



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Tevet/Shevat 5773 **January 2013**

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
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Thoughts on Leadership at CDT

by Allison Hausman



ONE OF THE wonderful rewards of participation in community life at Dorshei Tzedek is the opportunity to learn. And one thing I've recently been exploring is the way the contributions of every member make up the strength and vibrancy of the community. Leadership in a community like CDT is an amazing experience because you feel the power of what a participatory community can be. And what that means is that the role of our leaders is primarily about supporting and appreciating how individuals choose to contribute and facilitating their efforts to make our community better.

We climbed the mountain!

The congregation's response to Toba's sabbatical is a wonderful example. In anticipation of Rabbi Toba's sabbatical last winter, I appealed to the community at the members' meeting to step up to the challenge and make her absence an opportunity to work hard and get stronger, like climbing a mountain. I have to say, we really did it. I've been so impressed seeing what our congregation can do even without our beloved rabbi. Our president, Peter Katz, has handled the increased

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Elliot Shumsky, age 7, balances a peacock feather

Photo by Vivienne Shein

responsibility with ease—keeping us up-to-date and shouldering the responsibility of making every decision. Laurie Goldman and the ritual committee have organized services every week that have been interesting and moving, including unique contributions from members and outside guests. **Judy Hersh** and **Carole Slipowitz** have stepped up to continue Mindful Mornings, and the entire congregation has increased its volunteer time. And, of course, there are leyners, *d'var* givers and the many who have participated in one thing or in many. Sometimes just being present helps make our events a success.

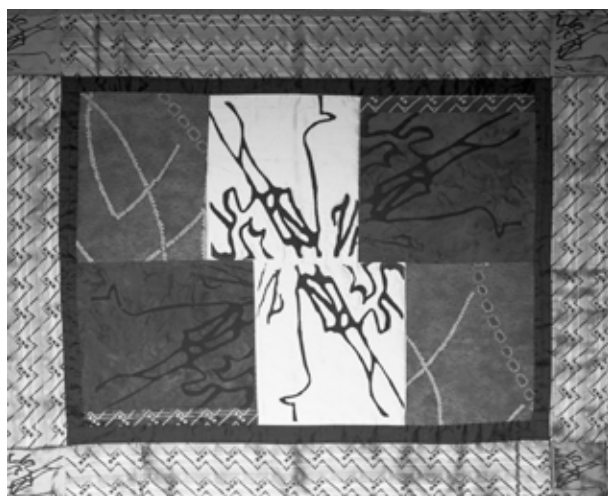
When this column comes out, we will be ready to welcome Rabbi Toba back. We should also be proud of the community we sustained in her absence. We got to the top and now we're cruising down hill, looking forward to enjoying the benefits of our growth as a community with our extraordinary Rabbi, now renewed, ready to guide us.

What inspires leadership?

What makes each of these people step up and share their talents with our community? You might think I would know the answer, as I serve my third year on the board. But in fact, the question is more intriguing and more pressing for me than ever. For much of my 15 years at CDT, I didn't really feel entitled to a leadership role in our congregation. I saw the leaders at CDT as visionary, very knowledgeable and devoted to Jewish community in a way that just didn't resonate with my past. I didn't grow up in an observant home; I have never seen myself as one of those people that really knows Torah, the prayers, or Hebrew. Who was I to make decisions, to run meetings, to represent the community?

I think the answer lies partially in the fact that leading at CDT is more about listening to, guiding, encouraging and supporting community members rather than being the person that knows all. If taking on a leadership position is the willingness and the desire to be part of building our community, not only am I qualified (as we all are), but I have found that taking on the responsibility brings huge rewards—enriching my own experience as a member and strengthening my connection to a larger whole. When you take a step back and notice what we make together, it's remarkable.

I hope that as leaders we can offer the opportunity to participate fully and to take on leadership roles accessible and welcoming to all members. If it's not so, let us know. We depend on you to communicate and make the community what you want it to be.



Quilt by Susannah Zisk

Photo by Vivienne Shein

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 and Jake Weinberg

Off-Board Chairs

Chesed: Ellen Hemley and Ellie Goldberg

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 (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Tim Rosa (Chair Emeritus)

CDT Events

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

CDT Film Club

Saturday, January 5

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

Home of Ellie Goldberg

Newton Centre (RSVP for exact address)

* Please note that Ellie has two cats.

The Shop on Main Street (1965, Czech with English subtitles). An inept Czech peasant is torn between greed and guilt when the corrupt, Nazi-backed bosses of his small town appoint him "Aryan controller" of an old Jewish widow's button shop in this drama that earned an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. Filmed near the height of Soviet oppression in the former Czechoslovakia, humor and tragedy fuse in this scathing exploration of one cowardly man's complicity in the horrors of a totalitarian regime.

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. After the movie, we'll have a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us! Please contact **Stan Fleischman** (stanfma@gmail.com) or **Emily Sper** (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: February 9: *The Secrets*;
March 9: *The Strangers*

CDT Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

Monday, January 14

7:30-9:00 pm

The Rosh Chodesh group will meet January 14 to celebrate the new moon of Sh'vat. For this month we are welcoming Cindy Shulak-Rome — CDT founder and Jewish educator — as our special guest as we learn about Jewish practices and beliefs and discuss ways to re-interpret traditions in meaningful ways.

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

Tu b'shvat Seder

Saturday, January 26

7:30pm

60 Highland Street, Room 111

The holiday of Tu b'shvat is a time to celebrate the natural world and the diversity and abundance of earth's incredible resources. This Tu b'shvat brings an awesome responsibility: we must act to save the very creation that we celebrate. Join Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for a Tu b'shvat seder that will honor the ways that our members act as responsible custodians and champions of food justice, sustainability and local agriculture.

We will eat the traditional fruits of the holiday, representing the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual symbols that inspire our feelings of vulnerability, creativity, abundance, and gratitude.

For a potluck nosh, you are invited to bring something that includes any (one or more!) of the Biblical "seven species" of the land of Israel that are also associated with this holiday: figs, dates, olives, barley, wheat, pomegranates, and grapes.

The seder is oriented towards older kids, teens and adults. If you would like to be involved in planning the seder, please contact **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** (communityed@dorsheitzedek.org).



Oncoglyphs: An Exhibit Quilts by **Susannah Zisk** Ongoing

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.*

Mark your calendars now for a not-to-be missed experience:

The 2013 CDT Retreat

Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16

Camp Yavneh in NH

If you have questions, thoughts, or interest in helping, please contact **Stacey Chacker** (chacsjc@aol.com) or **Corinne Lofchie** (clofchie@gmail.com).

PURIM is COMING! Purim is Saturday night, February 23

PURIM SPIEL ACTORS WANTED!

First, it was "Star Wars", now, it's*Disney's Book of Esther!* Calling all princesses, dwarfs, talking potholders, and anyone else interested in being in this year's Purim Spiel. No acting experience necessary! There will be two rehearsals sometime between February 10 and February 23. (Please take note: 2/23 is during the second weekend of school vacation for most CDT families with kids). If you are interested in being in the spiel, please contact **Sheree Galpert** (sgalpert@yahoo.com). Come join the fun!

Shabbat

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck

Friday, January 4

6:00pm Candle Lighting and Dinner;

6:45pm 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

Men's Shabbaton

(for CDT members only)

Friday, January 4, 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 5, 9:00 am–7:00 pm

What does it mean to be Jewish men today? How do we nourish ourselves as a community of men within CDT? Discuss this and other questions about Jewish manhood at our Second Annual Men's Shabbaton. Join us as we share meals, prayer, study and song. We will spend time exploring traditional and contemporary texts, and creating our own original responses to text and tradition as we discuss what it has meant to be a Jewish man in the past and what it means for us in 2012.

The Shabbaton will start with a Friday night dinner coordinated by CDT member **Steve Siegel** (spiegel@aol.com). The dinner will be at members' homes. On Saturday, our program on will be facilitated by **Rabbi Adam Lavitt**, CDT's Community Educator. We will hold our own song-filled and meditative morning service, followed by kiddush and lunch. The afternoon will include a *tisch* (festive gathering) including Torah exploration and the day will conclude with havdalah. For more information on the Shabbaton, please contact Rabbi Adam

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 9:45am. 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).

at communityed@dorsheitzedek.org.

To sign up, go to the link at:

<http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/mens-shabbaton-2013>.

Rabbi Adam Lavitt is a 2012 graduate of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, where he also received his Master's in Jewish Education. This is his second year as Community Educator at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.

Shabbat Morning Services

Dorshei Tzedek holds Shabbat morning services every Saturday from 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.

Shabbat Shemot with Rabbi Audrey Marcus-Berkman

Saturday, January 5

9:45am –noon

We are delighted to be welcoming Rabbi Audrey for an additional Shabbat. Rabbi Audrey has spent the past few years as the rabbi of Shir Hadash, our sister Reconstructionist congregation in Newton, and will engage us with her beautiful voice and insightful Torah teachings!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitt

Saturday 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 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

Saturday, January 12

10:45 am–noon

This is a fun, participatory service for third through sixth graders, led by Leora Abelson. After services, join with everyone for kiddush in Fellowship Hall.

Learning with Leora (for students in Kitot Dalet, Hey, and Vav)

Saturday, January 12

10:00–10:45 am

60 Highland St., Room 111

CDT *Kitot Dalet, Hey and Vav* students join **Leora Abelson** for a special learning session before the regular Junior Congregation service.

Spend a special Shabbat morning learning with your friends! Continue on, at 10:45 am, to Junior Congregation. After services, join with everyone for kiddush in Fellowship Hall.

Leora Abelson is in her second year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College. She loves to make music and lead creative prayer experiences.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat

Saturday, January 19

9:45 am

Join us for our yearly celebration of the life and thought of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This will be Rabbi Toba's first Shabbat back from sabbatical, and the service will feature teachings by Dr. King and a special Civil Rights Movement "Hallel!"

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 19

10:45 am–noon

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for children age five and younger and their parents, led by Susan Moser—CDT member, musician, and Jewish educator—and

Adult Learning & Reflection

Becoming and Being Elders

with CDT member **Louise Enoch**

Sundays, January 6, February 10

3:00–5:00 pm

Living Room, Second Church

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. Our text is *A Heart of Wisdom: Making the Jewish Journey From Midlife Through the Elder Years*, edited by Susan Berrin. For more information, please contact **Louise Enoch** at lpnoeh@rcn.com.

Mindful Mornings

Thursday mornings

8:15–9:00 am

This weekly meditation group for both new and experienced meditators is continuing with lay leadership during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical. Sessions 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 through May

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 Tanach 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.

by Alison Lobron—CDT member and Jewish educator. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

Erev Shabbat Shira Service

Friday, January 25

7:30–9:00 pm

The Shabbat that we read Chapter 15 in Exodus, the "Song of the Sea," is known as "Shabbat Shira," the Shabbat of Song. So come sing a song! Join Rabbi Toba and musicians **Nathan Aronow**, and **Terry Traub** for a very musical Shabbat evening. We'll sing, dance, and enjoy the beautiful music together.



Photo by David DiMaria

Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Wilcox Warren

Saturday, January 26

9:45 am–noon

Sophia Wilcox Warren, a.k.a. Dubby, is in the seventh grade at the Day Middle School in Newton. Passionate about musical theater, she has played the roles of the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Bullfrog in *Honk*, Marcellus in *The Music Man* and Iago in *Aladdin*, and enjoys creating her own shows with her friends. Sophia also plays violin and is a member of the Newton's All City Orchestra. She loves soccer. For her Tikkun Olam project, Sophia worked with the Spotlighters helping people with disabilities put on a choral rendition of *Les Miserables*. We look forward to seeing you at services followed by a Kiddush lunch. —*Meg Wilcox and Bob Warren*

Tikkun Olam

Tikkun Olam Committee Gears Up for More Social Action

by Jonathan Rosenthal

A group of congregants met on December 5 to review our ongoing Tikkun Olam activities and discuss getting involved in some additional social action activities as a congregation.

Here's a brief summary of what we are up to:

- *Community Supported Agriculture (CSA):* **Chagit Steiner** and **Tom Brown** continue to coordinate our CDT CSA. This was the third year coordinating farm shares for congregants with Red Fire Farm; it went very well again this year. We will continue next year as well. Interested new members or returning members can sign up on the Red Fire Farm website.
- CDT is also a member of *Hazon* but we haven't done anything with that as of yet. Hazon is America's largest Jewish environmental group. Their goal is to create healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond.
- *Olive Oil:* I continue to distribute organic, fair trade olive oil from *Sindyanna*, a women's organization in Israel founded and run by Jewish and Arab women in support of Arab communities inside of Israel.
- *GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization):* **Paul Hattis** has done an amazing job leading the GBIO health care affordability work. They will begin working on a new project to explore how taxes work. **Ora Gladstone** and **Stacie Garnett-Cook** will look into ways for CDT members to participate.
- *Family Table:* We continue to participate. Some CDT members actively support Family Table with food donations and volunteer work (see next page).
- *Coalition for Immokalee Workers (CIW):* The amazing work of the CIW continues, though there are no active campaigns in our region. We will stay connected and hope to get more involved when local campaigns are initiated.

In a conversation with Rabbi Toba, she introduced to us the idea of joining with the religious school in embracing a theme; the school is currently focusing on Home and Homelessness. In that spirit we are looking into several new projects.

- *City Life/Vida Urbana (CL/VU):* **Bonnie Tenneriello** introduced the idea of working with CL/VU, a Boston

organization that works to prevent and protest foreclosures and evictions as it fights for racial, social and economic justice and gender equality. She will work with **Barbara Shatkin** and **Stacie Garnett-Cook** to explore CDT participation in this Home focused work.

- *Newton Congregations:* **Ora Gladstone** introduced the idea of working more closely with Newton Congregations to increase the stock of affordable housing in Newton. There were some questions about a Newton focus for the congregation but we agreed to support her participation.
- *350.org:* **Chagit Steiner** introduced the idea of getting involved in divestment from fossil fuel companies as part of addressing climate change organizing. She will explore this further and look to **Alex Sugarman-Brozan** for guidance.
- *CIW Educational Trip:* I introduced the idea (suggested by Rabbi Toba) to organize an educational trip to CIW headquarters in Florida. Given the lack of an active New England campaign, the group favored not trying to organize right now.
- *Habitat for Humanity, Tropical Storm Sandy Rebuilding:* **Barbara Shatkin** proposed the possibility of getting together a delegation to do rebuilding work in New York/New Jersey for February school vacation week and/or finding a Habitat for Humanity project more locally.
- *Homelessness:* We didn't get to discuss possible work with Homelessness groups, including Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, the group that came and gave a powerful presentation earlier this fall.

We are investigating these different new projects. We will plan another meeting in late January or early February. Once we get back more information, we will have a meeting with **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** and **Annette Lawson** to discuss how to link any of these initiatives to the Home theme and the religious school. We are hoping the Home theme is a two year theme as one year is too short for our work!

Please call or email **Jonathan Rosenthal** (617-744-9026, jonathan@just-works.com) if you are interested in getting involved in any of these activities!

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

Janet Boguslaw—*In memory of my father Robert Boguslaw; in memory of my sister Chelle Ramsey*

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow—*In memory of my father, Daniel Danzing*

Pamela and Steven Katz

Ruth Paris and Rob Saper—*In memory of Steven Paris, Isaac Paris and Dorothy Paris*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In memory of Chava Shocken Rome, on her yahrzeit; in memory of Harold Katz, father of Joel Katz*

Bonnie Tenneriello and Andrew Sofer—*In memory of Elaine Sofer and Paul Sofer*

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.

Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan—*In honor of the arrival of Will Phillips Kleinberg, son of Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg*

Building Fund

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 donations 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 in Waltham. Drivers are still needed on the following dates: February 3, March 17, May 19, June 9, and July 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.

December Board Meeting Notes

By Peter Katz

The CDT Board met on December 16. The board discussed communication needs for the congregation and agreed to focus on increasing student enrollment in the school and family membership. We will work on a new brochure for the school and a related update to the website. There was also discussion of steps that could help create a media "buzz" about CDT. Members interested in helping out can contact **Danielle Klainberg**.

In discussing the financial report, the board noted that a number of members have not yet returned this year's membership forms. If you haven't sent in your forms yet, please try to get them to **Marla Lichtman** right away. We really need to hear from you!

The board also launched a general discussion of its tasks and how best to organize to accomplish them.

On the calendar: this year's Nediv Lev campaign will kick off in January.

Board meetings are open to congregation. Contact Board President **Peter Katz** or Secretary **Lisa Dee Port White** for more information.

Chesed

Rabbi Michael Luckens will be “on call” during Rabbi Toba’s sabbatical. To reach Rabbi Luckens or for other Chesed needs, please contact the Chesed coordinators, **Ellen Hemley** and **Ellie Goldberg** (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.

New Members

We give a hearty welcome to:

Terry Traub & Rebecca Pomerantz and their daughter, **Malka**.

Mazel Tov

To **Paul Hattis** who was appointed by MA Attorney General Martha Coakley to the Board of Massachusetts’ newly formed “Health Policy Commission.” The Commission is an independent state agency charged with holding down health care spending in the state.

To CDT member **Rachel Ross** for winning the CJP Family Connections writing contest. Her essay on “December Holidays” can be found at: www.jewishboston.com/803-cjp-families-with-young-children-initiative/blogs/4257-the-december-holidays-writing-contest-winner-not-his-mothers-christmas-day.

To **Joshua Herzig-Marx** whose company, Incentive Targeting, was acquired by Google, Inc.

Caring for the Caregiver Group

Sunday, January 13

10:30 am

Home of Judy Hersh

Please join our next monthly drop-in support group for those of us caring for family members. Whether you’re 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 this month at the home of **Judy Hersh**. Please contact her at judyhersh@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

Condolences

To CDT member **Lisa Samelson** on the death of her mother, Rosalie Samelson; may her memory be for a blessing.

To CDT member **Joel Katz** on the death of his father, Harold A. Katz; may his memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit

We remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 12th yahrzeit falls on January 23. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 19; may his memory be for a blessing.

Refuah Sh’leyma

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

Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

Dates to be determined, 7:30 pm

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

Avelut is a member-led group for adult CDT members to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. To learn more about what Dorshei Tzedek members would find useful and to plan for future meetings, please take the Avelut 2013 Survey online at <http://tinyurl.com/AVELUT2012>. Thanks for your input. If you have questions or suggestions about this survey or the Avelut group please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, 617-965-9637 or ellie.goldberg@gmail.com.

Todah Rabbah

Todah Rabbah to all of those who helped with Kiddush for November’s final Shabbat and in December: **Phoebe Cushman & Joel Auslander**, **Lisa Schneier**, **Sue Lanser & Jo Radner**, **Lauren Gibbs**, **Janice Cole**, **Barry Ingber**, **Susie Tanchel**, **Reinhard Engels**, **Noam Shore**, **David Greenberg**, **Linette Liebling**—in memory of **Zelda Liebling**, **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome**, **Amy Mazur**—in memory of **Marvin Irwin Mazur**, **Esther Kohn**, **Nancy Gertz**, **Rachel Greenberg**, **Matilda & Ed Bruckner**, **Liz Reisberg**, **Jeffrey Arnold**, **Debbie Isenberg**, **Lynda Goldberg** and **Joe Bayes**.

Todah Rabbah to all those who worked hard to set up and clean up the CDT Chanukah Party: **Polly Crozier**, **Becca Gutman**, **Rachel Ross**, **Ilana Streit**, **Sue Weil & Sandy Goodman**, **Jennifer Hochschild**, **Andrew & Robyn Stefano**, **Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow**, **Meiera & Hadley Stern**, **Susan Moser**, **Abby Cohen**, **Debbie Isenberg** and **Nate Fox**.

And a very big Todah rabbah and *Yasher Koach* to everyone who planned and staffed our incredibly successful Chanukah party: the “latke brigade,” helmed by **Susan Silberberg** along with **Janice Cole**, **Esther Kohn**, and **Dianne Lior**; our song leader, **Susan Moser**; everyone who planned and ran the various activities—**Vivienne & Norman Shein**, **Jennifer Nichols & Jerold Gelfand**, **Susan Nitkin**, **Jessica Engel**, and **Emily Sper**, and our teen helper **Lily Gomborg**.

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.)

Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

A S WE BEGIN the year 2013 on the secular calendar, it reminds us again, that as Jews we live in two streams of time, Jewish and secular. We celebrate our new year as a Jewish community on Rosh Hashanah with prayer and apples and honey, and then join the larger community a few months later to celebrate the secular new year with parties and noise makers.

This theme, of living in two streams of time, is the focus of study of Kitah Alef (1st grade). The class explores what a day, month and year are in Jewish time, and the cycle of holidays in the Jewish year. Kitah Alef parents joined with Rabbi Adam as part of Project LO"X to study this topic from an adult perspective, and to share their families' challenges in integrating the Jewish and secular time in their lives. In December the parents' discussion focused on the question of how we live surrounded by a dominant, appealing culture without losing our Jewish identity—the same question facing the Jews at the time of the Maccabees!

Kitahs Alef, Bet and Gimmel (Project LO"X) families also met for a LO"X@home program at which both adults and students learned about the connection between the holiday of Chanukah and a *chanukat habayit* (dedicating a Jewish home by affixing a mezuzah on the doorframe).

There were other ways we were busy studying about and celebrating Chanukah at the school (and we are probably one of the few Jewish schools doing so with a Christmas tree sale in the "school" parking lot).

The students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey and Vav celebrated Chanukah at school with our annual Maccabiah games and a menorah lighting.

Our older students in Kitah Zayin (7th grade) and BaDerech (8th grade and up) shared dinner together, and then lit the menorah and sang Chanukah songs, ably led by teacher **Gina Fried**. Morah Gina then led BaDerech in a study of early texts of the Chanukah story and students shared some of the challenges they faced as Jewish teens today.

Our Kitah Bet (2nd Grade) students and their parents, who had been studying the Jewish value of honoring the elderly, visited with residents at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center to help them celebrate Chanukah. Our students sang Chanukah songs with the residents, shared Chanukah memories and worked together to draw Chanukah pictures. It was a great afternoon!

Greeting from the Tropics of Costa Rica!

by Hilary Marcus

H ELLO CDT MEMBERS! While thoroughly enjoying a restful Sabbatical, we do miss participating in CDT, and look forward to returning next summer. In the meantime, a few highlights:

- We are members of Congregación B'nei Israel, a progressive synagogue that just celebrated its 25th anniversary. If you are ever in San José for Shabbat, it's a welcoming community to visit, with a trilingual siddur!
- We are happily car-free this year, relying on buses and taxis. We went to Nicaragua by bus in October, which was another world entirely. We may visit Panama over Pesach, so please send us recommendations if you've traveled to Panama.
- We've loved visiting volcanoes, waterfalls, and national parks whenever possible. Some of our favorite places so far have been Monteverde and Rio Celeste in the north, and Volcán Poás, an easy trip from San José.

Even though I'm away, I'm still the liaison for the **Passport to Israel** program this year. This is a great opportunity to set aside funds beginning when your child is in 3rd or 7th grade, to be used for a trip to Israel after 10th grade. CJP adds a significant contribution of \$700 when your child is eligible to travel. Please remember to contact Marla Lichtman by January 31 to register!

Please see Marla's column on page 11 for additional information.

Warm regards to all.

Hilary and her family Mayan, Noah and Jonathan Magaziner are on Sabbatical this year in Costa Rica. They are continuing their activities as members of the CDT community.



CDT Calendar

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<div> <p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p> </div>						
					Men's Shabbaton 6:00pm All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck 6:00pm	Men's Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 9:00a-7:00p Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Audrey Marcus-Berkman 9:45a-12p CDT Film Club "The Shop on Main Street" 6:00p potluck, 7:00p movie
Becoming and Being Elders with Louise Enoch 3:00-5:00p Ikkarim: Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 7:00-9:00p	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm			Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00a		Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 8:45-9:40a Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p Junior Congregation 10:45a-12p, Room 111 Learning with Leora for students in Kitot Dalet, Hey and Vav 10:00-10:45a Kitot Dalet/Hey Parent Learning Session w/ Rabbi Adam 10:15a-12p
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:00p		Rabbi Toba returns from Sabbatical			Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p Tot Shabbat 10:45a-12p
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm			Erev Shabbat Shira Service 7:30p		Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45a-9:40a Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Wilcox-Warren 9:45a-12p Tu B'shevat Seder 7:30-9:00p
27	28	29	30	31	February 1	2
Ikkarim: Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 7:00-9:00p	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm				All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45a-12p Family Education Program for Kitot Dalet and Hey 4:00pm to 5:30pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ikkarim: Parenting Through A Jewish Lens 7:00-9:00p	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm					

Kiddush Assignments

1/4, Erev Shabbat: Susan Silberberg / Scott Gordon / Sami O'Reilly / Taryn Pinstein

1/5, Shabbat: Vivienne & Norman Shein / Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

1/12, Shabbat: Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein / Jeff Kichen / Willa Kuh

1/19, Martin Luther King Shabbat: Susan Manheim—in memory of my father, *Charles Manheim* & Andrew Schiff—in memory of my parents, *Jack and Lillian* / Lisa Samelson—in memory of my father, *William Samelson* & Paul Hattis—in memory of my father, *Russell Hattis*

1/25, Erev Shabbat Shira: Karen Arnold / Elaine Bresnick / Liz Reisberg / Sharon Sevransky

1/26, Shabbat/Bat Mitzvah: Sanctuary Cleanup: Sharon Sevransky—in memory of *Betty Baum* / Jamie Tessler—in memory of *Eleanor Tessler*. Setup: Peter Shapiro & Aline Newton / Ruth Paris & Rob Saper / Ally Cherkasky. Cleanup: Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess / Jamie Tessler / Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel / Susan Bernstein. Ushers: Diana & Richard Gomberg.

2/1, Erev Shabbat: Jordan Namerow / Mark Paley / Wendy Gedanken / John Holohan

2/2, Shabbat: Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller—in memory of *Victor Steinberg* / Tony Broh / Terry Traub

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**

And So We Begin Again

A hearty HAPPY NEW YEAR to all, with wishes that the new year brings health, happiness and abundance into all of your lives. And so begins a new (secular) calendar cycle yet again. See below for January happenings.

Passport to Israel

A wonderful opportunity is available to you if your child is now a 3rd or 7th grader – Passport to Israel! The Passport to Israel program adds a significant contribution - \$700 - to the amount you contribute over several years, to help send your child to Israel for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To sign your child up, connect with member **Hilary Marcus** at hmr99@hotmail.com. Even while on sabbatical in Costa Rica (see her letter on p.9), she is ready to get you started in the simple enrollment process. If you have finished your cycle of contributions and your child is ready to take their Israel trip, also connect with Hilary to arrange for CJP to issue payment to your chosen program.

For those of you whose children are currently participating in the program, expect to receive your 2013 invoices in mid-January. Payments are due back to CDT no later than Thursday, January 31, 2013. We wait to receive ALL your payments before sending them on to CJP so please do respond when you get your bill.

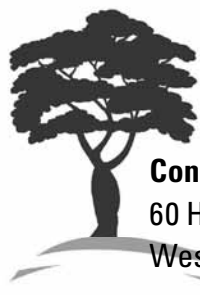
Charitable Contributions

We are required by law to acknowledge contributions of \$250 or more to CDT in any calendar year. Tax statements for folks who gave this much in 2012 will be issued year-end statements by the end of January. For CDT, deductible expenses include the dues you have paid or any other monies donated, for example, to Nativ Lev, to the School Fund, the Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund, or to the Rabbi's Discretionary account.

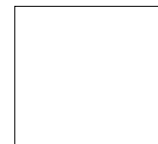
Expect to receive your statement by January 31, 2013. This will show in detail your deductible contributions for the 2012 tax year. When you receive your statement, please review it carefully and do not hesitate to contact me - admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330 - should you have questions.

For Next Month

Next month in this column, look for info about administrative roles here at CDT. As there seems to be some confusion about "who does what", I will try to clarify both Administrative Assistant **Jon Sarner's** and my responsibilities at CDT and who to connect with for what issue.



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 8)
Shivah minyanim	➔	Nancy Gertz or Amy Mazur
School	➔	Annette Lawson
Adult education and holiday programming	➔	Rabbi Adam Lavitt
Facilities	➔	Marla Lichtman
Financial matters	➔	Sivan Nasoff
Anything else	➔	Peter Katz, Marla Lichtman, or any member of the board