. 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!"

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

CDT Calendar

March 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.				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners 7p-8:30p, FUSN	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
Purim Spiel rehearsal 1-4p, Fellowship Hall Music Class 3p-4:30p, Room 111 Class: Reconstructionist Judaism Workshop 7p-8:30p, Library			Purim Party 7p-9p, FUSN: Parish Hall, downstairs kitchen, Children's Chapel	Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners 7p-8:30p, FUSN	Shabbat at Members' Homes contact laurie.goldman@tufts.edu for info Kitot Hay & Vav Shul-In 6p-9:30a Rm 111, kitchen	Shabbat Morning Torah Study 8:45a-9:40a, Library Service & Bat Mitzvah of Allison Robbins 9:45a-12p Junior Congregationm Rm 111 CDT film club "Esther Blueberger" 6p potluck, 7p movie. see p5 for details
Members' Meeting & Dinner 5:30p-8:15p, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall; Childcare Room 112				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library		Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Tema Siegel 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112 Tot Shabbat 10:45a-12p, Rooms 110, 112
Class: Reconstructist Judaism Workshop 7p-8:30p, Library			CDT Board Meeting 7:30p, Library	Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library		Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112 Double Chai Gala Event! 7:30p-11:45p, FUSN: Parish Hall and the downstairs kitchen
Making our way from Passover to Shavuot - A Community Learning Program for all ages 2:30p-5p, FUSN		Rosh Chodesh 7:30p-9p, Living Room		Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library Spiritual Autobiography Workshop 8p-9:30p, members' homes in Jamaica Plain		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112 (Rabbi Toba off)
Care for the Caregiver home of Judy Hersh, 4p				Mindful Mornings 8:15a-9a, Library		Shabbat Morning Service (Passover) 9:45a-12p, Fellowship Hall, Room 112

Kiddush Assignments

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: Andrea Jacobs, Mark Bronstein, Alissa & Gerry Leonard

Purim Party 3/7:

Setup: Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg

Cleanup: Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Jeff Goldman, Suki Tepperberg-Stolow, Jeremy Price, Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider, Idit Klein, Carol Sklar, Sandy Goodman

Shabbat, Bat Mitzvah of Allison Robbins 3/10:

Ushers: Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

Sanctuary Cleanup: Elizabeth & David Roll

Members' Meeting & Dinner 3/11: Kate McNally Hoffman, Emily Shumsky, James Kaplan, Esther Kohn - in honor of Priva Kohn

Shabbat, Bat Mitzvah of Tema Siegel 3/17:

Ushers: Jan Gortler Small, Amelia Zalcman

Sanctuary Cleanup: Rachel Nemeth Cohen & Richard Cohen

Shabbat 3/24: Matilda & Ed Bruckner, Corinne Lofchie, Jacqui Fleischman

Shabbat 3/31: Cheryl & Jeff Sacks, Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

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.

Chesed, continued from page 7

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.

Todah Rabah

A huge thank you to **Hankus Netzky** and **Terry Traub**, for adding so much to our Shabbat Shira celebration!

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in January and February: **Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Elaine Landes, Doug Hersh, Marla & Gabby Cummins, Peter Shapiro, Richard & Lily Fisher Gomberg, Susan Nitkin, Linda Kramer, Stacey Chacker, Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere, Bonnie Tenniferiello & Andrew Sofer, Ellen Pashall, Debbie Waber, Noam Shore, Laurie Schloff, Hilary Marcus, Trish Nuzola, Emily Shumsky, Misha Dudnik, Rachel Zakuta, Paul Schimek**—in memory of Lucy Schimek, **Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Jan Gortler-Small, Elizabeth Roll, Karen Arnold, Louise Enoch, Ellie Baron & Kate DeBethune.**

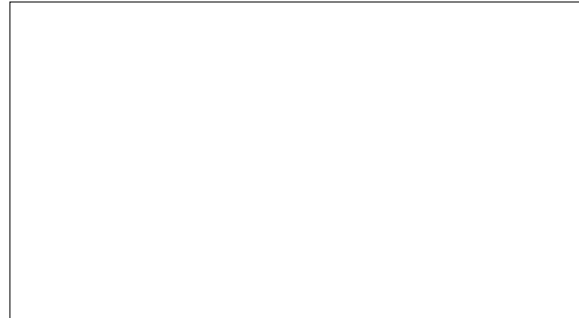
Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.



Photo: Kids and Rav Tiffany (Rabbi Toba), Purim



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

Nancy Gertz

Ora Grodsky and Jonathan Rosenthal

Allison and Ezra Hausman

Linda and Peter Katz

Sivan Nasoff—*In memory of Susannah Zisk*

Tess Siegel—*In memory of Dr. Robert Lange; in memory of Susannah Zisk; in memory of my parents, Rose & Morton Wishengrad.*

Deborah Waber—*In honor of the founders and all our leader in this Double Chai year*

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alissa and Gerry Leonard—*In gratitude for the guidance and support of Rabbi Toba and the support of the entire DT congregation during Susannah's illness and passing.*

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