



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

## NEWSLETTER

Tamuz/Av/Elul 5772 July/August 2012

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465  
617-965-0330 | [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org) | [info@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:info@dorsheitzedek.org)

## Reflections on the Year Past

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

"It was my first experience of Africa and an opportunity for grappling with the profound disparities between what I saw there and my life here."



Photo from American Jewish World Service



**AS WE HEAD** into the summer, I am reflecting back on what has been an incredibly full year at Dorshei Tzedek, for me personally and for the congregation as a whole. I have been reviewing this past year's newsletters, and it is amazing to see in print the many things the community has been engaged in since the beginning of 5772. A huge thank you to the newsletter staff for providing this beautiful record of our all of our doings!

As we came into the new year, I was a few weeks removed from my trip to Ghana with the American Jewish World Service. It was my first experience of Africa and an opportunity for grappling with the profound disparities between what I saw there and my life here. I appreciated the interest that so many CDT members had in the trip and the conversations I was able to engage in the weeks and months that followed. It was soon after that experience that rumblings here in the U.S. about growing inequality

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erupted into the Occupy movement. In the November newsletter I wrote about my visit to “Occupy Sukkot,” and other members shared about their experiences at Dewey Square. CDT’s commitment to social justice continued throughout the year, at protests at Trader Joe’s as part of the Fair Food Campaign of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, during the Food Stamp Challenge this spring, and in our ongoing commitment to Family Table and participation in the Sindyanna olive oil project, supporting Israeli Palestinian farmers and Jewish-Palestinian co-existence within Israel.

It was also a year of learning at Dorshei, for adults and kids. In the fall we kicked off Project LO”X (Learning Outside the boX”) for our first-third grade families. With the support of Combined Jewish Philanthropy, the staff and the families explored what is best learned where and when, as we brought learning about Shabbat into members’ homes on Shabbat, and took some of the kids’ classroom learning both into their parents’ learning and into action in the home, the synagogue and the world. In the adult realm, Lori Lefkowitz brought her insight and humor to a wonderful three-session class, “Frontiers of Gender and Judaism”; we had our very first Men’s Shabbaton; we sponsored an exploration of the cultural roots of Reconstructionist Judaism with Avi Bernstein and a musical workshop with Hankus Netsky, and we had another wonderful Spiritual Autobiography class. And I was delighted to have a stalwart crew join me early on Thursday mornings for instruction in mindfulness practice.

Turning the pages of our newsletter, I was struck by the energy and creativity of our membership in so many endeavors—the Film Club, softball team, Rosh Chodesh group, erev Shabbat home dinners, Avelut group, the wonderful Havdallah on the Water event at the end of Shabbat Unplugged. In cyberspace, our new website reflects the incredibly hard work of our Web Committee and Communications mavens. This energy, creativity and commitment reached its peak at the wonderful “Double Chai” Gala Celebration this past March. **Jen Kaplan** and her committee spearheaded an incredible effort that not only netted \$27,000 for the congregation, but gave us an opportunity to celebrate our founders, to honor my time here, and to dance!

As in the life of any person or group, there were also disappointments and losses this year. I had hoped we would sponsor our second congregational trip to Israel this past February, but unfortunately we were unable to get the requisite number of people to sign on for the trip. And we suffered two heartbreaking losses as a community: the death of **Susannah Zisk**, an active and beloved member, at the far-too-young-age of 47, this past December; and more recently, the death of **David Levi Keimowitz Crozier**, the infant son of Jessica Keimowitz and Polly Crozier. Both of these losses, as well as the deaths of parents and other family members experienced by congregants this year, have been opportunities to make tangible our commitment to being a caring community. The countless acts of chesed that happen in the course of a year at CDT are remarkable, and we owe many thanks to our Chesed Coordinators for making it possible for so many to do acts of kindness.

It would take another few pages to continue to list all that happened at CDT this past year, so I won’t even attempt it! Instead, a note looking forward. This summer marks my and Gina’s transition to empty-nester-hood, as Zoe heads off to the University of Michigan at the end of August. After the holidays, in mid-October, I will take a three-month sabbatical (arriving back at CDT in mid-January). I will write more about what will be happening during the sabbatical—both for me and for the congregation—in the fall, but for now, I want to wish all of us a relaxing and renewing summer, and once again express my appreciation for everyone in this community.

## 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

### Rabbi Toba Spitzer Staff

Education Director: Annette Lawson

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner

Community Educator: Adam Lavitt

### Executive Committee

President: Peter Katz

Past President: Paul Hattis

VP Finance: Sivan Nasoff

VP Membership: Marla Cummins

Secretary: Lisa Dee Port White

### Board Chairs

Education: Bill Shorr

Communications: Danielle Klainberg

Membership: Amy Dain

Leadership Development:

Laurie Gould

Ritual: Laurie Goldman

Tikkun Olam: Jonathan Rosenthal

Members-at-large: Louise

Enoch, Jake Weinberg

### Off-Board Chairs

Chesed: Lisa Goodwin-

Robbins and Susan Manheim

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Newsletter: Tim Rosa

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy

Shulak-Rome

Space Liaison: Noam Shore

Website: Stan Fleischman

## CDT Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly except a combined summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to [dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org) by the 15th of the month for the following month’s issue.

### Volunteer Staff

Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Deb Albenberg, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Rachel Ross, Vivienne Shein, Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Tim Rosa (Chair)

# 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. Childcare is provided every Shabbat morning.

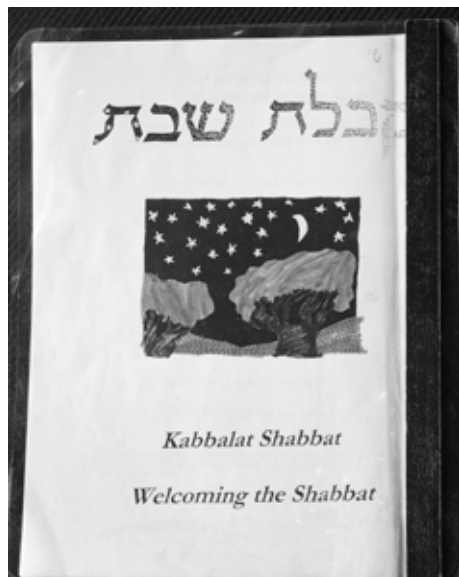


Photo by Vivienne Shein

## Shabbat Services Summer Schedule

*July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25*

In the months of July and August, Shabbat morning services will be held every other week, from 9:45am to noon, in our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street. **There will be services on July 14 and 28, and on August 11 and 25.**

## All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck

*Friday, August 10*

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

Join us for this kid-friendly, musical erev Shabbat service – we'll have just one over the summer! We begin with candle-lighting at 6:00pm, and a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad to share, enough for 15-20 people – drinks and dessert are provided). Services begin at 6:45pm.

## Labor Day Shabbat

*Saturday, September 1, 9:45am–noon*

## Jews at Work: Unfolding Stories of Generations

Do you ever get a chance to talk about your work in a Jewish context?

What is your own work history, and the work histories of your parents and/or your children?

What is the history of Jews in relationship to labor? How has that relationship changed?

We will celebrate Labor Day Weekend at Shabbat morning services with special guest **Marya Axner**, director of the New England Jewish Labor Committee, who will engage us in discussion during the Torah service and also facilitate a discussion during Kiddush lunch for all interested in expanding on this discussion.

# Adult Learning & Reflection

## Ikkarim: Parenting Through a Jewish Lens

*Registration is open for Fall 2012  
Sunday evenings, 7:30-9:00pm*

Dorshei Tzedek will be a site for this popular 10-week program that brings together caring parents and expert facilitators. This program, for parents of children aged 0-10, explores core values (ikkarim) that can strengthen your family. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn with expert instructors who understand your concerns as a parent, and to enjoy rich conversations on topics that matter. To register for the class, please go to <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting.html>, and look for the Dorshei Tzedek site.

## Me'ah

*Registration open for Fall 2012  
Tuesday evenings/ 7:00-9:45pm  
JCC Newton*

Beginning in October 2012, CDT is sponsoring Me'ah, 100 hours of intensive adult Jewish learning, over the course of two years. The curriculum delves into classic Jewish texts and the development of Jewish civilization from the Biblical period to today. Our instructor will be **Rabbi Natan Margalit**, an

experienced and creative Jewish educator. For more information about the program, visit [www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah); to register, go to the CDT website and click on "Learning" on the top menu.



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

# Community News

## Todah Rabah to Outgoing Board and Off-Board Chairs

At the June Members' Meeting, we honored and thanked the members who have served CDT so wonderfully both on the Board and in off-Board positions. These included:

**Paul Hattis** (Past President), **Josh Lieberman** (Secretary and Space Liaison), **Jen Kaplan** (Board Member At Large and Coordinator of the Double Chai Gala), **Linette Liebling** (Member At Large and Chesed Coordinator), **Susan Silberberg** (Communications Co-Chair), **Alex Sugerman-Brozan** (Tikkun Olam), **Jeff Sacks** (Nediv Lev Chair), **Ora Gladstone** (Rabbinic Liaison), **Tim Rosa** (Newsletter Chair), **Mei See Sandson** (Chesed Coordinator), and **Jacqui Fleischman** (Chesed Coordinator).

To all of these wonderful leaders, we say "Todah Rabah" and "yasher koach" on a job well done and service much appreciated.

We also welcomed new members to the Board, including **Marla Cummins** as Membership Chair, **Bill Shorr** as Education Chair, **Danielle Klainberg** as Communications Chair, new Members At Large **Louise Enoch** and **Jake Weinberg**, and new Off-Board Chairs **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, as Rabbinic Liaison, and **Noam Shore** as Space Liaison. The Newsletter Chair is still TBA. **To all of our new and continuing leaders, the community is deeply grateful for your time and energy and commitment.** The full slate of Board and Off-Board chairs can be found on page 2.

## Marcus & Magaziner Family Off to Costa Rica

As some of you know, our family is taking a sabbatical August 2012–June 2013 in Costa Rica! We are already missing the CDT community, even as we prepare to leave, and look forward to reconnecting upon our return. While in San Jose, we'll participate in Congregacion B'nei Israel, which is a very friendly, small Reformista synagogue. We were fortunate to give it a trial run in February, and had a very warm reception. In the meantime, please do stay in touch, and let us know if you'll be in our neighborhood next year! With best wishes for a healthy year ahead!

—Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner

## Dorshei Tzedek's 2012 Men's Softball Team

A big "yasher koach" to the Men's Softball Team, for an amazing season! The team made it to the playoffs for the first time in their 5 years, placing first in their division. We're already looking forward to next season!



Despite the loss, there were no sad faces in the team photo.

Magaziner shows perfect form at 3B as the pitch is delivered.

# 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.

## Tisha b'Av

Tisha b'Av, the 9th of Av, marks the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and again in 70 CE. It is a fast day that marks the end of the first period of Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel and reminds us of the legacy of suffering and exile in our people's history. Tisha b'Av begins at sundown on Saturday, July 28, and continues through July 29. It is customary to fast for the entire day and to refrain from bathing and anything that gives joy. Other traditions include studying the biblical Book of Lamentations, a powerful account of the destruction of the first Temple, and the book of Job.

In his book This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared, Rabbi Alan Lew describes Tisha b'Av as the first step in a process of reflection that culminates in the renewal of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the book is highly recommended for summer study and preparation for the High Holydays!). We begin with brokenness, and from there re-build ourselves as we move into the new year.

CDT will not be holding its own Tisha b'Av observance this summer, but if you are interested in attending an observance the evening of July 28, you may want to join Temple Beth Zion in Brookline (go to <http://www.tbzbrookline.org/general-news/join-us-for-tisha-bav-commemoration-at-tbz-saturday-july-28/>)

## Welcomes and Good-Byes to CDT Newsletter Staff

**Vivienne Shein** has joined the CDT Newsletter Staff as a photographer and **Michael Singer** will be one of

the newsletter editors. Welcome to both of you!

After two years of dedicated service, attention to detail, great questions, and commitment to excellence, **Jo Ann Share** will be stepping down as an editor. She will be starting an exciting training program in NYC this Fall.

After more than 10 years on the Newsletter Staff, including the last two as Newsletter Chair, **Tim Rosa** is retiring after the summer issue. Under Tim's stewardship the newsletter underwent a dramatic new design (thanks to **Josette Akresh-Gonzalez**), the staff has more than doubled in size, and we now have our standard processes documented. We have a great staff that produces a wonderful issue 11 times a year! The next Newsletter Chair has yet to be named.

## Members' Meeting Summary

*by Josh Lieberman*

The last CDT Members' Meeting of the year kicked off on Sunday, June 10, with a pizza dinner and many good conversations. With the meeting finally underway, Rabbi Toba's d'var discussed the week's parasha and praised the CDT habit of mindful, deliberate decision making, giving changes time to be accepted into the congregational culture. Committee reports followed. Nediv Lev has nearly fulfilled its yearly goal already and next year's budget (approved by the members present) is expected to have a small surplus. The Rabbi's upcoming 3-month sabbatical and the extensive plans for mainly lay-led Shabbat observance in her absence

were discussed. **Rabbi Toba**, Education Director **Annette Lawson**, and newly ordained **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** then talked about the LO''X (Learning Outside of the Box) project for enhancing educational experience in the lower school classes, its history, results so far, and plans for expansion in the coming year. Finally, Rabbi Toba and President **Peter Katz** thanked those members departing Board and Off-Board positions and introduced those who have agreed to serve for the coming year. The nominees were unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned.

## Film Club

The CDT Film Club will be reconvening in the fall. Stay tuned!

## Rosh Chodesh

The Rosh Chodesh group will not meet during the summer months and will resume with Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan in mid-October. We look forward to continuing our celebration of the new moon with learning, readings, and importantly, conversation and community. All CDT women are invited to this special monthly gathering. Email **Kristen Petersen**, [petersenka@hotmail.com](mailto:petersenka@hotmail.com), with any questions.

If you are interested in learning about the history of Rosh Chodesh observance, the following site provides a useful summary: [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsour/Judaism/Rosh\\_Chodesh.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsour/Judaism/Rosh_Chodesh.html).



# Tikkun Olam

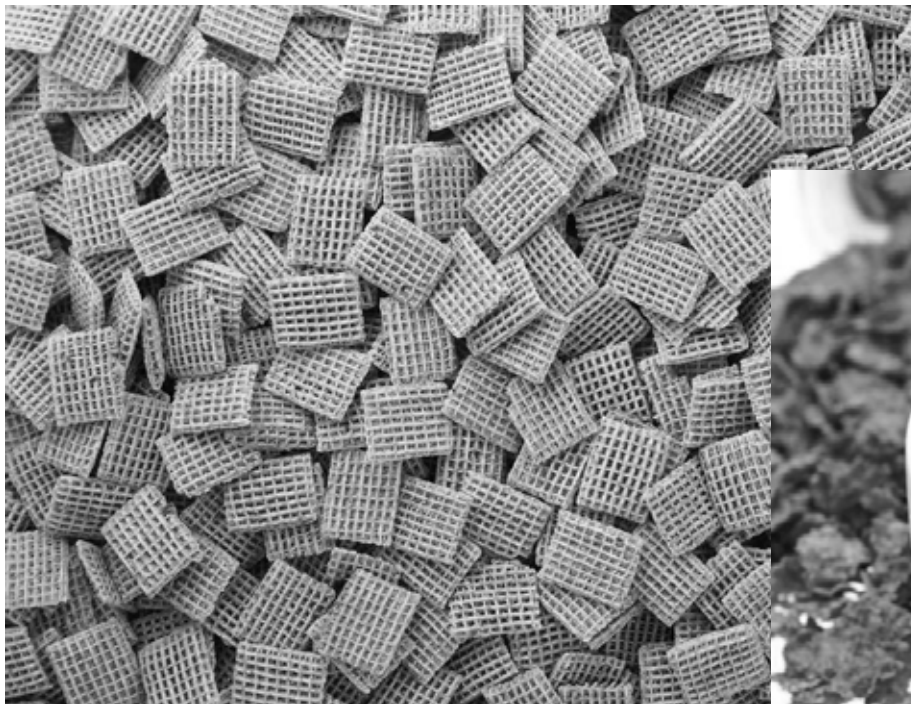
## Family Table: Whole Grains and Kosher Soup!

by **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**

Dorshei Tzedek is one of 58 area synagogues and day schools that supports Family Table, the kosher food pantry in the Boston area. Participants help collect, sort, pack, and deliver groceries for our recipient families. Anyone can volunteer to help including families with young children. Folks can volunteer for just a few hours once a year or on a monthly basis. Volunteers experience hands-on tzedakah and find that they can make a difference in the lives of others. Dorshei Tzedek participants have found that this simple commitment is meaningful, worthwhile, and immediately beneficial to people in our community.

Family Table provides groceries to over 550 individuals each month and is experiencing an increase in demand for food assistance. Many recipients work full-time but are not earning enough to make ends meet. Others are elderly who live on fixed incomes or those with chronic physical and mental health challenges. These circumstances force recipients to make difficult choices on a regular basis: paying rent, buying medication, or putting food on their tables.

Each month, recipients receive non-perishable foods (dried fruits, nuts, soups, vegetables, canned fish, beans), fresh produce, dairy, personal hygiene products, and Jewish holiday and ritual items such as challah and Shabbat candles.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

#### 1. Bring donations of food to shul.

We have now been assigned to collect 25 CANS OF KOSHER OR VEGETARIAN SOUP and 25 BOXES OF WHOLE GRAIN CEREAL per month. We need your help to fill this need. Please bring your donations with you when you come to services or to drop off/pick up your child from the CDT school.

#### 2. Sign up to be a driver for one of the Sunday distribution days.

One volunteer is needed ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH to transport the food. This takes approximately one hour. The driver picks up the monthly donations of food from Dorshei Tzedek and delivers to Family Table at 1430 Main Street, Waltham between 9:00-11:00am on the designated day. PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR TO SIGN UP FOR AN HOUR OF DRIVING: <http://www.doodle.com/z75uie72aic5zf4m>

Supporting Family Table provides meaningful ways for people of all ages to spend a little time making a big difference in our community. We need your help to fulfill our commitment to Family Table. Please sign up to be a driver. Please remember your cans of soup or boxes of cereal. Thanks.



# Nediv Lev

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School, Holy Book or Jill Volk Teacher Development 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. All contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or other funds.

**If you haven't made your contribution to the 5772 Nediv Lev Campaign, we'd love to hear from you! Checks should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek or you can pledge on-line. Payments need to be received by the end of the fiscal year on July 31, 2012.**

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

## General Fund

**The Altman Family, Lisa Mark, Alexis and Madison**—*In memory of David Keimowitz Crozier*

**Michele Arons and Michael Brann**—*In memory of Thais Willens and Eva Arons*

**Helaine and John Carroll**—*In memory of Henry, Louise and Leonard Dankner; in memory of Hy and Estelle Carroll*

**Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein**

**Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein**—*In loving memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Rick Glassman**

**Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman**

**Ellie Goldberg**—*In honor of the memory of Paulette Borin*

**Ami and Jon Gordon**

**Stacey and Bruce Gore**

**Laurie Gould and Stephen Ansolabehere**

**Valerie Graf and Doron Gan**—*In appreciation of CDT's support for our family*

**Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein**

**Hicks Family Charitable Foundation**—*In memory of baby David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Ann Ingram**—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Hazel and Robert Keimowitz**—*In memory of David Keimowitz Crozier*

**Danielle Klainberg and Mark Rosenberg**

**Sarah Little and Doug Hersh**—*In memory of Michael and Marilyn Hersh, and Betty Little*

**Alison and David Lobron**

**Barbara Macy**—*Thank you for your generous hospitality*

**Frances Malino and Eugene Black**

**Amy Mazur**—*In honor of Adlai Hess' Bar Mitzvah*

**Mary Potter**—*In loving memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Tim Rosa**—*With great appreciation to the CDT Newsletter staff—old and new—thanks so much for the long, enjoyable, productive ride!*

**Lisa Schneier**—*In gratitude to CDT members for their support throughout the time of my mother's illness and death*

**Seaborn Family**—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Tamara Serata**—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Elena, Michael and Noa Spevack**—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

**Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried**—*In honor of Peter Katz and the CDT Board; in honor of our hardworking staff*

## Camp JRF Fund

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Ami and Jon Gordon**—*Thank you to Rabbi Toba and Joan Makepeace, in honor of Zachary's Bar Mitzvah*

**Barbara Huggins**

**Hazel and Robert Keimowitz**—*In memory of David Keimowitz Crozier*

**Lisa Schneier**—*In gratitude to Rabbi Toba for her generous, wise, and compassionate support*

## School Fund

**Lisa Schneier**—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

## 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

# Chesed

## Contacting Rabbi Toba

During much of July, Rabbi Toba will be on vacation. During these times, there will be back-up rabbis "on call"—please be in touch with **Peter Katz** or the **Chesed Coordinators** if you are in need of rabbinic support. When she is not on vacation, you can contact Rabbi Toba at any time to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. Email her at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org), or call 617-965-0330 x2.

## Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to our May and June b'nei mitzvah **Zachary Gordon, Siena Small, Gabby Cummins, Adlai Hess,** and **Jacob Solomita**—and to their families!

Mazel tov to **Adam Lavitt** on his graduation from Hebrew College with a Masters in Jewish Education and rabbinic ordination!

## Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in May and June:

**Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Marc Steinberg, Laura & Daniel Katz, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Leah Diskin, Stacey Chacker, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Janelle Winston, Bonnie Tenneriello, Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert, Ezra & Shana Hausman, Mei See Sandson, Eileen Morrison, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Bryn Austin, Janelle Winston, Laurie Gould, Susan Nitkin, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Bill Shorr, Debbie Waber, Lilly Platt—in memory of Irene Platt, Ilana Streit, Sharon Gorberg, Sarah Hartman, Cliff Cohen, Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander.**

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Toba** (617-965-0330 x2) or **Lisa Goodwin-Robbins** ([lgoodrob@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:lgoodrob@alumni.princeton.edu)) and **Susan Manheim** ([manheim.co@verizon.net](mailto:manheim.co@verizon.net)) (for July), or **Linda Hsu** ([linda@metaphasia.com](mailto:linda@metaphasia.com)) and **Elaine Landes** ([erose116@yahoo.com](mailto:erose116@yahoo.com)) (for August) 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.

A huge Todah Rabah to the bar/bat mitzvah class of 5772, for the generous gift of new silk flowers and a shiny new kiddush cup for the sanctuary - thank you!!!

## Thank You to the Dorshei Tzedek Community

I want to express my gratitude for all of the ways that you have supported me through the death of my mother. I have felt your support in many different ways, and every gesture, word, and encounter that I received from you helped me to feel cared for and less alone. Many thanks to this wonderful community.

—Lisa Schneider



Photo by Vivienne Shein

**Have you recently had a mazel tov moment?** Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to **[dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org)**.

## Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT member **Ruby Gan** and her parents, **Valerie Graf & Doron Gan**, and to **Kristen Petersen**, as she recovers from foot surgery.

## Condolences

To **Jessica Keimowitz** and **Polly Crozier**, on the death of **David Crozier**, may his memory be for a blessing. Our thoughts and blessings for comfort accompany Jessica, Polly, Hannah, and Miriam in their mourning.

To **Janice Cole**, on the death of her brother-in-law, **Don Chodrow**.



# Religious School News

by Rabbi Adam Lavitt, Community Educator

**I AM THRILLED TO** be joining you all as Community Educator this coming year, and wanted to share a little bit about the work that I started this last year (and will be continuing and expanding on) as part of Project LO"X. Through this pilot project, we asked how we could connect classroom learning with the living classroom of the home, shul and wider world. With Rabbi Toba and Annette Lawson's encouragement and guidance, I used data from my work with 1st-3rd grade families to support my Master's thesis in Jewish Education, "Why Context Matters: Aligning Physical and Social Context in Experiential Education."

While in a normal supplementary school a student might, for example, learn Shabbat Kiddush on a Sunday morning, she might find it challenging to actually try this practice with her family at the Shabbat table. In the more experiential mode of Jewish education that Project LO"X explored, students and parents had an opportunity to actually try Kiddush on Shabbat as a family, and learn about the text of Kiddush at the Shabbat dinner table.

Drawing on theories of experiential education, and research about physical environments and social context (including family education), my Master's thesis explored why the physical and social contexts of learning matter, and how the factors that shape these contexts can work together to create these types of immersive learning experiences.

As I did theoretical research, and reflected on participating families' feedback about their experiences this past year, I was powerfully struck by the way Project LO"X's Shabbat programming this past year has deepened participants' learning and created opportunities for families to try new Shabbat practices – like Kiddush (the blessing over wine) and birkat banim (blessing of

children) – in a social setting and physical environment that supported this exploration.

Through Project LO"X's Kitah-based learning, families were empowered to plan a group experience as an organic outgrowth and direct embodiment of the learning they had done in conjunction with their children's classroom curriculum. This last year, for example, Kitah Aleph voted to organize its learning about Jewish time into an engaging family tikkun leil Shavuot (learning at night) at a member's home, Kitah Bet decided to embody the Jewish values of *kibud z'keynim* (honoring elders), *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests), and *kibud av v'em* (honoring parents) by hosting an intergenerational Shabbat at CDT that beautifully honored the experiences and wisdom of elders in the CDT community; and Kitah Gimel chose to become *shomrei adamah* ("stewards of the earth") by volunteering at Waltham Fields Community Farm on Earth Day, and helping to organize recycling at our Tubishvat all-ages erev Shabbat service. According to participant feedback, each of these programmatic elements has demonstrated the power of well-aligned physical context to create more opportunities for student participation, add warmth to learning experiences, and invite people to embody Shabbat and the Jewish values they learned about. The various physical environments of home, shul, and wider world provided learning environments that invited curiosity, participation, and exploration while building community, and facilitating learning amongst and between parents and students.

I look forward to continuing this exciting work, and continuing to explore how we can all continue to feel more empowered as Jewish learners, not just in the classroom, but in the daily lives of ourselves and our families!

## Yarzheit

We remember CDT member **Evelyn Felson**, mother of **David Felson**, whose sixth yartzheit falls on July 5. We will be remembering Evelyn at Shabbat morning services on July 14. May her memory be for a blessing.

**Yartzheit reminders:** It is our hope that by early September, the CDT office will be sending out yartzheit reminders to those CDT members who would like notification of a loved one's yartzheit date (the secular date corresponding to the Hebrew date). Some members have already given us information for the database, and there will be an opportunity to add names this summer, when you receive the Yizkor Scroll & Yartzheit Notification letter in the Membership mailing.



# CDT Calendar

## July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Avelut</b> Monthly Support for CDT Mourners 7:30pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45a–12p
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45a–12p

## August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck</b> 6:00pm	11 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45a–12p
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45a–12p
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# Kiddush Assignments

**7/14 Shabbat:** Ellie Goldberg, Joyce Traister, Debbie Waber

**7/28 Shabbat:** Bruce Gore, Tom Brown, Barry Ingber

**8/10 All-Ages Erev Shabbat:** Karen Engels, Mei See Sandson, Vitaly Zakuta, Stan Korn-Meyer

**8/11 Shabbat:** Linda Katz, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx, Barbara Beck

**8/25: Shabbat:** Wendy & Charles Frankston, Lauren & Andrew Stefano

**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.

# CDT Chalkboard

**by Marla Lichtman,  
Administrative Director**

It's that time of year again, time for membership renewal and High Holydays preparations on our end. Membership Renewal Packets will be mailed out to current members' homes at the end of July. Expect to receive them during the first week of August and please, make every effort to get these back to us by the September 1 deadline. Remember that you must be a "member in good standing" in order to take advantage of no-added-adult-cost High Holyday attendance, which is a benefit of membership.

We are also looking forward to another meaningful High Holydays experience at Gann Academy in Waltham. High Holydays information and reservation packets will be sent out around the second week of August. The deadline for getting all your children's and guest registrations back to us, with payments if possible, is September 7th. Please do try to get these back to us by the deadline. Thanks!

For any questions about your membership or High Holydays packets, or any other administrative issues, please feel free to connect with me. I can be reached at [admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330.

Best wishes for a safe and happy rest of summer.



Photo by Vivienne Shein



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**  
60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465

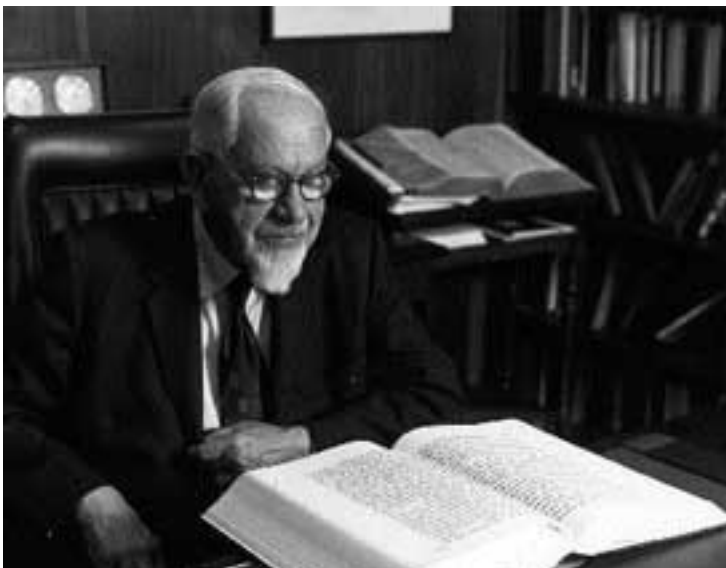


Address correction requested



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# Reconstructionist Movement



As of June 3, the Reconstructionist movement has officially “reconstructed” itself, with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) becoming the central organization of the movement, and the effective dissolution of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the former congregational arm of the movement. The organizational merger does not affect the functioning of Camp JRF or the Noar Hadash teen Israel trip, and processes are underway to shape congregational services and other functions of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement going forward. CDT is honored that our very own **Chayim Herzig-Marx** is chairing the new Congregational Services Committee. For more information about the restructuring, go to [www.rrc.edu/node/1193?hero=1379](http://www.rrc.edu/node/1193?hero=1379).

**Photo: Mordecai Kaplan**

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