



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Heshvan-Kislev 5773 November 2012

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A Not-So-Hidden Gem CDT's Religious School

by Cindy Shulak-Rome



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THERE'S A small hole in my heart this fall. Early in September I was on the phone with a colleague when she interrupted our conversation with "Sorry—I need to run. I am doing a staff in-service at the Dorshei Tzedek [religious] school in 20 minutes." "What?!" I thought. My friend and colleague was going to work with our teachers at the Dorshei Tzedek religious school and the year had begun and I hadn't known about it? Suddenly I realized that this was the first time in over 15 years that I wasn't intimately involved with our school, as either a teacher or the education director. I felt an emptiness that took me by surprise.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek was founded in June 1991 by eight households, and our religious school opened just two years later as a K-1 family education program— parents and their children attending together on a monthly basis. Each subsequent year we added another class until we were providing a Jewish education for children through

Photo: Paper sukkah built by a CDT child.
Photos by Vivienne Shein.

continued on next page

grade seven. (More recently we've added eighth and ninth grade classes as well as *Nitzanim*—a preschool class).

Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, talked about “living in two civilizations.” He observed that Judaism has continuously evolved and changed over the centuries. In those early years we recognized that to create a vibrant and relevant religious school, we would also need to evolve—from the Hebrew school model that many of us had known in our youth to something more relevant and that engaged both our children and their families.

It was with these values of *evolving Judaism* and *modern-day relevance* that we sought to build our religious school and our school's community. Our vision was clear: to provide a Jewish education that connects students and families to meaningful ways of experiencing Judaism in today's world and the joys that can emerge from that. It was to be a community where parents would have the opportunity to learn with their children and where students could discover the relevance of Torah and other sacred texts to their own daily lives.

Judaism places a high value on living in community. Creating a school community has also been a guiding principle for us. We believed that even the most vibrant curriculum could not convey the values we sought to teach in the absence of a strong school community. Numerous accounts over the years of the positive experiences our students have had warmed my heart and told me we're doing something right. One student's comment said it all to me when he said to his mother, “I don't understand why all my friends at other synagogues don't like going to Hebrew School....I really love going to our school at Dorshei Tzedek.”

This is the vision upon which we built our school. It remains today and has been reinforced and strengthened by our dedicated staff and our skilled and thoughtful Education Director, Annette Lawson at the helm. Over the years our offerings have expanded to include the innovative Project L'OX, bringing programming and ritual to parents, families and into people's homes; *Nitzanim*, our preschool program; and TEL, Teen Experiential Learning, a post B'nai Mitzvah program that was developed by the Reconstructionist movement. The core values of meaningful Jewish learning in the context of family and community remain central to what we do.

Recently I had the chance to return and spend some time at our religious school. That empty spot in my heart filled up a bit as I engaged with the students in Shabbat songs and prayers, watched them respond to their teacher with challenging and thoughtful questions, and get excited as they decoded their first Hebrew words. Observing our youngest students, I am reminded again of what a gem we have in our Dorshei Tzedek religious school.

And that same friend and colleague approached me after doing the in-service for our school staff that she had mentioned to me on the phone. Completely unsolicited, she told me how extraordinary she thinks our school is: “I've seen a lot of synagogue schools and there is clearly something special going on here.”

Cindy Shulak-Rome is a founding member of Dorshei Tzedek—the congregation and the school. She served as Education Director from 2001 to 2006 and taught in the Religious School for 10 years. Cindy works at Brandeis University, mentoring student interns and beginning teachers for the DeLeT, a graduate program that prepares Jewish day school teachers.

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: Rabbi Adam Lavitt

Executive Committee

President: Peter Katz

First Vice President: Allison Hausman

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: Ellen Pashall and Dianne Lior

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Newsletter: Josette

Akresh-Gonzales

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy

Shulak-Rome

Space Liaison: Noam Shore

Website: Stan Fleischman

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

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



ask lisa dee

Dear Lisa Dee,

The last time I read from the Torah I was corrected and was so embarrassed. It makes me not want to read again. You are corrected all the time! How can you stand it?

Trepid Torah Reader

Dear Trepid,

Thanks for your question. It's so nice to know that there are congregants out there paying such close attention to the Torah service. I do get corrected and most of the time it is not particularly embarrassing.

I found some interesting things when I looked this up. In traditional Jewish communities, the Torah is read several times a week. According to Rabbi Doniel Neustadt in an article on Torah.org, "Every adult [male] is obligated to hear a portion of the Torah read from a kosher Sefer Torah every Shabbos.... The reader must read, and the congregation must hear every single word of the weekly parshah." This reminds me a little of the Shofar service at Rosh Hashanah: We are commanded to hear the shofar, but someone has to sound it for the congregation. And just like sounding the shofar is not a performance, but an act enabling the community to fulfill a mitzvah, so too, is someone reading from the Torah in front of the congregation. Even so, it does mean getting up there in front of a lot of people and being correct or "being corrected."

Not surprisingly, there were differences of opinions from the Rabbis regarding correcting the reader. Like you, dear Trepid, some Rabbis were worried that the shame of correcting someone would be too great; others said that the word of Torah was too important to worry about someone's pride. Our congregation has come down on the side with the Shulchan Aruch, which comes down slightly in the middle. "Minor" mistakes we let slide: our Gabbai Sheni, the person who follows along to make sure everything is read correctly, should only correct words that are mispronounced in such a way as to change the meaning of the word. Mistakes in how the trope (tune) is chanted and minor vocalization mistakes that do not change the meaning of the

word are not (or ought not to be) corrected. Mispronouncing a word that changes the meaning of the word is considered a "major" mistake and the reader is corrected. If one is corrected, one needs to repeat the corrected form of the word before proceeding.

I will not lie—it can be disconcerting, especially if one thinks one is pronouncing it correctly. However, as Laurie Goldman (our chair of the ritual committee) once consoled me after a particularly challenging Torah reading, it is for love of Torah that (1) we read from the Torah; (2) that we go to hear Torah read; and, (3) that we have people knowledgeable enough to correct us when we make a mistake. Apparently, there are some congregations that everyone shouts out the correct word—so we are a pretty compassionate place to read. Besides, I have come to see it as kind of a mitzvah to get up there and make mistakes: I give the Gabbai Sheni something to do, and I model for the upcoming b'nai mitzvah kids that it's okay to make a mistake and keep going. It is not my intention to mess up, and I do spend a lot of time preparing to read.

Trepid, my friend, come back up to the bimah. We can always use readers. If you want to brush up on your leyning skills, there are folks in the congregation who would be glad to help.

These are the websites some of this information is from:

<http://www.torah.org/advanced/weekly-halacha/5760/bereishis.html>

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/torah_reading.html

<http://dorsheitzedek.org/torah-and-haftarah-trope>

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.

Shabbat

Community Erev Shabbat Dinners

Friday, November 2

CDT members are hosting Shabbat potluck dinners in their homes, in several communities. You can find them on the CDT website, where you can sign up to attend (and learn which ones are for adults, for families, for those who want to sing). Dinners at members' homes are a wonderful opportunity to relax with fellow CDT members on Erev Shabbat and to discuss the national and state elections, which will be just around the corner.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, Nov. 3, Dec. 8, Jan. 19, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, 10:45 am to noon

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for children age 5 and younger and their parents, led by **Susan Moser**—CDT member, musician, and Jewish educator—and by **Alison Lobron**—CDT member and Jewish educator. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck

*Fridays, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 4
6:00 pm candle lighting and dinner; 6:45 pm service*

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

Shabbat Morning Services

Dorshei Tzedek holds Shabbat morning services every Saturday from

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. For the comfort and health of our members and guests, we ask everyone attending our services to avoid wearing fragrances (perfume, cologne, hair and body sprays).

9:45 am to noon. From October 15 through January 15, while **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** is on sabbatical, services will be led both by members of Dorshei Tzedek and special guests. Read on about special services this month.

Shabbat VaYera with Carl Woolf

November 3

Carl will infuse our usual Shabbat morning service with music, movement, and meditation.

Carl Woolf has studied Jewish Devotional Chanting with Rabbi Shefa Gold. His spiritual studies and practices include music-making, davening, meditation and movement. His “day-jobs” have included teaching philosophy, developing software, and busking in Harvard Square.

Shabbat Chayah Sarah with Rabbi Or Rose

November 10

Rabbi Or Rose of Hebrew College will lead our service on November 10. He is the Director of the Center for Global Judaism at Hebrew College and a Co-Director of CIRCLE: the Center for Inter-Religious & Community Leadership Education of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School. Rabbi Rose is the co-editor of *Jewish Mysticism and the Spiritual Life: Classical Texts, Contemporary Reflections*, and the forthcoming *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Inter-Religious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation*.

Shabbat Toldot with Roberta Isberg & Yocheved (Sheila) Katz

November 17

Roberta and Yocheved will lead a contemplative service that combines

meditation, chanting, and yoga with prayer and Torah study.

Roberta Isberg and Yocheved (Sheila) Katz guide meditation retreats at venues including Nishmat Chayyim, the Jewish meditation collaborative of New England. Roberta practices psychiatry and has a longstanding interest in the use of meditation in medicine and psychotherapy. Yocheved is a professor of Middle East History and Contemplative Studies at the Berklee College of Music.

Shabbat VaYishlach with Rabbi Shawn Zevit

(part of Limmud Boston)

December 1

Rabbi Shawn will lead a musical Shabbat morning service, highlighting his own music and music of the Reconstructionist movement. During the Torah service, he will lead us in an exploration of Parshat Vayishlach, with a special focus on relationships between men and on being a Jewish man in Western culture, drawn from his years helping lead the annual Jewish men's retreat and his and Harry Brod's new book, *Brother Keepers: New Essays on Jewish Masculinity*.

Rabbi Zevit serves in numerous venues as a spiritual leader, teacher, author, and congregational, organizational and social justice consultant. He served the Reconstructionist movement in a leadership capacity for 14 years, developing many resources for congregations.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitt

*Saturdays, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 12
8:45 am*

Once a month, before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore the parshat hashavua, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both traditional and

October Board Meeting Minutes

by Lisa Dee Port White

contemporary. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

Rabbi Adam Lavitt will be leading the Torah Study while Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical.

Junior Congregation

Saturdays, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 12
10:45 am to noon
(some classes start at 10 am)

This is a fun, participatory service for third through sixth graders, led by Leora Abelson. Leora is in her second year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College. She loves to make music and lead creative prayer experiences.

The newsletter volunteer staff regrets our failing to include the announcement for Eli Adler's Bar Mitzvah in our October CDT Newsletter.

On October 6, 2012, Shabbat Chol HaMo'ed Sukkot, **Eli Adler-Cohen** was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Eli is a seventh grader at Day Middle School where he excels at entertaining his friends and teachers. Eli enjoys playing saxophone, basketball, and baseball. For his tik-kun olam project, Eli helps coach the Tiger Athletes, an all-sports team for teenagers with special needs. Congratulations to Eli and his parents, Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen!

The CDT board had its first meeting of 5773 on Sunday, October 14. **Peter Katz** reported the good news that the congregation ended the last fiscal year with a surplus thanks to good planning and members' generosity.

As a board and a community, we will be focusing on growth and increasing our household memberships and school enrollment. Look for ways to be involved! There will be many opportunities to learn more about this throughout the year.

Laurie Goldman and the ritual committee have been working hard for several months to set up programming for Rabbi Toba's sabbatical. Many exciting things are going to be going on in our service space. Please see the calendar in this newsletter and our new adult education brochure. You can find the brochure on the literature table.

We now have an education committee in process! **Bill Shorr** has been working with **Annette Lawson** and **Rabbi Toba** and is putting together a crack team to work on school issues—how to support the school and how to grow enrollment. Know someone who has a kid who needs a little Jewish education? Put him in touch with Bill.

Board meetings are open to the congregation. The next one will be held on Sunday, November 4 at 7:30 pm in the parlor of the Second Church.



Photo: Rabbi Toba leading Sukkot services.

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.

CDT Film Club

November 10, 2012

Potluck at 6:00 pm, movie at 7:00 pm

Home of Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan
26 Walnut Hill Rd., Newton Center

The CDT Film Club is a monthly gathering to watch and then discuss Jewish films from around the world. Many of the films have been featured in recent Jewish film festivals.

CDT Film Club's second film of the year will be *Inside Hanna's Suitcase* (2011, 90 minutes). This fascinating documentary traces the quest of a group of Japanese schoolchildren and their teacher, Fumiko Ishioka, as they try to uncover the history of a suitcase donated to the Tokyo Holocaust Museum and inscribed with the name "Hanna Brady."

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share, and let us know ahead of time if you're coming and what you'll bring. Movie starts at 7 pm, followed by a group discussion.

Feel free to come for any part of the evening. Please contact **Stan Fleischman** (stanfma@gmail.com) or **Emily Sper** (emily@emilysper.com) if you have any questions.

Would you like to host a film? All you need to provide is the house and TV or white wall. Please let **Judy Hersh** (judyhersh@comcast.net) know if you are a potential host.

Upcoming schedule: December 15:

Footnote. January 5: *The Shop on Main Street*

Rosh Chodesh

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30–9:00 pm

The CDT Rosh Chodesh group will celebrate the new moon of Kislev this month. Rosh Chodesh, the celebration of the new moon, is historically associated with women's renewal and celebration. In recent decades, Rosh Chodesh has become an occasion for Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual,

and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages.

For more information or to RSVP please contact **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at EricaStreitkaplan@yahoo.com. Newcomers welcome!

Oncoglyphs: An Exhibit

Quilts by Susannah Zisk

CDT Sanctuary

In the final year of her life, **Susannah Zisk** created a stunning series of quilts incorporating images of cancer cells as a contemplation and exploration of the disease that was threatening her own life. The quilts are being displayed for the first time in the CDT sanctuary, with accompanying text by Susannah. They will be up for a few months, so please take the time to view them the next time you in the sanctuary. They are a beautiful celebration of life in the face of mortality. —With thanks to **Stephen Zisk** and **Emily Sper** for organizing this exhibit.

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

Amy Mazur—*In honor of Lisa Samelson's jubilee year!*

Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman—*In honor of Bonnie Tenneriello and Andrew Sofer*

Carole Slipowitz and Dan Halbert—*In memory of Tim Rosa's grandmother Catherine King; in memory of Lisa Schneier's mother, Esther Schneier; in memory of Kayla Flynn*

William Small

Marjorie and Newton Greenberg—*In memory of Anna Greenberg*

David Aghassi and Glen Davis

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

Adult Learning & Reflection

Home Matters

with Rabbi Adam Lavitt,
CDT Community Educator

*Thursdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15 & 29,
7:30-9:00 pm*

What is “home”? What does your home reflect about you and your family’s values? Judaism is a religion fundamentally rooted in our homes—so what does our tradition say about our communal obligation to provide shelter to those without homes? How might Jewish teachings help us understand and address the housing and foreclosure crisis? Over the course of four sessions, we’ll reflect on our own values in light of Jewish ideas about home and homelessness, and explore how this might help us think about how to take action in the world as a community.

From Text to Talk: A Skills Workshop

with Orit Kent and Allison Cook

Sunday, Nov. 4, 4:00–6:00 pm

Do you marvel as Rabbi Toba skillfully leads the congregation in text study? Have you ever thought, “I’d like to do that,” but you weren’t sure how? Learn the skills to lead Jewish text study and discussions from Orit Kent and Allison Cook, researchers and educators at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education of Brandeis University. Orit and Allison are incredible educators, and we are thrilled to be hosting them as part of

our Project LO”X (Learning Outside the boX) education initiative. Open to all interested CDT adults—no prior experience is necessary!

Project LO”X is funded by a generous grant from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

Becoming and Being Elders

with CDT member Louise Enoch

*Sundays, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 6
and Feb. 10,
3:00–5:00 pm*

This is a four-part program on exploring what our tradition has to teach us about aging and elders. It is open to anyone who defines him or herself as approaching or in the elder years. We will read some texts as a starting point for personal sharing and will determine the direction of our reading and discussion together. Participants should come to the first meeting prepared to discuss a short passage that they found particularly meaningful from *A Heart of Wisdom: Making the Jewish Journey From Midlife Through the Elder Years*, edited by Susan Berrin. For more information and for the location, please contact **Louise** at **lpenoch@rcn.com**.

Mindful Mornings

Thursday mornings, 8:15–9:00 am

This weekly meditation group for both new and experienced medita-

tors will continue with lay leadership during Rabbi Toba’s sabbatical. Sessions will include guided meditations followed by a brief discussion time. No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you’re able! (Please arrive no later than 8:15 am, in order to not disrupt the session once we’ve started.)

For more information, contact CDT member **Carole Slipowitz** at **carole@slipowitz.org**.

Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless

Mondays, 3:30 pm, in participants’ homes

\$15 per session (fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the Tanakh or Torah, Prophets, and Writings) by reading it in English and discussing large parts of it together. We often look at the biblical text from a historical perspective, and we always pay attention to the literary features of the text that are essential for conveying its meaning. We also enjoy conversation about the course of Jewish history and culture through the ages.

The class is open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends. This class will meet weekly through May, at participants’ homes. Contact **Stan Fleischman** at **stanfma@gmail.com** or 617-332-5433 for more information.

Family Table

CDT has been asked to collect **25 cans of kosher or vegetarian soup and 25 boxes of whole grain cereal** per month for the area’s only food pantry offering kosher food for Jewish families. We need your help to fill this need. Please bring your dona-

tions with you when you come to services or to drop off or pick up your child from the CDT Religious School.

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 it to Family Table at 1430 Main Street, Waltham, between 9:00

and 11:00 am on the designated day. A driver is still needed on the following **dates: Feb. 3, Mar. 17, May. 19, Jun. 9, and Jul. 14; Sign up for one day (or more!) here: <http://doodle.com/z75uie72aic5zf4m>**

It is a great mitzvah for someone to do solo or with others. Questions? Contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** at **jomela@rcn.com**

Chesed

Rabbi Michael Luckens will be “on call” during Rabbi Toba’s sabbatical (November, and December). To reach Rabbi Luckens or for other Chesed needs, please contact the Chesed coordinators, **Ellen Pashall** and **Dianne Lior** (chesed@dorsheitzedek.org), or **CDT President Peter Katz**. If there is a death in your family and you need to organize the shivah, please be in touch with **Nancy Gertz** or **Amy Mazur** (they can also put you in touch with a rabbi, if needed). Rabbi Adam Lavitt, our Community Educator, is also available for pastoral support, and can be reached at community@dorsheitzedek.org.

Mazel Tov

To **Eli Adler-Cohen** and his family, on Eli becoming bar mitzvah!

To our new cohort of leyners, the “E-lainers,” on their October Torah-chanting debut: **Melanie Adler-Cohen, Janice Cole, Dianne Lior, David Lobron, Corinne Lofchie, Rachel Nemeth-Cohen, David Reider, and Jodie Siegel**, and their teacher, **Rabbi Elaine Pollack**.

Refuah Sh’leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Ruby Gan, Marla Cummins** and **Steve Robbins**.

Caring for the Caregiver Group

November 18, 4 pm

Our next monthly drop-in support group, for those of us caring for family members, is for those supporting someone at home or in another state. This is a time to connect with other CDT members, share our stories, and to think about ways we can take care of ourselves. We’ll be meeting at Ellen Pashall’s house. Please contact her if you’re planning to come at elpashall@aol.com. The following meeting will be on December 16 at 4 pm.

Condolences

To CDT member **Kathy Pillsbury**, on the death of her father, George Pillsbury, may his memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit

We remember **Susannah Zisk**, whose first yahzeit falls this year on November 29. Susannah touched many people in the community as a membership chair and as a friend, and we miss her greatly. We will be remembering Susannah at Shabbat morning services on December 1. May her memory be for a blessing.

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Date to be determined, 7:30 pm.

Please RSVP to **Ellie Goldberg** (ellie.goldberg@gmail.com) for time and location.

Avelut is CDT’s member-led group dedicated to supporting avelim (mourners). Any adult CDT member who has had a loss (family, friend, partner, other) or observing the Yahrzeit of a loved one is welcome. You do not need to be in the official mourning period. The Avelut group is a time to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and the legacies of loved ones we carry with us.

Todah Rabah

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped create our beautiful High Holydays services:

To the Ritual Committee for all of their planning and logistical support: **Laurie Goldman, Matilda Bruckner, Debbie Waber, Cindy Marshall, Marion Ross, Barbara Huggins, Au-**

dra Karp, Linda Kramer, and Elaine Pollack.

To **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, for Torah rolling and shlepping.

To **Mark Bronstein**, for the sound system.

To our wonderful staff, **Wendy Buglio, Marla Lichtman, and Jon Sarner**.

To our *chazzanim* (cantors): **Bill Shorr, Elaine Pollack, Doug Hersh, Karen Arnold, Dan Rome, and Marc Steinberg**.

To our teen service leaders: **Dalia Paris-Saper, Tema Siegel, Gabby Cummins, Theo Tessler Shapiro, and Teddy Lewis**.

To all of our Torah & haftorah leyners: **Mark Bronstein, Debbie Waber, Mark Farber, Gabe Weinreb, Audra Karp, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Karen Arnold, Jacob Roll, Naomi Ingber, Amalia Leiberman, Louise Enoch, Steffi Karp, Cindy Shulak-Rome, and Susan Moser**.

To **Kate DeBethune**, for playing cello on Kol Nidre.

To **Laya Steinberg**, for creating the beautiful Yizkor scroll, and to **Lilly Platt** for collating the scroll data.

To **Karen Arnold** and **Vilunya Diskin**, for their leadership of CDT Sings, and to all the other wonderful singers: **Michele Arons, Stephen Zisk, Doug Hersh, Sue Lanser, Dave Felson, Elaine Pollack, Liz Carver, Jo**

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.)

Radner; Stacy Chacker, Bob Warren, Rachel Greenberg, and Leila Zisk.

To our Children's Program coordinators, **Sharon Sevransky, Sivan Nasoff, and Jodie Siegel**, for their incredible efforts, and our children's service leaders for their wonderful contributions: **Susan Moser, Alison Lobron, Rabbi Adam Lavitt, Rabbi Talya Weisbard Shalem, Ora Gladstone, John Holohan, and Ben Rotenberg.**

And to everyone, too many to mention here, who helped with schlepping and shopping, child care, greeting, setting up, and taking down. It was a communal effort, and the community's strength shone through!

Todah rabah to all of those who helped with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in September or October: **Melanie Adler, Beth Brooks, Liz Carver, Rachel Cohen, Janice Cole, Sarah Hartman, Steffi Karp, Willa Kuh, Dianne Lior, David Lobron, Corinne Lofchie, Elaine Pollack**—*in honor of our newest leyners*, **David Reider, Cheryl and Jeff Sacks, Marjorie Salvodon, Mark Schafer, Jodie Siegel.**

Todah rabah to **Annie Spanel and Marcia Okun**, for volunteering as CDT's Family Table drivers for September and October.

Todah rabah to those who constructed the Sukkah or took it down in October (and came out in the rain): **Deb Albenberg, Thea Breite, Michael Cohen, Doron (and Evan) Gan, Rob Greenly, Scott Helman, Audra Karp, Eric Karp, Rachel & Chad Pytel, Noam Shore (coordinator), David (and Jacob) Shumsky, Emily Sper.**

Todah rabah to those who helped with setup and cleanup for the Erev Sukkot Dinner: **Andrew Cook, Jessica Engel, Stacie Garnett-Cook, Rob Greenly, Douglas Hersh, James Kaplan, Tania (and Amalia) Mireles, Carla Naumburg, Emily Shumsky**—*in honor of David's and my wedding anniversary*, **Ilana Streit, Alex Sugerman-Brozan.**

Note: Rabbi Toba's High Holyday talks are now available online on the CDT website

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

One of the questions we began exploring last year as part of our Project LO"X work is "Where are things best learned?" We recognize that while a lot of quality learning occurs within our classrooms, experiences outside the classroom can also provide meaningful learning opportunities.

Our BaDerech (ninth grade) class this year is exploring the concept of Jewish peoplehood. In addition to their classroom work, in October, our students joined 40 other teens from six other Reconstructionist

lies in Kitot Alef, Bet, and Gimmel (grades one, two, and three). Introduced last year, LO"X@home allows families to share an erev Shabbat dinner in their homes and spend time learning together after dinner. At each home there are two leaders (CDT school staff or congregant volunteers) who lead the erev Shabbat table blessings and the parallel learning activities for the adults and children present. This year's learning theme is "home." The focus of the October program is "From Temple to Table," how the Jewish home became the center of Jew-

The teens considered as a group **what it means to be part of the Jewish people.**

congregations for a weekend retreat at Camp JRF. During the weekend, the teens considered as a group what it means to be part of the Jewish people.

Their question: What elements unite us as one people?

In addition to the important discussions about peoplehood, being at the retreat allowed students to experience being part of the Jewish people. As the teens shared Shabbat together, from erev Shabbat dinner through Saturday morning services, Shabbat afternoon fun playing frisbee and gaga and ending with a lively Havdallah, they got to experience elements of our shared Jewish identity. *Kol hakavod* (great work!) to Rabbi Isaac Saposnik and his team from Camp JRF for creating a great retreat program.

In October, we also began our LO"X@home program for the fami-

ish life after the destruction of the second temple. Some of the LOX@home programs will be on Saturday evenings, with families celebrating havdallah together.

Also in October, the students of Kitah Zayin (grade seven) left their classroom to visit the Mayyim Chayim mikveh, learned about the traditional ritual of mikveh as well as contemporary reinterpretations, and took a tour of the beautiful facilities of Mayyim Chayim. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a visit is worth even more.

We take our seventh grade students every year, and students are often inspired by the beauty and serenity of Mayyim Chayim. As a result of our visits, a number of students have gone on to use the mikveh to help mark their transition to adulthood before their b'nei mitzvot.

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 Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am Home Matters with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm	2 Shabbat Morning Service with Carl Woolf 9:45am-12pm Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12:00pm	3
4 Skills Workshop 4:00-6:00pm Jewish Parenting 7:00-9:00pm CDT Board Meeting 7:30pm	5 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30 pm	6	7	8 Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am Home Matters with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm	9 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck 6:00pm	10 Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Or Rose 9:45am-12:00pm CDT Film Club: "Inside Hana's Suitcase" 6:00pm
11 Becoming and Being Elders with Louise Enoch 3:00-5:00pm Jewish Parenting 7:00-9:00pm	12 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30 pm	13	14 Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:00pm	15 Mindful Mornings 8:15am-9:00am Home Matters with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30pm-9:00pm	16	17 Torah Study- Rabbi Adam Lavitt 8:45-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service-R. Isberg & Y.Katz 9:45am-12pm Junior Congregation 10:45am-12:00pm
18 Caring for the Caregiver 4:00pm	19 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30 pm	20	21	22	23	24 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm CDT Sings 12:45-2:00pm
25	26 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30 pm	27	28	29 Mindful Mornings 8:15am-9:00am Home Matters with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30pm-9:00pm	30	December 1 Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Shawn Zevit 9:45am-2:00pm

Kiddush Assignments

Nov 3, Shabbat: Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg / Helaine & John Carroll

Nov 9, Erev Shabbat: Arthur Lent / Michael Brann / Carol Sklar - in honor of Leah Geller Sklar / Betsy Hinden—*in memory of Henry Hinden*

Nov 10, Shabbat: Alan Epstein / Ora Gladstone / Marion Ross—*in memory of Leslie David Levenson*

Nov 17, Shabbat: Carolyn Fine Friedman & Jerry Friedman—*in memory of Sara Fine / Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury*

Nov 18, Members' Meeting & Dinner: Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa / Elaine Landes & David Felson

Nov 24, Shabbat: Corinne Lofchie / Rebecca Cohen / Lisa Schneier

Dec 1, Shabbat: Sue Lanser & Jo Radner / Lauren Gibbs / Janice Cole

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.

Photo: Susie Tanchel and Jordana Kaplan-Tanchel.
Photo by Vivienne Shein.



CDT Chalkboard

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

So It's Already November—Did You Renew?

I shudder to say that it's already November again, winter is around the corner—brrr!—and the first quarter of our CDT year is fully over. November invoices will go into the snail-mail mid-month so please look for those to arrive. For any questions about your bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

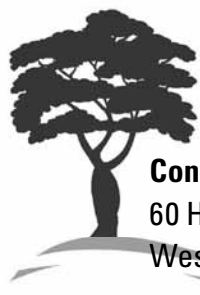
For those of you who have “forgotten” (ahem!) to formally rejoin CDT this year (you know who you are!), our September 1 deadline has long ago passed. We want you back!

Do you need some assistance? Want to rejoin but lost the paperwork? Need to discuss a financial arrangement

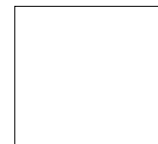
but feel uncomfortable about asking? Have something on your mind you'd like to share? We are here to help but we do need to hear from you. Please, if something is holding you back from sending in your paperwork and payment, connect with one of us and we will be happy to assist.

For membership-related issues, contact **Marla Cummins** at marla@marlacummins.com. If it's a financial issue you'd like to discuss, contact **Sivan Nasoff** at snasoff@hotmail.com. For anything administrative, reach out to yours truly at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org.

We will do whatever we can to help you and get you renewed 1-2-3!



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



Address correction requested



Contacts:

During Rabbi Toba's Sabbatical: While Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical (October 15 – January 15), here are people to reach out to if you have questions or concerns:

Services and ritual	➔	Laurie Goldman
All-ages erev shabbat services	➡	Bill Shorr
Tot Shabbat	➔	Susan Moser
Chesed	➡	Coordinators are listed on dorsheitzedek.org and in the newsletter (see page 4)
Shivah minyanim	➔	Nancy Gertz or Amy Mazur
School	➡	Annette Lawson
Adult education and Holiday Programming	➔	Adam Lavitt
Facilities	➡	Marla Lichtman
Financial matters	➔	Sivan Nasoff
Anything else	➡	Peter Katz, Marla Lichtman, or any member of the board