



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Tammuz/Av/Elul 5773 July/August 2013

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Building a Covenantal Community

by Allison Hausman



AT THE June members' annual meeting we kicked off a year-long exploration of what membership and community mean to us by asking ourselves and each other questions: What is the "covenant" between our congregation and its members? What are our expectations and needs around our relationship with CDT? What are our responsibilities to the community? And how can our community be attractive and welcoming to members at all stages of their lives?

The exploration of community and how it is changing is the first challenge for our new, restructured board. Based on this initial discussion and input from members, we're excited to delve into the study ahead, to guide the community-wide conversation, and to engage as many members as possible as we think about the evolving relationship between our community and the unique and diverse group of individuals of which it is comprised.

Photo: Dorshei men creating community at the CDT Retreat.

Photo by Laya Steinberg.

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Through our discussions and exploration this year, we hope to gain:

- A deeper understanding of why and how commitment to the CDT community adds value and meaning to the lives of our members. This deepened understanding will enable us to articulate these experiences for current and potential members, and to evolve as a congregation in ways that enhance and expand this value.
- A set of policies and procedures to better meet the needs of Membership support and development functions at CDT, including leadership and staffing. This will include an Executive Committee role, a Membership Committee role, and processes for better reaching out to both potential and existing members.

The more things change...

The discussion at the June meeting centered on a text written by a rabbi during the Middle Ages: a covenantal Jewish community was inquiring about an appropriate punishment for a member who wanted to leave. While we don't intend to introduce punishments for not living up to communal responsibilities at Dorshei Tzedek, I found it fascinating that the needs of the members and the sense of a two-way responsibility between members and the group felt resonant. The discussion that ensued spanned many areas around CDT and membership, and provided valuable guidance for our work this year.

Perhaps most important will be to look inside, at the specifics of our own community and more broadly to explore other manifestations of community today and in the past—Jewish communities, non-Jewish communities, online communities, and beyond. What role does a covenantal community play in people's lives today? What are other, competing ways people get this kind of fulfillment?

One interesting challenge that arose in our initial discussion was the need to balance focusing on “what we are or are not doing well for our members” with “what each of us can do to make our community special.” **Laurie Gould**, our incoming VP for Leadership summarized this beautifully in her beginning framework for next year:

In our discussions over the course of the year, we will certainly strive to learn how CDT can improve, and what can

strengthen us as a community. But it should be our goal to build a conversation on the foundation of an understanding of our strengths, and of what our community offers that has allowed us to grow (albeit slowly) at a time when many other religious communities are experiencing declining membership.

And we should remain grounded in CDT's participatory model (where members are a part of creating their own experience), rather than in a consumer model (where members primarily evaluate what they are “get” for their membership); the question is, how do we create the most compelling membership experience for ourselves.

I'm very appreciative to be following **Peter Katz's** leadership as I take on the role of CDT's president starting in August.

Note: The term of the board members listed here ends on July 31. The 2013-2014 Board members, whose term begins on August 1, are listed in an article by Peter Katz on p. 9.

Peter brought us to a new and inspiring structure for our board that created the strong foundation we need to move forward with this discussion. I'm so excited to engage in this discussion as I explore for myself what it means to take on this new relationship to our community, and I hope that every member will find ways to participate—even if it's just keeping track of the discussion through our newsletter. I am already finding it rewarding to get to know more new and old members of our community, and I am looking forward to many interesting discussions about the meaning people find in their own covenantal relationship to CDT.

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: Ellie Goldberg and Fran Malino

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 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 & Holydays

SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICES SCHEDULE

During the months of July and August, we hold services every other Shabbat morning, plus one all-ages erev Shabbat service in the month of August.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Saturdays, July 13, July 27, August 10, and August 24

9:45 am - 12:00 pm

TISHA B'AV

Monday evening, July 16, 7:30pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Tisha B'av is a fast day, commemorating the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, and a time to reflect on the Jewish experience of exile. We will not be hosting our own Tisha B'av program this year, but all CDT members are invited to

join with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah for this commemoration. For more information, go to www.templehbt.org.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Friday, August 9

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 6:00pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a dairy/veggie main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people). Services begin at 6:45pm, and are followed by Oneg Shabbat dessert at 7:30pm.

HIGH HOLYDAYS 5774

The holidays are "early" this year! Rosh Hashanah begins Wednesday evening, September 4. Look for your High Holydays mailing with information about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in early August. Information will be on the CDT website in August as well.

SELICHOT

Saturday evening, August 31, 8:00-10:00 pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

We enter in the spirit of the Days of Awe with Selichot, on the Saturday preceding Rosh Hashanah. Joining with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, our Selichot program will include learning, reflection, and an opportunity for each of us to begin our own process of teshuvah, turning/returning.

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).

Learning

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

Thank you to all who have returned their school registration materials. Registrations for returning students are due by July 31. Avoid the late fee of \$50!

We are enrolling new students in all grades from Pre-K through 10th grade. If you have friends who are looking for a Jewish educational program for their children, encourage them to check us out. And please let them know that they can enroll students up to Grade 3 for one year without becoming members. I am happy to talk with prospective school families to help them decide if

we are the right school for them. They can contact me at school@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-5443.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays in July

Email for information

In the month of July, there will be lay-led meditation gatherings on Thursday mornings. This group is for both new and experienced meditators. It provides an opportunity to cultivate mindfulness and qualities like patience, gratitude and equanimity. To find out the meeting times and place, please contact **Carole Slipowitz** (carole@slipowitz.org) or **Laya Steinberg** (lasword@rcn.com).

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE DAYS OF AWE

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursdays, August 1, 8, 15, & 29 (no class on August 22)

8:15-9:15 am

Library, 60 Highland Street

In the month of August/Elul, Rabbi Toba will lead a series of learning and meditation sessions focused on preparing ourselves for the process of teshuvah, "turning," which we undertake during the High Holydays. Feel free to come once or every week!

Chesed

REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to CDT members **Ruby Gan**, **Nancy Gertz**, and **Susan Nitkin**.

YARZHEIT

We remember **Debbie Sher**, whose 2nd yartzheit falls this year on August 20. We will be remembering Debbie at Shabbat morning services on August 24.

AVELUT

AVELUT (tinyurl.com/AvelutCDT) is CDT's member-led group for adults that meets for reflection, discussion, and support during the grieving process, especially following a recent loss or marking a yahrzeit. Participants have the opportunity to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and/or the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. All CDT members are invited to join Avelut at upcoming meetings (to be announced).

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and online: www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/

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.)

files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf. CDT also has a "Shivah Team" that coordinates shivah logistics and we developed a pool of shivah leaders. In addition, the CDT Chesed Committee organizes meals or other needs when there is a loss in a member's family.

If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the Avelut group, please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, at ellie.goldberg@gmail.com.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org, 617-965-0330), or the Chesed coordinators, **Ellie Goldberg** (ellie.goldberg@gmail.com) and **Fran Malino** (fmalino@wellesley.edu). They can also be reached at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

Rabbi Toba will be on vacation for much of July and for a week in August; while she is away, there will be an on-call rabbi. In addition, there will be CDT members coordinating shivah minyanim for anyone in need during those times. If you are in need of a rabbi or help with a death in the family, call 617-965-0330 x2 (Rabbi Toba's extension); if she is out of town, there will be instructions to call the Chesed Coordinators, who will provide you with any necessary information and support.

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.

Tikkun Olam

Team Dorshei Tzedek Rides

RAISES MONEY FOR THE BIKES NOT BOMBS BIKE-A-THON

by Alex Sugerman-Brozan

On June 2, more than a dozen intrepid Dorshei Tzedek members braved 90+ degree heat to ride in the Bikes Not Bombs (BNB) Bike-a-Thon, riding anywhere from 15 to 65 miles. This was the first year for Team Dorshei Tzedek in the Bike-a-Thon, and we were in the Top 5 for most new riders and for the highest team fundraising.

We exceeded our goals of at least a *minyan* of riders and at least \$5,000 in funds raised, raising over \$5,300 for Bikes Not Bombs' vital programs!



Some members of Team Dorshei Tzedek after completing the 15-mile Bike-a-Thon route.

Bikes Not Bombs is a local nonprofit that seeks to use the bicycle as a vehicle for social change. They lead programs for teens in Boston on bikes, bike mechanics, bike safety and community organizing and leadership skills through programs like Earn-a-Bike and Girls In Action. BNB collects thousands of used bicycles and tons of used parts from supporters around Greater Boston and New England every year. They also work with international sustainable development partners in eight countries around the world, shipping thousands of used bicycles abroad every year and providing technical assistance. In addition, BNB operates an excellent full-service bike shop in Jamaica Plain which we highly recommend! Learn more at bikesnotbombs.org.

Thank you to all the CDT members who rode and raised funds, and to all those who sponsored the riders and donated! We expect that this is just the first year of many for Team Dorshei Tzedek in the Bike-a-Thon and hope you can join us next year!

FAMILY TABLE

CDT has volunteered annually to collect 25 cans of **kosher or vegetarian soup** and 25 boxes of **whole grain cereal** per month for Family Table. Family Table is the area's only food pantry offering kosher food for Jewish families.

A huge thank you to **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**, who has served as our Family Table coordinator for many years. And thanks to all those who participated in Family Table food deliveries this year: **Annie Spanel, Jan Small, Stephanie Hackett, Marcia Okun, Kate Hoffman, Gail Harris, Jessica Engel** and **Ilana Mainelli**.

Dorshei Tzedek will continue to provide food for those in need in the Boston area. We have renewed our commitment to donate to Family Table for next year. The time commitment is minimal—about one hour on one Sunday per month to transport the food. The driver picks up the monthly donations of food from Dorshei Tzedek and delivers it to Family Table in Waltham.

Here is your chance to participate in the mitzvah of being a driver! Click on this link to sign up: doodle.com/by72xr9h6bn2hq8m. Dates begin July 14 (this month!) and continue through the year. Questions? Contact Pamela at (jomela@rcn.com)



Events

ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

Monday, July 8, 7:30-9:00 pm
Home of member Rachel Pytel

Have you ever entered High Holyday services feeling like you didn't have time to prepare or even reflect on the year gone by? If so, here is your chance... CDT women and guests can start reflecting on 5773 as we welcome the New Moon of Av and discuss themes of giving, loss, and teshuvah (return or repentance). For a special treat (and to avoid the stifling heat in our regular meeting space) this group will be hosted at the home of member **Rachel Pytel** in Newton. To learn more, to RSVP, or for directions, please email rzpytel@gmail.com.

RED FIRE FARM EXCURSION


Sunday, August 4

On August 4, join your fellow veggie lovers for a summer excursion to Red Fire Farm, CDT's CSA partner, in sunny Granby, Massachusetts. See where your produce comes from, meet the farmers, take a tour of the farm, and pick your own produce! All are welcome, not just CSA members. Please email **Tom Brown** at tom@brown.name if you are able to join us (we will organize carpools from the greater Boston area).

mayyim hayyim presents
LOOKING DEEPLY
WORKS BY NIRA HOREV
AND SUSANNAH ZISK

OPENING RECEPTION & ARTISTS' TALK
August 13 at Mayyim Hayyim
1838 Washington Street, Newton, MA
Enter through the parking lot of Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington Street, Newton

ART TEACHES THE SOUL TO SEE
The Mayyim Hayyim Art Gallery is a public expression of one of our founding principles: Hiddur Mitzvah -- the rabbinic mandate to make Jewish life beautiful. We display works in a variety of media and by artists of all ethnicities and religions. Housed in the Paula Brody & Family Education Center, the gallery is used as a classroom for students of all ages and is a source of inspiration for everyone.



Nira Horev

RSVP
mayyimhayyim.org/Gallery/Upcoming-Exhibit
or events@mayyimhayyim.org or 617-244-1836 x 214

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

Have a Reconstructionist Summer!

Camp JRF, Now registering for its second summer session, 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.

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.

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.

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

LOOKING DEEPLY: WORKS BY NIRA HOREV AND SUSANNAH ZISK, AN OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday, August 13

Mayyim Hayyim Art Gallery, 1838 Washington Street

Enter through the parking lot of Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington Street, Newton

The quilts of **Susannah Zisk**, beloved CDT member, will be displayed at the Mayyim Hayyim Art Gallery. Susannah created a series of quilts based on her experience of living with breast cancer, using images abstracted from a cancer cell. After years of creating conceptual sculpture and installation art, she took great pleasure in working with color, texture and pattern. Susannah passed away in 2011.

Also on display are works by **Nira Horev**, who is a Boston-based mixed media artist. Her work is an examination of life cycles, of old and new, of memory and creation. Using photographs as "memory," she works with pastels to create new landscapes.

The Gallery is intended to follow Mayyim Hayyim's own mandate to make Jewish life beautiful. Works displayed are in a variety of media and by artists of all ethnicities and religions. For more information call 617-244-1836 ext. 214 or go to www.mayyimhayyim.org/Gallery/Upcoming-Exhibit.

The 2013 CDT Retreat

by Emily Shumsky

On June 14, a group of more than 140 CDT members celebrated Shabbat and shared a lovely weekend in a beautiful outdoor setting—Camp Yavneh in Northwood, NH. Provided with good food, great friends (new and old) and fun for all ages, we all had a fabulous time!

To give you an idea of what we did, here are some highlights: a walk in the woods Shabbat morning with at least 40 others while being led in a discussion by **Leora Abelson** and **Bill Shorr**. They

Eating my favorite foods? (How did the camp staff know that those were my favorite foods?) Holding babies and then introducing myself to their dads or moms as an afterthought? You get my point. It was a marvelous, rich, inspiring, enlivening, and still magically relaxing weekend. I can't wait for the next one!" —**Gina Fried**

"I loved being around the wondrous energy of our youngest members of CDT, a refreshing surprise as the parent of young adult children. It was a joy to be in a lovely natural environment, and to experience the CDT community at its best!" —**Meryl Epstein**



A sampling of the fun.
Photos by Laya Steinberg.
Collage by Naomi Ingber.

discussed with us the wonders in nature and the wonders of Torah. Swimming, kayaking and canoeing on the lake; group field games, beach games, puppet making, duct tape crafts, and a scavenger hunt for children of all ages led by both volunteers and staff; an intergenerational Talent Show, including improvisational skits, hula hoops, comedy and ballet. A softball game for big kids and adults; "capture the flag," played by all ages, in the evening and led by the Katz family; a nighttime campfire in the deep woods with singing and toasting marshmallows with the Gomers. **Esther Kohn** led two wonderfully peaceful sessions of Yoga at different times, and **Laya Steinberg** led a lovely *Mincha* meditation on Shabbat afternoon.

When asked what they liked about the retreat, here is what some participants said:

*"What should I choose? Swimming across the lake? Singing Lecha Dodi on Friday night and then singing Psukei D'zimra the next morning with the same exuberant voices around me? Talking to **Noah Marcus** about what 'talent' actually means or looks like?"*

"My wife and I liked letting our kids do whatever they wanted and hang out with anyone! We also enjoyed stand-up paddleboarding." —**David Lobron**

"I left the retreat finally understanding what a real Shabbat feels like. 24 hours felt so much longer without the constant pull of computers and phones and buying things... I can't wait for the next one." —**Rebecca Cohen**

"I got to eat fruit loops for breakfast and run and play outside without my parents. I also stayed up late." —**Elliot Shumsky (Age 7)**

"I loved being able to watch kids of all ages be together and play together. I felt such a sense of community throughout the retreat and especially at the amazing talent show." —**Corinne Lofchie**

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Community

CDT Chalkboard

A NEW YEAR FOR CDT IN TWO WAYS

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director

Membership Renewals and High Holydays Registrations are done over the summer. At the end of July, our membership year ends and on August 1 a new one begins. Now is the time to make sure you have cleared any currently outstanding balances and prepare to renew your membership for next year. Membership renewal packets will be mailed out to current members' homes at the end of July. Expect to receive them during the first week of August and please get these back to us by the September 1 deadline.

Just after receiving your member renewal packet, you will also receive information about our 2013 High Holydays services, which will be held again at Gann Academy in Waltham. Erev Rosh Hashanah is September 4. So please plan ahead and get your children's, guest and member registration forms back to us by the August 29 deadline.

You must return your membership renewal forms by September 1 to be considered a "member in good standing" and take advantage of no-added-adult-cost High Holyday attendance rates, and lower rates for children, which are some of the benefits of membership.

For any questions about your membership or High Holydays packets, or any other administrative issues, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM GOES TO THE PLAYOFFS!

(Check for updates on email or in CDT Newsletter's September issue)

For the second year in a row, the Tzedek Men have made it to the playoffs - and who knows, maybe this is the year they win the coveted Kiddush Cup! The playoffs start Sunday June 23 after this newsletter goes

to press, and CDT will be playing B'nai Torah (Sudbury) in the first round. Having finished with a 5-4 record and a higher seed than 4-5 B'nai Torah, CDT is looking forward to this game. This is a new year, and CDT goes into the 2013 playoffs on a 4 game winning streak. Don't miss any of the exciting action as the Tzedekmen go for their first win in the playoffs.

For more information on the team or the playoffs, contact **Elliot Pittel**, Head Coach of CDT Softball, at epittel@comcast.net.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to our June B'nei Mitzvah and their families—**Sara Kramer-Fried, Maya Fisher Gomberg**, and **David Katz!**

To our incoming Board members and Committee Chairs!

To the following graduate and his family: **Jeremy Bayes**, who graduated from Ithaca College at the end of May. He is headed to Panama in the Peace Corps, working in sustainable agriculture in a rural community.

TODAH RABBAH

A huge Thank You to all who made the 2013 CDT Retreat such a success: our magnificent co-coordinators, **Stacey Chacker** and **Corinne Lofchie**, and all those who helped with planning and logistical coordination: **Erica Streit-Kaplan, Susan Silberberg, Sivan Nasoff, David Shumsky, Alison Lobron, Bryn Austin, Bill Shorr, Carole Slipowitz, Laurie Goldman, Amy Dain, Judy Hersh** and **Tim Rosa**, plus everyone who pitched in and helped out with various activities. Todah rabbah!

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

Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Carole Slipowitz, Lisa Chedekel, Stephen Zisk, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Tracey Rogers, Marjorie Greenberg, David Reider, Carole Slipowitz, Rachel Nemeth Cohen, Stacey Chacker - in memory of Alex Fried, Lilly Platt - in memory of Chaika Platt,

Andrew Milsten, Wendy Gedanken, Clifford Goldsmith, Paul Schimek - in memory of J. G. Schimek, Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman, Bryn Austin, Misha Dudnik, Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel, Hope Kellman, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman, Jamie Tessler, Pamela & Steven Katz, Peter Shapiro, and Melanie Adler.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

JUL 13 Shabbat Morning Service : Joyce Traister / Ellie Goldberg / Debbie Waber

JUL 27 Shabbat Morning Service : Barry Ingber / Wendy & Charles Frankston

AUG 9 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Allison Andrews / Carole Slipowitz / Valerie Graf / Laura Katz

AUG 10 Shabbat Morning Service: Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx / Tessa Goldsmith

AUG 24 Shabbat Morning Service : Linda Katz / Karen & Reinhard Engels

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.

Annual Meeting of Members

by Peter Katz

On June 2, an enthusiastic group of over forty members attended this year's annual meeting.

Sivan Nasoff presented the proposed budget for 5774 (August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014). Given ongoing economic uncertainties, the budget is cautious about the coming year, assuming, for example, no net growth in membership. In addition we will not be increasing membership dues or High Holidays fees; there will be a small school tuition increase. Expense increases include cost of living salary increases and increases in rent. As a result, the proposed budget projects a net deficit of about \$8,000. If this deficit occurs, it will be covered out of reserves, which are ample for the purpose. We have had surpluses in recent years. The members unanimously approved the 5774 budget.

The members then unanimously voted to adopt the proposed new by-laws, which incorporate the governance changes approved by the members in March.

We honored **Lisa Dee Port White**, **Marla Cummins**, **Amy Dain**, **Danielle Klainberg** and **Stan Fleischman**, who are all stepping down from leadership positions. Lisa has been membership VP and, most recently, secretary. Marla succeeded Lisa as membership VP. Amy served as membership chair. Danielle was communications chair. And Stan has been responsible for the website for years. Thanks to you all!

The members proceeded to enthusiastically elect the new board by acclamation.

Judy Hersh then eloquently described the important work of the revolving team of chesed coordinators and several members immediately volunteered to join the team.

For the last item on the agenda Rabbi Toba presented a teaching on the nature of the membership relationship in a congregation

and **Allison Hausman** (our new President) described the board's plan to study membership and community in the coming year. The members concluded the meeting with a discussion on this topic, which is described in Allison's column on the front page of this newsletter.

Next year's board members (under a new expanded structure) will be:

Executive Committee:

President - **Allison Hausman**
Immediate Past President - **Peter Katz**
VP Finance - **Sivan Nasoff**
VP Membership - **Melanie Adler**
VP Education - **Lisa Schneier**
VP Leadership - **Laurie Gould**
Secretary - **Jen Kaplan**

Board Members-at-Large will be:

Louise Enoch, **Jake Weinberg**, **Jonathan Rosenthal**, **Laurie Goldman**, **Vilunya Diskin**, **Linda Hsu** and **David Lobron**.

Off-Board Chairs will be:

Ritual - **Marion Ross** and **Laurie Goldman**
Nediv Lev - **Sharon Sevransky**
Children's Education - **Bill Shorr**
Website - **Dan Halbert**
Space - **Noam Shore**
Rabbinic Liaison - **Cindy Shulak-Rome**
Chesed –Off-Board Chairs will rotate
Tikkun Olam, Communications and Newsletter Off-Board
Chairs will be filled shortly.



Even amazing in black and white.

Baruch ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu melech ha'olam zocher ha'brit v'ne'eman bivrito v'kayam b'ma'amaro.

Photo by Carol Sklar.

CDT Calendar

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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.				Mindful Mornings		
7	Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:30 Member Home	8	9	10	11	12
				Mindful Mornings		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
14	Tisha b'av program 7:30 pm Temple Hillel Bnai Torah	15	16	17	18	19
				Mindful Mornings		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Mindful Mornings			Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			Preparing our Hearts 8:15-9:15am Library, 60 Highland			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Red Fire Farm Excursion			Preparing our Hearts 8:15-9:15am Library, 60 Highland	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00 pm		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Preparing our Hearts 8:15-9:15am Library, 60 Highland			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
26	26	27	28	29	30	31
			Preparing our Hearts 8:15-9:15am Library, 60 Highland			Selichot Service 8:00-10:00pm Temple Hillel Bnai Torah

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Jan Gortler-Small

Marjorie and Newton Greenberg—*in honor of Tim Rosa and Judy Hersh, for their kindness*

Hazel and Bob Keimowitz—*in memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

Frances Malino and Eugene Black—*in honor of our new grandson, Nathan Thomas Hoffman*

Alice Markowitz and Rick Glassman

Susan Silberberg—*in memory of husband and father, Ross Silberberg*

Madeline Steinberg and Mitchell Feuer

Lauren Gibbs—*in memory of Mel Dorfman; in honor of Nathan Greenberg's graduation; in honor of Joanna Marcus's bat mitzvah; in appreciation of Janice Cole, Sue Lanser, Dianne Lior, Lisa Schneier and Ellen White, who drove me to and/or from DT events; in thanks to Rabbi Toba*

Audra Karp and Deb Albenberg

Marion and Robert Ross—*in memory of Diana Levenson*

Lynda and Joe Bayes

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Geri Blitzman

Alice Markowitz and Rick Glassman—*in gratitude to Rabbi Toba for officiating at our wedding*

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan—*in honor of our friendship with David and Alison Lobron*

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.

Retreat Reflections

continued from page 7

"Swimming across the lake with Laya, Jennifer and David on Shabbat. When we got to the other side, we lay on a rock in the sun.... warming ourselves like turtles. It was fun getting to know CDT members whom I really didn't know, and as usual from CDT retreats, walked away with a new friend or two!" —**Stacey Chacker**

"This was my first retreat and it was awesome! So many things to praise: the accommodations were great; the food was terrific (and lots of it); BUT, best of all was erev Shabbat services in the outdoor amphitheater and Shabbat morning services in the beit midrash with the amidah outside... Everyone was welcoming and friendly and such nachas to see our beautiful kids running, dancing, laughing and skipping on the spacious, wooded grounds. We had a wonderful time together. The talent show was a huge success. We are such a talented congregation, especially the kids! In two years, we'll be together again, with many more at Camp Yavneh!" —**Vilunya Diskin**

We brought our whole darn family (including two teenagers and one college student) and we all LOVED it! Now that we're no longer on the b'nei mitzvah circuit, it was especially wonderful to meet all the newer families with young children." —**Sheree Galpert**

Congratulations to **Stacey Chacker** and **Corinne Lofchie** for organizing a wonderful weekend!

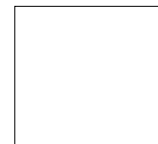


Lily and Richard Gomberg relax in the sun.
Photo by Corinne Lofchie.

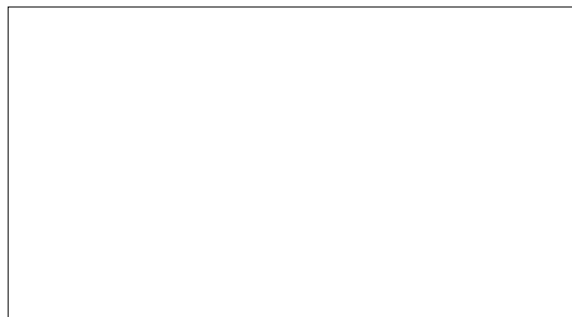


Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



...a weekend away



Sarah Birkeland (mom) and Abigail Edelstein (daughter) enjoy the happy sound of a banjo at the CDT retreat. Photo by Emily Shumsky.

There's something that happens
A weekend away
That's more than the sum of the hours
More than a question of sun or rain
Showers, more than surprising
Such comfortable quarters
The rooms, the fine food, the adorable
ease
Of the carefree at play, of all ages
In the water, open air
Turning a good book's pages
Bracelet making, music building, ties
and swinging
All around - good cheer
On the diamond, while we're dining,
At the campfire 'midst the trees
Back to nature *davenning*
To oneness in the breeze.
There's something that happens
A weekend away
That's more than the product of some
It's ours.

-bill shorr