



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Nisan/Iyar 5773 April 2013

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## A Proposal to Restructure CDT Governance

by Peter Katz,  
President

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Photo: Laurie Gould presents the restructuring proposal at the March 17 Members' Meeting.  
Photo by Vivienne Shein.



**AT THE** CDT Members' Meeting on March 17, over 60 members considered a proposal for reorganization of CDT's governance and encouraged the Board to proceed with it. The proposal was presented to the members by Allison Hausman, Laurie Gould and Peter Katz. Thanks are also due to Jake Weinberg and Laurie Goldman, who helped craft the proposal.

The members discussed the need to align governance with current CDT needs, in particular by giving the Board the ability to concentrate on strategic issues by enriching all leadership tasks and making better use of leadership time, and by allowing for a more broadly representative leadership group.

### Current Structure:

The current Executive Committee includes the President, First VP/Past President, VP Finance, VP Membership, and Secretary; the Rabbi is a member ex officio. The current Board includes the Executive

*continued on next page*

Committee plus the chairs for education, communications, membership, leadership development, ritual, and Tikkun Olam, as well as two at-large members. Both the Executive Committee and the Board meet monthly. Current off-board positions include Chesed, Nediv Lev, Newsletter, Website, Space Liaison, and Rabbinic Liaison. Formal terms are one year. (This structure has changed considerably since our by-laws were adopted.)

#### **Proposed Structure:**

**Executive Committee:** President; First VP/Past President; VP Finance; VP Membership; VP Education; VP Leadership; Secretary; Rabbi ex officio.

1. The Executive Committee will be responsible for dealing with day-to-day issues (personnel, space, etc.). Broad matters of policy will be referred to the Board, but implementation and subsidiary policy issues will be decided by the Executive Committee. This is basically our current model.
2. To enhance coordination of leadership efforts, Executive Committee members will also support two or three of the off-Board leaders and work together to coordinate the work of all committees and initiatives.
3. The Executive Committee will meet monthly throughout the year.

**Board:** Executive Committee plus seven additional at large members.

1. The Board will retain overall fiduciary responsibility for the Congregation and will be responsible for setting policy and strategy.
2. Each year, the Board will select and focus on one or more specific topics of strategic importance to CDT. The Board will meet five-six times per year, and the focus of each meeting will be the year's strategic topic(s).
3. The goal of the Board will be to produce a set of recommendations to present to the Congregation at the year's final Membership Meeting in the late spring.

The subject of membership is an example of a strategic topic: What does membership in the congregation mean? How can we best engage our members in the life of the congregation? How can we best connect with potential members? What should be the scope of the board's membership function?

**Off-Board:** The number of off-board committees and positions will increase by four. Committee chairs and other persons in leadership tasks would no longer have to sit on the the Board, and so in addition to the Board, we would have a separate complement of committees and leadership positions.

**Terms:** The expected commitment for each leadership position will be two years. Board and Executive Committee terms will be staggered, so that roughly half of the members will be replaced each year.

#### **Reasons Behind the Proposal**

Board at-large membership is increased from two to seven to allow broader participation. These positions are also separated from specific task responsibilities. This should improve, and make it easier to recruit for, both the Board and the off-Board positions. Many people are happy to take on a specific leadership task for the congregation, or to join the Board, but are reluctant to commit to doing both. While off-Board leaders (like all congregants) will be welcome at Board meetings, attendance at all meetings and general Board duties will no longer be a responsibility of these positions. Board members who are not also called upon to manage a committee or another major task will have more time to think strategically and to research and discuss ways to help CDT evolve into the best congregation we can be.

This structure also makes more effective use of the Executive Committee. While the number of Executive Committee meetings will remain unchanged, there will be a smaller number of Board meetings to attend. More important, these meetings will not have agendas that will be largely duplicative of prior Executive Committee agendas, as has often been the case in recent years – so the experience should be a more interesting and rewarding one, and both Executive Committee and Board meetings should be more productive.

The full proposal, with additional detail and background, is posted on the Member Documents page of the website under the caption "Governance Restructuring Proposal." We will present by-law amendments needed to put the proposal in effect at the June Members' Meeting.

## CDT

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.

## 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: Elaine Landes and Benita Danzing

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Space Liaison: Noam Shore

Website: Stan Fleischman

## Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August 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, Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Tim Rosa (Chair Emeritus)

# Shabbat & Special Services

## THE SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER

Monday, April 1, 9:30 am

According to Reconstructionist practice (which follows the Israeli calendar), the seventh day of Pesach marks the end of the holiday for us. We will mark the seventh day of Passover with services on Monday morning, April 1, at 9:30 am. At this service we will celebrate (and read in the Torah) the crossing of the Red Sea with Hallel and other special songs. We will also be having a Yizkor service, an opportunity to remember loved ones who are no longer with us to celebrate the holiday. For those remembering someone, yizkor candles are lit the previous evening (Sunday, March 31) after sunset.

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Fridays, April 5, May 10, June 7  
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.

## SPECIAL GUESTS FOR OUR APRIL ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, April 5

We will be welcoming guests from *K'sharim*, a program for Jewish adults with disabilities. This is our third year hosting this program; come help us give a warm welcome!

## TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays, April 13, May 4, June 1  
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 by **Alison Lobron**—CDT member and Jewish educator. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

## LEARNING WITH LEORA (FOR STUDENTS IN KITOT DALET, HEY, AND VAV)

Saturdays, April 6, May 18  
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!

## JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Saturdays, 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.

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

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH OF BERNARD & EVELYN CHEDEKEL

Saturday, April 6, 9:45 am

We hope to see you at services when our son and daughter, **Bernard** and **Evelyn Chedekel**, are called to the Torah. They are seventh-grade students at Day Middle School in Newton. Bernie plays guitar, saxophone, and tennis, and has spent time serving meals to homeless and impoverished adults at the Haley House soup kitchen in Boston. Evie is passionate about writing and drama and plays a mean defense in lacrosse. For her Tikkun Olam project, she undertook a trash clean-up project along the Charles River (specifically targeting Dunkin' Donuts cups!) We hope you will join us for a

Kiddush lunch after the service. —*Isabel Morais & Lisa Chedekel*

## BAR MITZVAH OF JULIAN SOFER

Saturday, April 20, 9:45 am

**Julian Lewis (Lev) Sofer** attends The Rashi School, where he plays on the 7th/8th Grade boys' basketball team. For his Tikkun Olam project, he has been volunteering at Curtis Hall Community Center in Jamaica Plain, our family's neighborhood, assisting a sports program for inner-city kids. Julian has been a dedicated participant in JP's Regan Youth Baseball League for many years, and he will be attending Camp Micah for the first time this summer. His current passion is the computer game Minecraft. Julian is shy in public, with a delightfully sly sense of humor. We hope that you will join us as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah and in celebrating with a Kiddush lunch afterward. —*Andrew Sofer & Bonnie Tenneriello*

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA

Saturdays, April 20, May 4, June 8, 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!

## SHABBAT UNPLUGGED

Friday/Saturday, May 4 & 5

**Save the Dates! See page 5 for details.**



Havdalah on the Water, 2011 Shabbat Unplugged. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

**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).**

# Events

## CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 pm  
60 Highland St.

Film: *Holy Land Hardball*. (2008, USA, English)

Join the CDT Film Club and the Men's Softball Team for a viewing of *Holy Land Hardball*. There won't be a potluck dinner, but ballpark snacks will be served! The 2009 film recounts the journey of Boston bagel maker Larry Baras to create a professional baseball league in Israel. The *Boston Globe* says, "*Holy Land Hardball* is absolutely about baseball, but often hilariously about a whole lot more," and *Variety* says, "You don't have to be Jewish or understand a box score to embrace the crowd-pleasing national-pastime documentary *Holy Land Hardball*." The film won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2008 Boston Jewish Film Festival. The movie is followed by a group discussion. We hope you can join us!

## CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM BEGINS ITS 2013 SEASON

Practices and games start in April

The CDT Men's Softball Team will be entering our seventh season in the Men's Synagogue Softball League this spring. Whether you are new to CDT or a long-standing member, if you can swing the bat and flash some leather, you're eligible to be on the team.

So check your age, and if you're over 25 and a member, or a son of a member, you can join the team. Join us for Sunday morning batting practice sessions. Games are played on Sunday mornings from mid-April to early June, with playoffs starting in mid-June. The winner of the championship earns the "coveted" Kiddush Cup.

DATE	TIME	FIELD	TOWN	HOME TEAM	VISITING TEAM
Sunday, 04/14/2013	10:00am	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Dorshei Tzedek Newton	Shalom Newton
Sunday, 04/21/2013	10:00am	Bowen School 280 Cypress St	Newton	Beth Avodah 2 Newton	Dorshei Tzedek Newton
Sunday, 04/28/2013	10:00am	Countryside School 191 Dedham St	Newton	Emanuel 3 Newton	Dorshei Tzedek Newton
Sunday, 05/05/2013	10:00am	Concord Ave Field 365 Concord Ave.	Belmont	Beth El Belmont	Dorshei Tzedek Newton
Sunday, 05/12/2013	10:00am	Forte Park 235 California St	Newton	Dorshei Tzedek Newton	Israel 1 Boston

For more information on the team, or to sign up, contact **Elliot Pittel**, Head Coach of CDT Softball, at [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net).

## SHAVUOT

Tuesday, May 14, 8:00 pm  
Congregation Kehillath Israel,  
384 Harvard Street, Brookline

Seven weeks after Passover, we celebrate the mythical moment of receiving Torah at Sinai, and continue the ongoing conversation that is Torah in all its many branches and permutations. This year, like last year, we will be joining with other area congregations at the **5th Annual Brookline Area Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot**. Beginning at 8:00pm and continuing until 4am, this all-night study session will include a large variety of teachers and teachings, including Rabbi Toba! Come for one hour or stay the whole night, but don't miss it!

## GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

### RASHI SCHOOL'S "CURIOUS MINDS PROGRAM" FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS—YOM HA'AZMAUT: HAPPY BIRTHDAY ISRAEL!

Tuesday, March 12, 10:00-11:30 am  
Rashi School, 8000 Great Meadow Rd, Dedham

Join us for songs, stories, Israeli Dance, crafts, and, of course, birthday cake, in celebration of Israel's 65th birthday. Please RSVP at <http://rashi.org/cm/>. For more information, call 781-355-7317.

### LAG B'OMER—A FAMILY CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 28 4:00-6:00 pm  
Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton

Join in this festive day, Israeli style. Live music, food, games, races, singalongs and a campfire! Picnic food will be available for purchase. No charge. Open to the entire community.

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

### HAVE A RECONSTRUCTIONIST SUMMER!

**Camp JRF** Now registering for its summer sessions, June 25–July 21 and July 23–August 11.

For kids in grades 3–11, Camp JRF in the Poconos is a magical place where campers can open up to the possibilities in life—and in Judaism—in order to become their best selves. Activities include sports, arts, drama, singing and dancing, boating and swimming, hiking, challenge course and overnight camping experiences. Most of all, kids experience community and learning in new and exciting ways. 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 five days of swimming, sports, arts, experiential education, celebrating 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.



# Tikkun Olam

by Jonathan Rosenthal, Tikkun Olam Chair

At the recent Member's Meeting, we presented five new Tikkun Olam initiatives. We will be presenting more information on these initiatives in the future. For this issue of the newsletter, we are presenting two of them. For more information on our congregation's Tikkun Olam initiatives, contact **Jonathan Rosenthal**: [tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617.744.9026

**Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Mother's Day Walk For Peace**  
*Sunday May 12*  
*Dorchester, MA*

As our hearts went out to those devastated by the Newtown, CT, school massacre, we may have also reflected on the daily violence destroying families in our own city. The **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**, based in Dorchester, supports and empowers families affected by violence, and it has developed the "Peace Zone" conflict resolution program used in Boston Public Schools. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace offers an opportunity to stand together with people who have lost loved ones to violence and to help raise funds for the Institute.

Join a CDT team on May 12 as we walk in Dorchester with families affected by violence, in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Several CDT members are forming a team to jointly raise funds and walk, and we'd love folks to join us or support us with a donation.

If you're interested, please contact **Bonnie Tenneriello** ([bonniet4@gmail.com](mailto:bonniet4@gmail.com)). For more on the Institute or the Walk, go to <http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org>.

**Join TEAM DORSHEI TZEDEK in the Bikes Not Bombs Annual Bike-a-Thon!**

*Sunday, June 2*  
*Jamaica Plain*

**Bikes Not Bombs** is a local nonprofit which collects thousands of used bicycles and tons of used parts from supporters around Greater Boston and New England every year. They ship most of these bikes overseas to economic development projects through international programs in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Bikes that don't get shipped often land in their youth programs, where teens learn bicycle safety and mechanics skills in the process of earning bikes to keep for themselves. Their retail bike shop also reconditions and sells some of the donated bikes that they receive, employing many graduates of their programs.

The Bike-A-Thon is family- and kid-friendly. You choose from four scenic routes: 15, 25, 40, or 65 miles. There is a minimum fundraising commitment (\$150). Proceeds benefit Bikes Not Bombs' local programs and international development programs, using bicycles as a vehicle for social change!

Learn more at [bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon](http://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon). If you want to join Team Dorshei Tzedek, or have questions, email **Alex** at [abg717@gmail.com](mailto:abg717@gmail.com).



## SAVE THE DATES: Shabbat Unplugged, May 3 & 4

Shabbat has been described as a "palace in time," a structure in time, not space, that is made up of special things we do, and things we refrain from doing, in order to "be" rather than "do." Shabbat is a space in which to enjoy the presence of family and friends, a leisurely meal or a contemplative moment.

We invite you to join with fellow CDT members to savor the pleasures of unplugging from the stress and strain of work and school. Here are some of the highlights:

### Erev Shabbat Home Dinners

*Friday, May 3*

Welcome Shabbat at a CDT potluck dinner! You can host your own, or join one that's already organized. If you'd like to host a dinner or lead a Saturday afternoon or evening activity, please contact the Ritual Committee by sending an email to **Laurie Goldman** at [laurie.goldman@tufts.edu](mailto:laurie.goldman@tufts.edu).

### Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Join Rabbi Toba for Torah Study to explore *parshat Behar-Behukkotai* and teachings about the sabbatical year and Jubilee!

### Shabbat Morning Services

Shabbat morning services will be co-led by the students of *Kitah Hay* (5th grade), beginning at 9:45 am. In addition, Tot Shabbat will meet at 10:45 am.

### Havdallah on the Water

*Saturday evening, May 4*  
*Fisher-Gomberg home, Auburndale*

CDTers are welcome to come by as early as 5 pm for a vegetarian potluck *Havdallah* dinner and some casual canoeing and kayaking on the Charles River. Then by 7:30 pm we'll all paddle into the river with

our Havdallah candles and spices for a very special Havdallah service on the water. If case of rain, the potluck will still happen but Havdallah will be indoors.

Please RSVP by April 30 to **Diana Fisher Gomberg**: [dfgomberg@gmail.com](mailto:dfgomberg@gmail.com). RSVPs are requested so that we can make sure we have enough boats and candles. If you have a canoe or kayak, it would be great if you would bring it. Otherwise, please just bring a contribution to the vegetarian potluck dinner and if you have a Havdallah candle and/or spices please bring them too. The Gomerbergs will provide drinks and desserts (and boats, paddles, and life jackets!) All ages are welcome. If you'd rather just watch from the shore, you can join the photographers or the unofficial rescue crew!

# Learning

## GOD IN METAPHOR: PART TWO

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesdays, May 1, 8, & 22, 7:30-9:00 pm

Free and open to the community

Back by popular demand! Building on the “God in Metaphor” class that finished in March, we will continue our exploration of new ways of thinking about the divine. Whether “Water” or “Place,” “Voice,” or “Fire,” Jewish tradition is rich in nonhuman metaphors for God. Come find out how they might enliven your spiritual practice and sense of connection to something beyond ourselves.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays

8:30-9:15 am

Library, 60 Highland Street

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. During the months of April and May, as we count the days from Passover to Shavuot, we will explore different qualities—such as compassion, ease of mind, gratitude, and patience—that shape this journey from liberation to revelation.

## 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 [stan-fma@gmail.com](mailto:stan-fma@gmail.com) or 617-332-5433 for more information.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

With Passover arriving early this year on the secular calendar, the students in the school were busy in March learning about and getting ready for the holiday.

*Nitzanim* (Pre-K) and *Gan* (K) first heard the story of Passover during their minyan. Then in class, *Nitzanim* students learned about asking questions and made Four Question books. *Gan*’s curriculum focuses on *b’rachot* (blessings), so the class learned about the special blessing we say at the seder before eating the matzah (*al achilat matzah*) and made *afikomen* cases to use at their seders.

At the March LO”X@home programs, the students in *Kitot Alef, Bet* and *Gimmel* (grades 1-3) and their parents talked about the tradition of inviting “all who are hungry” to “come and eat” at our seders. The children enjoyed a story about a mysterious, magical stranger at a seder (named Elijah) while parents discussed times when we might feel like a stranger, and how to make guests feel welcome in our homes and community.

At our monthly *Rosh Chodesh* assembly, the students in *Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey*, and *Vav* (grades 3–6) learned that Passover has four different names, each representing a different aspect of the holiday. Students learned which items on the Seder table related to each name and explored the themes relating to each name through a series of hands-on activities. (for the curious, the four names are the Festival of Passover, the Festival of Matzah, the Festival of Spring and the Season of our Freedom). Some students then made Elijah’s Cups or Miriam’s Cups for their seder tables, while other students learned to bake macaroons for Passover.

Our *Kitah Hey* (5th Grade) class is exploring the story of the exodus from Egypt as part of their Torah studies this year, so learning about making matzah certainly connects to their classroom learning. The students and Rabbi Adam (their teacher),

visited the Model Matzah Bakery program run by Chabad House of Greater Boston to learn how to make matzah. First the class watched a video that showed the steps of matzah-making, beginning with growing and harvesting the wheat through the last step of removing the matzah from the oven. The students then had a chance to make their own matzah from wheat. Students were able to grind wheat, separate wheat from the chaff, mix the flour and water and quickly roll out the dough to bake in the oven. At the end of the presentation, students were able to taste their handmade matzah!

Students in *Dalet, Hey*, and *Vav* will help get the school ready for Passover by searching for and removing the *hametz* in our cupboards at FUSN. Then we’ll all go outside to watch Rabbi Toba burn our hametz.

The teachers and I hope that our students’ own celebrations of Passover are enriched by all they have learned in our school. *Hag Sameach!*

*Editor’s note: The following was left out inadvertently from our March newsletter:*

In February, *Baderech* (9th grade) families met for a festive Tu Bishvat seder and brunch. Through the fruits that we ate, we explored the state of our own spiritual lives, identifying outer obstacles like juggling commitments, and inner obstacles like fear or shame. At the same time, we savored the fact that at moments like these, we are able to overcome all obstacles and come together. The students studied a poem by Yehuda Amichai, “God’s Fate,” and then led a discussion of the poem with their parents and **Morah Gina**.

### God’s Fate, by Yehuda Amichai

*God’s fate  
now is like the fate  
of trees and stones, sun and moon,  
when people stopped believing in them  
and began to believe in Him.*

*but He has to stay with us:  
at least like the trees, at least like the stones  
and the sun and the moon and the stars.*

# Chesed

## REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Ruby Gan, Pam Katz, and Phyllis Kantor.**

## CONDOLENCES

To **Liz Reisberg**, on the death of her father, **Leo Reisberg**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Ellie Goldberg**, on the death of her father, **Emanuel Koenigsberg**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Kate Hoffman**, on the death of her mother, **Noreen Williams**. May her memory be for a blessing.

## YARZHEIT

We remember **Jill Volk**, whose 6th yartzheit falls this year on April 21. We will be remembering Jill at Shabbat morning services on April 27. May her memory be for a blessing.

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.)

## CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

*Sunday, April 28  
10:30 am  
12 Randolph Street, Newton*

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, at [elpashall@aol.com](mailto:elpashall@aol.com).

## AVELUT

AVELUT is a member-led group for CDT members to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the AVELUT group please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, at [ellie.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.goldberg@gmail.com).

Thank you to Rabbi Toba for leading the discussion at the last Avelut meeting. Rabbi Toba described several theories about how the Kaddish came to be the traditional mourner's prayer. Through discussion, we learned that it is not only the words that are in Aramaic but also the lyrical sounds of the prayer and our memories and personal associations that can make saying Kaddish a source of consolation when we are grieving a loss.



Baderech's Tu B'Shvat seder in February. At the table are (left to right): Steven Katz, Zev Hattis, Paul Hattis, Jonathan Rosenthal, Gina Fried, and Lily Fisher Gomberg.

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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, **Elaine Landes** and **Benita Danzing** ([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.

# Community

## NEW MEMBERS

We give a hearty welcome to:

**Diane Yates**

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to our March B'nei Mitzvah and their families—**Leila Zisk, Zanny Weinreb, and Ruby Cohen!**

Mazel tov to **Thea Breite**, on receiving a Society for News Design excellence award for her multimedia work on the Boston Globe's "68 Blocks" project!

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who made our Purim celebration so much fun: **Scott Gordon**, our kids' prize-master; **Alison Lobron, Vivienne Shein, Rachel Greenberg, Susie Tanchel, and David Shumsky**, for the young kids' program. **Sheree Galpert and Laurie Gould**, our Spielmeisters, and their merry crew of Disney Spielers: **Doug Hersh, Susan Silberberg, Rebecca Pomerantz, Andrew Sofer, Leila Zisk, Joel Reider, Malka Pomerantz, Peter Hess, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Anna Kaplan, Jane Robinson, and Henry Wasserman**. And thank you to everyone who contributed to the *Yad Chessed* Purim collection, raising funds for over 1,000 people in the greater Boston Jewish community to have a special meal on Purim. We contributed \$387 to Yad Chessed's overall collection of \$83,000.

Todah Rabbah to all those who helped do setup and cleanup for the Purim Party in February: **Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Janet Boguslaw & Howie Kaufman, Jessica Keimowitz, Ezra Hausman, Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Michael Singer, Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman, Noah Rumpf and Ben Newman**.

Todah Rabbah to all of those who helped with kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in February and March:

**Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein, Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola, Chagit Steiner, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Elaine Landes, Josette Akresh-Gonzales & Michael Gonzales, Barbara & Elliot Pittel, Jennifer Kaplan, Alison & David Lobron, Lee**

**Pinstein, Vilunya Diskin, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Haralie Alpert—in memory of Francis Greenberg, Ellen White—in memory of John S. White, Alice Markowitz, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg, Stacey Chacker & Ariane Chacker-Bourrut—in memory of Susannah Zisk.**

## CDT MEMBERS TALK ABOUT AGING

by Louise Enoch

Over the past few months a handful of CDT members met to discuss the issue of aging, and what our Jewish tradition can teach us about this phase of life. The participants ranged in age from about 59 to 71. I served as the facilitator for this series of informal discussions, focused on both personal and Jewish perspectives.

In our first session we introduced ourselves and shared our thoughts about aging. Some of the themes that emerged had to do with the physical aspects of aging, loss, retirement, changing relationships with adult children, redefining oneself as "elder," and consideration of our legacies. We looked at language used to talk about elders and

employment, one is encouraged to maintain meaningful pursuits. After all, both Abraham and Moses heard God's call and took on leadership roles when they were already older men.

In our third meeting we talked about the relationship between spirituality and aging and concluded that though we may face diminished physical capacities as we age, we may be uniquely open to an expanded, new, or renewed spiritual connection. Spiritual connection can be an asset in facing the challenges of aging. We talked about people we know who have been positive role models for aging well.

Along the way, we discovered the "conscious aging" movement, one of whose major contributors has been Reb. Zalman Schacter Shalomi. In his book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, Reb. Zalman talks about the enormous positive potential in a world where, for the first time, large numbers of people will have extended lives, accumulated wisdom, and the energy to devote to issues of the common good. He outlines a process of sage-ing in which confronting death leads to life review "work," which in turn frees energy for personal and spiritual growth, as well as purposeful and meaningful activity in the autumn of our lives. With

**Judaism finds the older person inherently valuable, by virtue of his or her experience, and worthy of respect and care.**

whether we could find better words. Readings in *A Heart of Wisdom*, edited by Susan Berrin, served as a source of ideas and reflections from Jewish writings and personal experience.

In our second meeting we found that some of our Jewish texts offer us an inspiring contradiction to the general view often held in our modern, youth-oriented culture, that the older person is of lesser value and has less to offer. Instead, Judaism finds the older person inherently valuable, by virtue of his or her experience, and worthy of respect and care. Elders should continue to lead productive lives, as long as they are able. Though one may retire from

a conscious sense of accomplishment, we can approach the end of our lives with acceptance and equanimity, leaving a moral legacy for those who come after us.

Members of this group plan to meet with Rabbi Toba to consider further programming on this topic.





# ask lisa dee

Dear Lisa Dee,

*I've been a member of the congregation for a few years, and I'm still not sure if I should be attending life-cycle events other members are having. Bar/bat mitzvahs, naming ceremonies, shivah calls—most of the time I don't go if I don't know the person. It feels weird and I don't want to intrude.*

Sincerely,  
Miss Apprehension

Dear Miss Apprehension,

Please know you are not alone in feeling this way. I have heard from many members over the years who have said they didn't attend a Shabbat service because it was a bar mitzvah they weren't invited to, or, they would go to the service but not stay for the lunch. People also sometimes feel strange going to a congregant's house for a shivah call if they don't know the person.

In terms of Shabbat celebrations, **everyone is welcome to the service and Kiddush**

**Lunch following it.** Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has been mindful in keeping the Shabbat service about Shabbat. While there may be a celebration, we always make sure there is space for congregants, physically as well as spiritually. There is always at least one open aliyah (an opportunity to go to the bimah to make a blessing before a Torah reading) to receive a special blessing. And please, eat! We have kiddush to continue the spirit of Shabbat and foster community.

For shivah calls, people can feel uncomfortable for a lot of reasons. If you don't know the member who has lost someone, it might feel strange to show up at his/her house—especially if the prayers seem foreign, too. However, no one is invited to shivah. As Jews it is our **obligation** to make the shivah call, if you can make it. People in mourning need ten adult Jews (Bat/Bar Mitzvah'ed kids count) gathered to be able to say Kaddish, the prayer for mourners.

You don't need to know the prayers; you just have to be there to be counted and to witness. Making a shivah call is about community and helping someone through a

difficult time. The grief process is long and arduous, but shivah is a reminder that the surviving loved ones are not alone.

Because my shyness is not obvious and because grief is something I'm not too uncomfortable with and because I'm familiar with the service, perhaps you are thinking: easy for you to say, Lisa Dee. It's true. I say a lot of things easily. So, Miss Apprehension and other dear readers, if you'd like, the next time you know of a shivah, (in the CDT community or for other friends outside the community) and you want a shivah buddy (to accompany you), give me a call or send me an email. If I can make it, I'll go with you.

Truthfully, Lisa Dee

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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](mailto:ldpw@rcn.com).

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**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.

**APR 1** Passover Service: Ritual Committee provides kiddush

**APR 5** Erev Shabbat: Rachel Zakuta / Valerie Graf / Karen Wasserman / Carolyn Fine

**APR 6** Shabbat Morning Service & B'nei Mitzvot of Bernard & Evelyn Chedekel: Sanctuary Cleanup: Jodie Siegel / Jeff Goldman, Ushers: Gail Harris & David Reider

**APR 13** Shabbat Morning Service : Corinne Lofchie / Rebecca Cohen / Mark Paley / Karen Leitner

**APR 20** Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Julian Sofer: Sanctuary Cleanup: Marla Cummins / Ilana Mainelli, Ushers: Linda Kramer & Sara Kramer-Fried

**APR 27** Shabbat Morning Service : Jerold Gelfand & Jennifer Nichols / Janelle Winston / Stuart Snyder

**MAY 4** Shabbat Morning Service : Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen / Linda Schiller & Steve Robins - *in honor of our anniversary*

# CDT Calendar

# April 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <b>Passover Service</b> 60 Highland St: Sanctuary 9:30am <b>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</b> Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm	2	3	4 <b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	5 <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck</b> , 6:00 pm	6 <b>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; B'nei Mitzvot of Bernard &amp; Evelyn Chedekel</b> 9:45 am <b>Learning with Leora for students in Kitot Dalet, Hey and Vav</b> , 10:00am to 10:45am <b>Junior Congregation for all 3rd-6th Graders</b> , 10:45am to 12:00pm <b>CDT Film Club</b> 60 Highland St: Sanctuary 7:30pm
7	8 <b>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</b> Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm	9	10	11 <b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am <b>CDT Board Meeting</b> 60 Highland Street: Living Room 7:30pm	12	13 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45 <b>Tot Shabbat</b> 60 Highland St: Room 111 10:45am to 12:00pm
14 <b>CDT Men's Softball</b> Forte Park, 235 California St, Newton 10:00am	15 <b>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</b> Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm	16	17	18 <b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	19	20 <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b> with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, 8:45am to 9:40am <b>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; Bar Mitzvah of Julian Sofer</b> 9:45 am
21 <b>CDT Men's Softball</b> Bowen School, 280 Cypress St, Newton 10:00am	22 <b>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</b> Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm	23	24	25 <b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	26	27 <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45 <b>CDT Sings</b> 60 Highland St: Living Room 1:00pm to 3:00pm
28 <b>CDT Men's Softball</b> Countryside School, 191 Dedham St, Newton 10:00am	29 <b>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless</b> Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm	30	May 1	2 <b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	3 <b>Erev Shabbat Home Dinners</b>	4 <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b> with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, 8:45am to 9:40am <b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45 <b>Tot Shabbat</b> 60 Highland St: Room 111 10:45am to 12:00pm <b>Havdallah on the Water Potluck &amp; Paddle</b> Fisher-Gomberg home, Auburn-dale, 5:00pm <b>CDT Film Club</b> 6:00pm

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.

# Nediv Lev

## UPDATE ON OUR 2013 NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN

by Sharon Sevransky, Nediv Lev chair

Our 2013 Nediv Lev (fundraising) Campaign this year is well on its way. As I write this, we have received donations and pledges which bring us to about 50% of the way to our \$75,000 goal. To those who have already given, THANK YOU! For those who have not yet made your Nediv Lev donation, please don't wait. We are about \$37,000 short of our goal needed to ensure our congregation's financial health.

The Nediv Lev campaign is an opportunity to reflect on what the CDT community means to you—the music of our Shabbat services,

our adult learning classes, our community celebration of holidays and festivals. Please honor the contribution that CDT makes to your life with a Nediv Lev gift, large or small.

Every contribution, of any size, is very important to the Nediv Lev campaign. If you choose, you may direct your gift to be in honor of a member of our community, or as a way to remember a loved one.

It is easy to give:

Online— You can go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/nediv-lev>.

Mail— Send a check (payable to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek) to the office.

Thank you for all you do to support our community!

## We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

### GENERAL FUND

Rose and Lloyd Adler

Ellie Baron and Kate DeBethune

Barbara Beck—*in memory of my parents, Irving and Edit Beck; in memory of my brother, Stephen Beck*

Susan Bernstein

Thea Breite and Susan Moser

Helaine and John Carroll

Stacey Chacker—*in memory of Fred Chacker*

Rebecca Cohen and Jake Weinberg

Marla Cummins

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow—*in memory of Saul Aronow, father of Nathan Aronow; in honor of Susan Moser, who led the shiva minyan; in honor of Rabbi Toba and the CDT community for their support*

Vilunya Diskin—*in memory of Esther Leiter*

Karen and Reinhard Engels

Meryl Epstein and Trish Nuzzola

Nancy Gertz—*in honor of my sister Betsy Gertz on the occasion of her 10 year special anniversary, with wishes for continued good health and well-being; with prayers for health and healing for my dear friend Keith Rand*

Ora Gladstone—*in recognition of Jonathan Rosenthal and the Tikkun Olam committee*

Laurie Goldman—*in appreciation for all those who led and participated in fabulous shabbatot services during Rabbi Toba's sab-batical and to Peter Katz's calm and guiding leadership throughout*

Marjorie and Newton Greenberg—*in mem-ory of David Greenberg, father of Newton Greenberg*

Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg

Judy Hersch and Tim Rosa

Linda Hsu and Marc Steinberg—*in honor of Eileen Morrison, Cindy Rome, Betsy Hin-den, and Karen Wasserman*

Sherry Katz and Mark Farber

Sue Lanser and Jo Radner—*in honor of all service leaders, leyners and helpers*

Alissa and Gerry Leonard—*Bravo to Laurie Gould and Sheree Galpert and all the Purim spielers on a fabulous spiel!*

Dianne Lior

Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury—*in memory of Arthur Marshall*

Amy Mazur—*in memory of Marvin Mazur*

Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx

Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato—*in honor of my father, Larry Saposnick, a sol-dier, a teacher, a piano entertainer, and as of January, 2013, a new resident of Newton*

Thomas Robinson

Marion Ross—*in celebration of Leila Zisk's Bat Mitzvah*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks—*with thanks to the CDT community for support received around Jeff's father's death*

Marjorie Salvodon and Mark Schafer

Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis—*in memory of Rosalie Samelson*

Linda Schiller and Steve Robins

Liora and Ehud Schmidt—*in memory of Ruth Schmidt*

Jo Ann Share and Rochelle Weichman

Carol Sklar

Emily Sper—*in memory of Roy Sper*

Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried—*with thanks to Orit Kent and R. David Jaffe; in honor of our wonderful staff and Board*

Bonnie Tennereillo and Andrew Sofer—*in honor of Julian Sofer's Bar Mitzvah*

Jamie Tessler—*in memory of my parents, Ted and Eleanor Tessler*

### CAMP JRF FUND

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### SCHOOL FUND

### HOLY BOOKS FUND

### JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

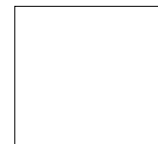
### BUILDING FUND

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary 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 important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides 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 allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

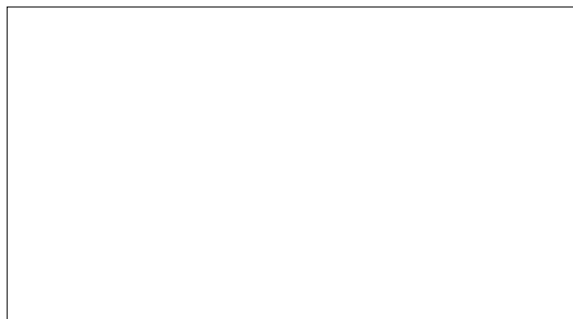


**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## The CDT Retreat is Coming!

### CDT RETREAT 2013

*Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16, 2013*

*Camp Yavneh in beautiful Concord, New Hampshire*



Tween Parents do their part at the 2011 CDT retreat Talent Show. Pictured, left to right are: Susan Silberberg, Jeffrey Marcus, Susan Nitkin, Linda Kramer, Richard Gomberg (hidden), Paul Hattis, Diana Fisher Gomberg, and Stephen Zisk.

Celebrate Shabbat in a beautiful outdoor setting, with good food, great community, comfortable accommodations and fun for people of all ages. This year promises to bring beautiful weather (since it rained almost the entire weekend last time). Enjoy this once in a lifetime (that is every two years) opportunity. Come hang out with fellow Dorshei Tzedek members, daven, play ball, schmooze, swim, and eat!

Register now! Just go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/retreat-2013>, print the registration form, and send it back with your check to reserve your spot. Don't wait...there are only 150 spots still available! Please note that we are committed to making the retreat accessible to all of our families, and there will be staff support for kids with special needs.

For more information, or to get involved, contact **Corinne** ([clotchie@gmail.com](mailto:clotchie@gmail.com)) or **Stacey** ([chacsjc@aol.com](mailto:chacsjc@aol.com)).

**Don't miss it!**