



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

## Shevat/Adar 5773 February 2013

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## A Personal Reflection on Chanting Torah

by Elaine Pollack

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**EVEN AS A CHILD**, the chanting of Torah during the Shabbat morning service was a source of fascination and wonder. On the male-dominated bimah of my “conservative” shul in Detroit, a mysterious ritual was enacted each Shabbat. Men were called up for blessings and then the ancient scroll was chanted so quickly it took my breath away. I would try to follow, to no avail. At that time the entire portion was read, so of course they had to chant very fast. All concerned were anxious to get to the most important part of Shabbat morning—the kiddush! I carried that memory of the Torah service and always assumed that chanting Torah was out of reach for me.

However **Chayim Herzig-Marx** made this learning possible when he volunteered to teach the first chanting class in his basement one summer in the late 1980s. He created large charts of the cantillation families so that we could learn the names of the trope and practice singing them in all their family combinations. We practiced as a chorus over and over again. Chayim also provided copies of the musical notation for all the cantillation families,

*continued on next page*

making it possible to plunk the tunes on piano, and that's how I learned.

For the uninitiated, let me explain a bit of the vocabulary I've been using. Torah was read aloud to the community from the time we returned from exile in Babylonia, around 500 B.C.E. There was just one handwritten scroll, and of course, no books. Chanting developed as a way to phrase the words tunefully, thereby shaping the meaning of the verses. It was also a memorization tool. The person chanting, the *baal kriyah*, interpreted and transmitted the text through chant. The cantillation marks, or trope, which appear over or under each word, tell us how to sing the word and where to put the accent. These little marks and squiggles are organized into phrases that can indicate sentence endings, big pauses and smaller pauses, exclamations, emphasis, or just moving narrative. Nothing about chanting is random.

For me there is something very wonderful about chanting words of Torah. I enjoy the learning itself and find the words and their tunes somewhat magical. There is a Jewish value called *hiddur mitzvah*, or beautifying a mitzvah. I think that delivering words of Torah with their tunes is a way of gracing the words with beauty. On another level, chanting Torah is something I share with, and do in, community. This way of participating and connecting means a lot to me. We as a people have a commitment to keep Torah alive by reading it, studying its words, and then exploring together what they might mean. I am moved by a verse found near the end of the Torah in Deuteronomy 29:13: "Not with you alone do I make this covenant...but both with those who are standing here with us this day before G-D, and with those who are not standing here this day." That's us! Deuteronomy has a stylistically clever way of speaking to future generations and assuring us that we are part of a living covenant.

Over the years I've been privileged to teach Torah chanting, or *leyning*, to lots of young people, and a good number of adults as well. First we secure the words, no small feat. Then the chanting tunes are taught. Finally words and tune are combined. Along the way meaning is explored. There is much for the brain and the voice to absorb and coordinate. That takes time, but the sense of mastery and accomplishment is huge. While learning to chant calls for much patient repetition of phrases and verses, the more you do it the easier it gets. There is always a look of shock (okay, sometimes horror) when a new *leyner* sees the Torah scroll for the first time. It is quite intimidating to face the scroll and confront Hebrew words without vowels, and line upon line of Hebrew with no punctuation or guideposts. That's the beauty of our chanting tradition; it's the singing that guides us, naturally providing the phrasing and punctuation. Teaching *leyning* keeps me happily engaged in words of Torah. It moves me to see my students and myself as links in a chain of tradition that is so ancient, purposeful, and beautiful.

## 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.

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## 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

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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: Theresa St. John-Siegel and Corinne Lofchie

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Space Liaison: Noam Shore

Website: Stan Fleischman

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## CDT Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with 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 (Chair), Deb Albenberg, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Rachel Ross, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Tim Rosa (Chair Emeritus)

# Shabbat

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held weekly, starting at 9:45 am. 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).

## All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck

*Fridays, February 1, March 1, and April 5*

*6:00 pm, candle lighting and dinner;*

*6:45 pm, service*

We welcome Rabbi Toba back 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 Torah Study with Rabbi Toba

*Saturdays, February 9, March 9, April 20*

*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!

## Junior Congregation

*Saturdays, February 9, March 9, April 6, May 18*

*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)

*Saturdays, February 9, March 9, April 6, May 18*

*10:00 am–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.

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

## Tot Shabbat

*Saturdays February 9, March 9, April 13, May 4, and June 1*

*10:45 am–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.

## Bat Mitzvah of Leila Zisk

*Saturday, March 2*

**Leila Miriam Zisk** is in school at the Acera School, where she especially loves Math, Science and her Creativity Mornings - film-making, cooking and live-action role playing. She has focused on senior needs both in school (as part of a robotics project, her team designed a senior-friendly operating system) and for her Tikkun Olam project. Leila connects with her Jewish heritage by singing in the Workmens Circle Chorus, A Besere Velt, and through CDT and Camp JRF. Like her mother, Leila is artistic, outspoken and independent; we look forward to her ideas and her voice at services, with a Kiddush lunch afterward.

# Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** ([rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org), 617-965-0330), or the Chesed coordinators, **Theresa St. John-Siegel** and **Corinne Lofchie** ([chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org)). 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. Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voicemail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

## New Members

We give a hearty welcome to:

**Denise & Mark Yurkofsky** and their children, **Jessica, Maxwell, and Sabrina**.

## Mazel Tov

To **Mark Schafer** and **Marjorie Salvodon** on the recent arrival of their daughter, **Marie-Carmel**.

To **Kate Hoffman**, on the birth of her grandson, **Owen Shane McNally**.

To **Sophia Wilcox Warren** and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah.

## Refuah Sh'leyma

We send blessings of healing to CDT member **Ruby Gan**.

## Caring for the Caregiver Group

*Sunday, February 17, 3:30 pm*  
*Home of Judy Hersh*

Please join our next monthly drop-in 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 think about ways we can take care of ourselves. We'll be meeting this month at the home of **Judy Hersh**, but contact **Ellen Pashall** if you have any questions.

## Condolences

To **David** and **Joel Reider** on the death of their father, **Raphael Benjamin Reider**; may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Jeff Sacks** on the death of his father, **Lester Sacks**; may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Sandy Goodman** on the death of her mother, **Rachel Jeanne Lehr**; may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Andy Littman** on the death of his mother, **Mary Littman**; may her memory be for a blessing.

## Yahrzeit

We remember CDT members **Francis Greenberg**, whose eighth yahrzeit falls on February 11, and **Marion Weinberg**, whose 16th yahrzeit falls on February 14. We will be remembering Marion at Shabbat morning services on February 9, and Francis at Shabbat morning services on February 23; may their memories be for a blessing.

## Avelut: Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

*Dates to be determined, 7:30 pm*

*Please RSVP to **Ellie Goldberg** ([ellie.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.goldberg@gmail.com)) for time 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](mailto:ellie.goldberg@gmail.com)

## Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to all of those who helped with kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah in December and January: **Matilda & Ed Bruckner, Jeffrey Arnold, Debbie Isenberg, Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Susan Silberberg, Allison Andrews, Sami O'Reilly, Vivienne & Norman Shein, Sherry Katz & Mark Farber, John Holohan**—in honor of the birthday of **Rebecca Holohan, Jeffrey Kichen, Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein**

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Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments **you would like to share with the community.** (See page 2 for details.)

# CDT Events

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

## CDT Film Club

*Saturday, February 9*

*Potluck at 6:00 pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm*  
*Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins*  
*(RSVP for exact address)*

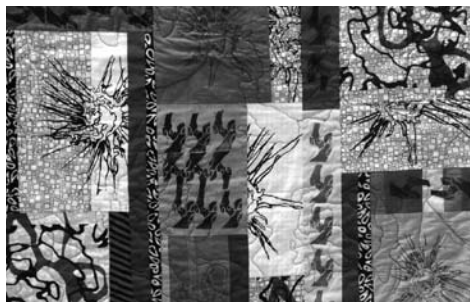
Film: **The Secrets** (1965, Israel, Hebrew with subtitles)

At an all-female seminary in the Israeli holy city of Safed, brilliant Naomi (Ania Bukstein) befriends rebellious Michelle (Michal Shtamler), but their friendship is tested when they meet a sickly Frenchwoman named Anouk (Fanny Ardant) who needs their help. Risking expulsion, Naomi and Michelle embark on a journey of self-discovery as they secretly study kabbalistic texts, learning cleansing rituals that will aid the mysterious Anouk. (Netflix)

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](mailto:stanfma@gmail.com)) or **Emily Sper** ([emily@emilysper.com](mailto: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](mailto:judyhersh@comcast.net)) know if you are a potential host. Upcoming film: March 9, **The Strangers**.

## Oncoglyphs: An Exhibit Quilts by Susannah Zisk



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 are 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.*

## Purim Celebration!

*Saturday evening, February 23*  
*7:00–9:00pm*  
*First Unitarian Society,*  
*1326 Washington Street, West Newton*

**Rav Tiffany wants YOU!** It's time for our yearly Purim bash, featuring zany costumes, Purim davening, hamantaschen, Megillah reading, and of course, the Spiel! Join Rav Tiffany and the CDT Spielers for part or all of the evening (times are approximate):

*7:00 pm* Purim davening with Rav Tiffany (for spiritual nourishment and business tips)

*7:20 pm* Costume parade—prizes for kids and adults with costumes! Don't come as you are!

*7:40 pm* Megillah Reading and Tot Purim—come hear portions of the

Megillah, with an alternate activity for the little ones

*8:00 pm* The Spiel—from the inimitable spielmeisters Sheree Galpert & Laurie Gould0, it's Disney's Book of Esther—will Haman turn into an evil wizard? Come find out!

*8:30 pm* The Vashti Dancing Party—wear your dancing shoes (at least...)

Calling all spielers: If you are a CDT member and would like to act, sing, or help out in any way with the Purim Spiel, please be in touch with our spielmeister, **Sheree Galpert**, ([sgalpert@yahoo.com](mailto:sgalpert@yahoo.com)). Rehearsals will be held between February 10 and 23.



# Adult Learning & Reflection

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

## NEW CLASS!

### God in Metaphor: An Exploration

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, February 6, 13 & 27,  
March 6 & 20

7:30–9:00 pm

Free and open to the community

Do traditional God concepts confuse you? Turn you off? Make you want to learn more? This past Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Toba explored the idea that when we talk about “God,” we are speaking in metaphorical terms about some basic aspects of human experience—yet too often we forget these are metaphors. (The text of her Rosh Hashana speech on this topic is available at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/writings/god-metaphor>) Drawing on new thinking about how fundamental metaphor is to human thought, we will explore both ancient and new metaphors for the divine, drawn from Jewish tradition, in order to create a new vocabulary for how we might relate to the realm of the sacred. No particular belief or lack of belief required!

### Becoming and Being Elders

with CDT member Louise Enoch

Sunday, February 10

3:00–5:00 pm

60 Highland St., Living Room

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** at [lpnoch@rcn.com](mailto:lpnoch@rcn.com).

### Mindful Mornings

Thursdays

8:15–9:00 am

This weekly meditation group is for both new and experienced meditators, an opportunity to cultivate mindfulness and qualities like patience, gratitude, and equanimity. Please join **Rabbi Toba** and lay leaders for a combination of guided and silent meditation and discussion. No

need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! Please arrive no later than 8:15 am in order not to disrupt the session once we've started. For more information, contact CDT member **Carole Slipowitz** at [carole@slipowitz.org](mailto: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 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](mailto:stanfma@gmail.com) or **617-332-5433** for more information.

## The 2013 CDT Retreat

Friday, June 14 to  
Sunday, June 16  
Camp Yavneh in NH

Mark your calendars now for a not-to-be missed experience: CDT's biannual retreat is this year!

People come for different reasons. For some it is the experience of Shabbat in a beautiful environment. For others it is the chance to hang out with the CDT community and get to know new people. Some come for the big softball game, for swimming in the lake, or for the talent show extravaganza. And others come for the delicious food or because it is a weekend without any dishes to wash. Whatever your reason,

we hope you will be there. Registration information will be coming soon. To get in on the planning, please contact **Stacey Chacker** ([chacsjc@aol.com](mailto:chacsjc@aol.com)) or **Corinne Lofchie** ([clofchie@gmail.com](mailto:clofchie@gmail.com)).



# Second Annual Dorshei Tzedek Men's Shabbaton a Big Success

by **Elliot Pittel**

The second annual Men's Shabbaton was held on the weekend of Jan 4–5, 2013. The weekend got off to a great start with an erev Shabbat service and dinner at the home of **Stan Fleishman**; about 15 men attended. Our Shabbat morning service was held in the Living Room of the Second Church and was facilitated by **Rabbi Adam Lavitt**, CDT's own Community Educator. Rabbi Adam led the group in a guided meditation to open the service. Our Torah portion was Shemot, the story of Moses. Once grown up, Moses turns out to be one of the key men in Jewish history, so the parashah offered the men lots of opportunities to explore what it means to say "*hineni*" (here I am!), and show up as a man. **Alex Sugerman-Brozan** offered a D'var to the group about what it means to be an upstander (rather than a bystander). After our kiddush lunch, the afternoon was filled with a movement session followed by a text study and discussion about male mentorship and role modeling. Our program closed with a havdalah and reflection facilitated by **Vitaly Zakuta**. The response to the Shabbaton was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to meet the needs of CDT's men by organizing future programs. Many thanks to Rabbi Adam for facilitating the event.



Participants in the Men's Shabbaton (standing l-r) Vitaly Zakuta, David Lobron, John Holohan, Andrew Sofer, Elliot Pittel, Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Clifford Goldsmith, Rabbi Adam Lavitt, Doug Hersh, Dan Halbert. (seated l-r) James Kaplan, Daniel Krasa, Stan Fleishman.

## Greater Boston Jewish Community

### A Purim Celebration for parents, friends, and kids!

*With Keshet, Rav Tiffany & the Rebbetzin!*

Sunday, February 24, 2:00–5:00 pm  
Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton

Put on your best Purim costume and make noise to celebrate the release of *The Purim Superhero*, the first ever LGBT-inclusive Jewish children's book in English! Remember that children's book contest we sponsored two years ago? This is the result, and we're so proud to share it with you. This is a family-friendly event, so bring the kids. Rav Tiffany herself will do the reading, and our lovely Rebbetzin will be the mistress of ceremonies.

### 2013 Boston Jewish Food Conference

*Presented by Ganei Beantown: Beantown Jewish Gardens*

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 10:30 am – 6:00 pm  
Tufts Hillel, 220 Packard Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

This year, the conference will feature the theme of Justice Within Sustainability. We will educate and build community around issues of sustainability and activism within a multigenerational, pluralistic, and diverse setting. We'll ask critical questions: What are the implications of my food choices? What constitutes a responsible Jewish food ethic today? And what resources exist in my community to guide my decision making? Join **Rabbi Toba** and other teachers for a wonderful day of learning!

Learn more at <http://beantownjewishgardens.org>

Register at <https://ganeibeantown.wufoo.com/forms/2013-boston-jewish-food-conference-registration/>

# Family Table Pesach Collection: Matzoh Ball Soup Mix!



Many thanks to those who continue to support our efforts with Family Table. Our donations reach many families in the Boston area. In addition to our continued collection of vegetable soup and whole grain cereals, we have made a commitment to Family Table for Pesach. We are collecting Kosher for Pesach matzo ball soup mix (soup mix and matzo ball mix in one box) in our drop boxes (next to the sanctuary and in

the school). We will be collecting this until March 16.

If you're coming to services or picking up kids at the CDT school, you might consider bringing along a box of soup with you!

And, please volunteer to be a driver one month! Sign up at: <http://doodle.com/z75uie72aic5zf4m>. Thanks to the following people who had driven our donations this year: **many families from kitah vav as well as Annie Spanel, Jan Small, Stephanie Hackett, Marcia Okun, and Gail Harris.**

If you have any questions or want to learn about how to become more involved, contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** ([jomela@rcn.com](mailto:jomela@rcn.com)).

# CDT Chalkboard

by **Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director**

## Are We What We Do and Does Anyone Actually Read This?

As most of you already know, Jon Sarner and I are the Administrative Team here at Dorshei Tzedek. We work closely together to make things run as smoothly as possible and hope our efforts are paying off! At times, there seems to be confusion as to whom you should ask for what, so while the list below is not exhaustive, it provides guidelines about whom will likely address your questions. For any topic not mentioned, just ask either one of us and we'll do our finest to assist.

### Ask Administrative Director Marla Lichtman

- to change your or a family member's personal data on the website
- questions about an invoice or payment
- questions about your year-end tax statement
- to issue a reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of CDT
- questions about your Nediv Lev contribution or associated acknowledgement
- to add a family member's yahrzeit information into the database
- to receive annual yahrzeit notifications or to not receive them at all
- for help signing up for kiddush date assignments
- for help logging on to our website
- to reserve space for a CDT meeting, program, or event
- to help coordinate logistics for your child's B'nei Mitzvah

### Ask Administrative Assistant Jon Sarner

- to change a date/time or information for a CDT calendar listing
- to amend your listserv preferences
- about a scheduled kiddush date or to update info about a kiddush assignment or swap
- to take note of any kiddush supply shortages
- to replace a lost or misplaced nametag or kiddush card
- about any "lost and hopefully found" item

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# Reconstructionist Movement

## Have a Reconstructionist Summer!

**CAMP JRF IN** the Poconos is now registering for its summer sessions, June 25–July 21 and July 23–August 11. For kids in grades 3–11, Camp JRF is a magical place where campers can open up to the possibilities in life—and in Judaism—in order to become their best selves. To learn more, go to [www.campjrf.org](http://www.campjrf.org).

Family Camp, August 14–18, lets the whole family have fun—parents, children, and other family members join the staff of Camp JRF for swimming, sports, arts, experiential education, celebrat-

ing Shabbat like in no other place, and more! Learn more at [www.campjrf.org/parents/family-camp](http://www.campjrf.org/parents/family-camp).

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



# 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.

Our annual Nediv Lev campaign is as crucial as ever. A successful campaign is critical to the continued flourishing of our congregation. As a community that recognizes the importance of giving, we hope that every CDT household will participate.

**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.**

## We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

### General Fund

**Peggy Stafford and Mike Shapiro**—In memory of Rosalie Samelson, mother of Lisa Samelson, and in memory of Lester Sacks, father of Jeff Sacks  
**Carla Naumburg and Joshua Herzig-Marx**  
**Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis**—In memory of William Samelson  
**Elaine Bresnick**—In memory of Martin Bresnick; in memory of David Adler

**Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent**—In memory of Irving Cary Andres, beloved father of Allison Andrews

**Barbara Beck**—In memory of my parents, Irving and Edith Beck, and my brother, Stephen Beck

**Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steve Siegel**—In memory of Phil Siegel on his yahrzeit, Shevat 16

**Allison and Ezra Hausman**

**Marion Ross**—In memory of Benjamin Levenson

### Camp JRF Fund

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**  
**Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz**

**School Fund**  
**Asher Cai Singer**—In memory of my great-grandfather Herbert Lazarus z"l, whose first yahrzeit was January 3 (21 Tevet); in memory of my great-great-uncle, Herbert Stein z"l, who sadly passed away Sunday, December 30 after a long illness.

### Building 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.*

## Nediv Lev Campaign 2013 FAQ

**What is Nediv Lev?** A Nediv Lev donation is an essential part of our dues structure and our financial health. Gifts are made "from the heart" as the ancient Israelites each contributed to the building of the Mishkan in the Sinai after leaving Egypt.

**As a member, what can I do?** We are asking all members to make a donation to CDT's Nediv Lev annual giving campaign. We ask you to recognize the importance of CDT in your life and to acknowledge that role with a contribution at whatever level is possible for you.

You will be receiving a letter soon (if you haven't already) asking for a contribution. Please make your donation, and send it back to the office. You can pay by check or on our website via Paypal. If you donate via paypal, please consider increasing your donation to cover the processing fee (about 2.2% of your gift).

<http://dorsheitzedek.org/giving>

**How much do members donate?** Each donation, large or small, helps us towards our current financial goal of raising \$75,000. Give what feels right to you; all gifts are welcome. We will be delighted to receive gifts from \$18 to \$18,000 and anywhere in-between. (More or less is OK, too).

As a community that recognizes the importance of giving, we also hope to achieve some participation from every household. Nediv Lev donations are voluntary, but essential to CDT's operations. Balancing our operating budget depends on meeting our Nediv Lev goal of \$75,000. A culture of giving implies both openhearted generosity and sincere gratitude for the gifts of others.

**When is the deadline for gifts?** To keep the campaign on schedule, please return your donations or pledges by February 28th.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sharon Sevransky, Nediv Lev Chair

# CDT Calendar

# February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck</b> 6:00pm	2 <b>Shabbat Morning Service n</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm <b>Family Education Program</b> for Kitot Dalet and Hey 4 pm to 5:30pm
3 <b>Ikkarim: Parenting Through a Jewish Lense</b> 7pm to 9pm,	4 <b>Exploring the Bible</b> with Dr. Sandford Goldfless 3:30pm	5	6 <b>God in Metaphor:</b> An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30pm to 9pm	7	8	9 <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b> 8:45am to 9:40am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45a to 12p <b>Learning with Leora</b> 10am to 10:45am <b>Junior Congregation</b> 10:45am to 12pm <b>Kitot Gan/Nitzanim Dinner &amp; Havdallah</b> 5pm to 6:30pm <b>CDT Film Club: "The Secrets"</b> 6:00pm
10 <b>Becoming and Being Elders</b> with CDT Member Louise Enoch 3pm to 5pm <b>CDT Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm	11 <b>Exploring the Bible</b> with Dr. Sandford Goldfless 3:30pm	12	13 <b>God in Metaphor:</b> An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30pm–9pm	14	15	16 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12pm
17	18 <b>Exploring the Bible</b> with Dr. Sandford Goldfless 3:30pm	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12pm <b>Purim Party</b> 7pm to 9pm
24	25 <b>Exploring the Bible</b> with Dr. Sandford Goldfless 3:30p	26	27 <b>God in Metaphor:</b> An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30pm–9pm	28	1 <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck</b> 6:00pm	2 <b>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; Bat Mitzvah of Leila Zisk</b> 9:45am to 12pm

# Kiddush Assignments

**Erev Shabbat Service 2/1:** Setup/Cleanup: Michele Arons / Rob Saper/ Jeff Goldman / Kim Ockene

**Shabbat 2/2:** Setup/Cleanup: Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller - in memory of Victor Steinberg / Tony Broh / Terry Traub

**Shabbat 2/9:** Setup/Cleanup: Jennifer Levine-Fried (in memory of Jonathan Levine) & Matthew Fried (in memory of Arthur Fried) / Rick Glassman / Marcia Okun

**Shabbat 2/16:** Setup/Cleanup: Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein / Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola

**Shabbat 2/23:** Setup/Cleanup: Chagit Steiner / Jackie & Stan Fleischman / Elaine Landes

**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.

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# Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

**T**EACHING CHILDREN TO participate in Jewish prayer is an important element of our school curriculum. We focus not just on learning to recite the prayers in Hebrew but also helping students to connect to the meaning of the prayers and developing prayer as a spiritual practice. Prayer learning happens in the classroom but also during the opportunities we have created for students to experience Jewish prayer in ways appropriate to their ages.

Our youngest students in Gan and Nitzanim (Pre-K and K) begin to learn about Shabbat morning prayer at Mini-Minyan led by Nitzanim teacher **Alison Lobron**. Using a siddur designed for very young children, Alison leads the children and their parents through Shabbat song and prayers. Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders (Kitot Alef, Bet, and Gimmel) and their parents begin Saturday morning with Shabbat Circle, led by **Rabbi Adam**, our community educator. Students in Kitot Dalet, Hey, and Vav (4th–6th grade) meet monthly during class time for a Ma'ariv (evening) service, which they help lead. Once each month, they also come on Saturday morning for Junior Congregation, led by **Leora Abelson**, a rabbinic student at Hebrew College.

This year we have been experimenting with using visual images to help the students connect to the meaning of the prayers they are reciting and also to help them evoke emotions (awe, gratitude, amazement, etc) that connect them spiritually to the prayers.

Rabbi Adam has created an illustrated Siddur that we use during Shabbat Circle. Each page features one prayer for the morning service, superimposed on a colored photo of an image that relates to the theme of the prayer. The beautiful pictures help students know at a glance what the theme of each prayer is, but also provide images to focus on and think about while they pray.

Our students in Kitot Dalet, Hey and Vav (4th–6th grades) recently spent time creating artwork relating to the prayers of the Ma'ariv service. Working in small groups, students created paintings (about three feet by four feet) for each of the prayers in the service. The paintings expressed the ideas of each prayer and the feelings the prayer evoked in the students. A few weeks later, we hung all the paintings around a room, creating a room-size visual siddur. We used it as we davened ma'ariv, moving around the room studying and discussing the image for each prayer, before we chanted the prayer.

During the learning activity before Junior Congregation this month, Leora had students talk about moments when they felt awe or amazement. She then had the students illustrate cards with images of those moments. Students could then use their card during Junior Congregation. If during prayer, a student started to feel bored or disconnected, they could look at their cards to remind them of moments when they felt really connected, grateful, alive, or in awe.



Address correction requested



# Rabbi Toba Returns!



*Dear CDT members,*

*After three months of sabbatical, I'm back! It's been a restful and fulfilling few months for me, during which I:*

- Did some fun local things I hadn't done before, like going to afternoon tea at the Boston Public Library and taking a tour of the Taza Chocolate Factory in Somerville (both of which I'd highly recommend!)*
- Had a few opportunities to visit my mother and other family in Washington, DC, my hometown, as well as a visit to Zoe in her new college setting, Ann Arbor*
- Did some research and writing, expanding on my Rosh Hashanah talk about God and metaphor, in the hopes of fashioning a book from this topic (plus an adult ed class on the topic—see page 6!)*
- Got to spend time on my own and with Gina doing pleasant, mundane things like going to the gym, cooking, watching television, and just hanging out.*

*I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate the congregation giving me this time for renewal and reflection. I am hoping that these three months were also a time of growth for the congregation, and I have full confidence in our wonderful staff and lay leaders that things continued smoothly in my absence.*

*To the question "how was your sabbatical?" please know that the answer is "great!" And now I'm glad to be back, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks.*

*L'shalom,*

*Rabbi Toba*