



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Cheshvan/Kislev 5774 November 2013

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AT THE BEGINNING of October, the Pew Research Center released a major survey of American Jewry, the first such survey undertaken by researchers outside the Jewish community. The survey is quite comprehensive, including people who identify as Jewish by religion, as Jewish aside from religion, as partly Jewish, and as having Jewish heritage but no longer identifying as Jews

(for more information, you can see the survey results at www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey/).

In certain ways, the survey results serve as a vindication of the insights of Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, who described Judaism not as a religion but as a "civilization," encompassing a whole complex of traditions and activities beyond religious ritual and belief. Kaplan used the term "Jewish peoplehood" to describe this phenomenon, and the survey results would seem to bear this out: there are a significant number of American Jews who describe themselves as Jewish aside from religion. Fully three-quarters say they have a "strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people," while only 19% say adherence to Jewish religious law is central to Jewish identity.

What is perplexing, however, is that among those who identify as Jewish but describe themselves as having no religion (including one-third of Jews born since 1980), there is markedly lower connection to Jewish organizations and Jewish practice, and a much higher tendency to intermarry and not raise one's children as Jewish. So while in theory "cultural" or "secular" Judaism is a valid way to express one's Jewish identity, in practice it is unclear what this tendency will mean for American Judaism in the future.

In this context, I am excited that we are, as a congregation, undertaking a year-long inquiry into what it means to be a Jewish community, and what membership in such a community implies. Over the years I have used the term "covenantal community" to describe a congregation like Dorshei Tzedek—one in which the members are connected through a common set of values and sense of purpose. It is perhaps that sense of common values and purpose that Jews of older generations mean when they identify as Jewish "by religion"—even if their own religious practice is thin and/or they don't particularly believe in God. Once upon a time, Jewish cultural identity was intertwined with religious practice. People kept kosher homes because that's just what one did, and the holidays were times to gather with family, irrespective of belief or level of observance. It did not take much effort to be a Jew in certain neighborhoods of Brooklyn or Baltimore or Chicago or many other towns and cities in the first half of the 20th century.

Today, it takes a considerable amount of intention and effort to remain connected to Jewish practice and have a sense of Jewish community. Communities like Dorshei Tzedek are, to my mind, profoundly countercultural, primarily because Judaism itself is countercultural. Where America emphasizes the individual, Judaism emphasizes the communal. Where our capitalist culture celebrates constant material accumulation, Jewish tradition puts spiritual practice and concern for others as our central responsibility. In an increasingly universalistic, culturally intertwined world, Judaism is at its root a tribal culture, affirming the particularity of Jewish tradition.



L'dor v'dor
from generation to generation

Photo: Lauren Stefano and her daughter Julia at the 2013
Sukkot celebration. Photo by Viv Shein

All of this means that if CDT is to thrive and grow, we need to continually revisit what it means to belong to a community like this. The culture in which we live is not conducive to Shabbat practice, or making time for our kids to learn even the rudiments of Jewish literacy. There are so many demands on our material resources and our precious time—how do we make space for all that it takes to sustain a thriving Jewish community? By thinking together about what CDT is and what it can be, what it means in our lives now and what it might mean in the months and years to come, we can address head-on the cultural dilemmas highlighted by the Pew survey. My own hope and belief is that we can transform what was once called "religion" into a far broader, more dynamic sense of what it means to live a mindful, spiritual, ethical Jewish life—an approach to Judaism that might be attractive to Jews who now define themselves outside of the organized Jewish community.

I hope everyone in the congregation will find a way to engage in our conversations this year. You are encouraged to attend the Members' Meeting on November 17 (see back page), where we will kick off the communal discussion. You are also invited to join in the Board's exploration of these issues (see Board Notes on page 6 for more info). May our conversations be rich, and may they lead to a renewed sense of what we share and what we aspire to.

Rabbinic Liaison

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to insure the maintenance of a good working relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner.

Contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at cbsrome@comcast.net

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

Assistant Rabbi: Rabbi Adam Lavitt

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

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

Off-Board Chairs

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Website: Dan Halbert

Space: Noam Shore

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome.

Chesed: Judy Hersh and Janice Cole

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), John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Rachel Ross, Vivienne Shein, Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

GENERAL FUND

Karen Arnold—*In memory of Robert Levine*
Kate deBethune —*In memory of Andre J. deBethune*

Linda Katz and Heidi Smith Hyde—
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Simon Rosenberg

Barbara Nathan-Marcus and Robert Marcus —*In honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of our children, Jeffrey Marcus and Susan Nitkin*

Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider
Deborah Waber —*In memory of Helen Waber*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess—*In gratitude to the congregation for their support after Peter's mother's passing; thank you to Marc Steinberg for leading our shivah*

Elaine Landes and David Felson—*In honor of the wedding of Gabe Landes and Alexis Canter*

SCHOOL FUND

Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

Alissa and Gerry Leonard—*In memory of Susannah Elkin Zisk and Sol Elkin*

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.



Photo: Viv Shein

Shabbat

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, 8:45 am, Library

*With Rabbi Toba Spitzer: November 23,
December 14*

*With Rabbi Adam Lavitt (while Rabbi Toba
is on sabbatical) January 25, February 22*

Each 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. This year we will be using Hasidic texts from *Speaking Torah: Spiritual Teachings from around the Maggid's Table*, by Rabbia Arthur Green. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

*Fridays, November 1, December 6,
January 10*

*6:00 pm, candle lighting and dinner;
6:45 pm, service followed by dessert*

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.

BAT MITZVAH OF ABBY ROLL

Saturday, November 9, 9:45am-noon

Please join us as our daughter Abby is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Abby is a seventh grader at Day Middle School and enjoys dance, piano, and softball. For her Tikkun Olam project, she has been volunteering at the Bristol Lodge soup kitchen in Waltham. Please join us downstairs for Kiddush following the ceremony—**Elizabeth and David Roll**

ENJOY A COMMUNITY EREV SHABBAT DINNER!

Friday, November 15

Join fellow CDT'ers for a delicious Erev Shabbat potluck dinner, hosted by CDT members in their homes. Choose a location convenient to you! Don't miss this opportunity to relax, enjoy a great meal, and schmooze with new and old friends. Sign-ups will open on November 1 (go to

<http://dorsheitzedek.org/members> and look under "Signups"). Contact **Melanie Adler** (madler@edc.org) with any questions, or if you'd like to host a dinner. The more the merrier!

CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

*Saturdays, November 2, December 7
10:30-noon*

For our 4th through 6th graders, this NEW program is an experiential exploration of the joy of Shabbat. Through music, meditation, art, movement, drumming and more, kids will enter into the possibilities of prayer outside the box. Come join the exploration!

TOT SHABBAT

*Saturdays, November 23, December 7,
January 25*

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.

TIME TO REGISTER!

Third Annual CDT Men's Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam Lavitt

Friday, December 20, 6:00-8:00 pm, in a member's home

Saturday, December 21, 9:00 am-noon and 1:00-6:00 pm, at CDT

The men of CDT are invited to join Rabbi Adam Lavitt, our Assistant Rabbi, for a spirited Men's Shabbaton. Building on the success of the first two Shabbatonim, we'll start with a Friday night dinner at a member's home. The next day will start with a meditative Shabbat morning service, followed by kiddush lunch with the congregation in Fellowship Hall. The afternoon will be filled with song, Torah exploration, movement, story sharing, and learning, and the day will conclude with Havdalah.

Whether you can make some or all of the Shabbaton, this is a wonderful opportunity for men in our community to connect with one another and do some learning and celebrating together. To register, please go to the CDT website, dorsheitzedek.org. For information or to help with organizing, please contact **Rabbi Adam** (asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org).

UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS 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

CHANUKAH IS “EARLY” THIS YEAR! CDT Chanukah Celebration, Sunday, December 1, 4:30-7 pm

First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street

Come welcome the fifth night of Chanukah at CDT! The evening will feature candle-lighting (please bring your own menorah with 6 candles), latkes, and activities for all ages! We'll begin with candle-lighting at 4:30pm, followed by a variety of activities for kids and adults, including arts & crafts, music, text study, games, and more! We'll gather together for dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring a salad of any type—green, veggie, tuna, pasta, whatever you like—to accompany latkes, enough for 20 people (feel free to incorporate Thanksgiving leftovers, as long as it's vegetarian!). Drinks, dessert, and latkes will be provided. And tell your friends, this is a great way for folks to learn about CDT!

“RACE TO NOWHERE” - VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

Sunday, November 3, 4:30 pm

Having once again been reminded of the stresses that face our youth by the recent suicide of a high school senior in Newton, The Second Church and Congregation Dorshei Tzedek are co-sponsoring a screening of the documentary *Race to Nowhere*, followed by a community discussion at 6:00pm. About the film: “*Race to Nowhere* points to a silent epidemic in our schools. Through the testimony of educators, parents and education experts, it reveals an education system in which cheating has become commonplace; students have become disengaged; stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant; and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.” All are welcome, and teens are especially encouraged to attend.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, November 2

Potluck: 6:00 pm; Film: 7:00 pm, followed by a group discussion.

Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins

“*Fill The Void*,” (2012, Israel) (change of film): Eighteen-year-old Shira is thrilled that the marriage arranged for her within her Orthodox Jewish community is with a boy she likes. But when her sister dies in childbirth, Shira's hopes for her future are thrown into turmoil by her grieving mother.

Feel free to attend any part of the evening. If you're coming to the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (in consideration of members with dietary constraints, if you are making a dish with dairy or wheat that can be added later, e.g. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Email or call **Linda** and **Steve** at 617-924-8370 or schiller-robins@rcn.com to RSVP and let them know what you'll bring or if you need directions.

We hope you can join us! Please contact **Stan Fleischman** or **Emily Sper** (film-club@dorsheitzedek.org) if you have any questions.

Due to space constraints, this event is is only for members and their families.

CDT FILM CLUB 5774 COMPLETE SCHEDULE

Please note that dates and films are subject to change. Contact the co-chairs, **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper** (film-club@dorsheitzedek.org), for more information or if you'd like to host a film.

December 7: *Yossi*

January 11: *Turn Left at the End of the World*

February 1: *Fill the Void*

March 1: *The Other Son*

April 5: *The Ritchie Boys*

May 3: *Five Hours From Paris*

A COSTA RICAN SABBATICAL: PHOTOS, THEMES AND DISCUSSION

Saturday, November 16 6:30 pm

Hilary Marcus and **Jonathan Magaziner** will be hosting a discussion of their family's year in Costa Rica. Starting off with Havdalah and potluck dessert, then accompanying a slide show, they'll talk about their planning phase, their involvement in Jewish community while there, and reflections on the eleven-month family adventure.

Evite has been sent out to the congregation with details. Childcare may be provided. For questions, contact **Hilary Marcus** at hmr99@hotmail.com. For some related blog posts, see <http://hilarymarcus.com/blog/category/sabbatical/>

ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 5

7:30-9:00 pm

Every other month, a small group of Dorshei Tzedek women gather to observe Rosh Chodesh (the new moon). It's typically an intimate, reflective, and fun evening. If you've been thinking about attending, now is your chance! As Chanukah concludes, we'll celebrate Rosh Chodesh Tevet on Thursday, December 5th. Newcomers and guests are always welcome! For more information please contact **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com.

Board Notes

EXPLORATION OF MEMBERSHIP: DORSHEI TZEDEK'S YEAR-LONG STRATEGIC INQUIRY

by Laurie Gould (VP for
Leadership, CDT Board)

The Dorshei Tzedek leadership team just launched our congregation's year-long exploration of membership in our community at our board retreat on September 29th. We invite the congregation to join us as we set out to explore what it means to be a member of a covenantal community like CDT at a time when fewer people than ever before are affiliating with religious institutions. Why do we, as members, find our connection to Dorshei Tzedek important? Why should anyone else? As Rabbi Toba pointed out at the retreat, membership in a congregation like Dorshei Tzedek is a radically countercultural proposition.

We have two goals for the year:

1. A deeper understanding of why and how commitment to the CDT community adds value to the lives of our members. This deepened understanding will enable us to articulate this value for current and potential members, and to evolve as a congregation in ways which enhance this value.

2. A set of concrete policies and procedures regarding the Membership function at CDT, including leadership and staffing (i.e., Executive Committee role, Membership Committee role, and processes for reaching out to both potential and existing members).

To meet these goals, we are challenging ourselves to question broadly and think deeply as the year unfolds. As we launched the conversation at the retreat, we discovered that this enterprise will be both exciting and challenging. Our initial conversation was about how to define a successful congregation – and we quickly learned that we don't necessarily agree. Do we expect that members will love, or even like each other? Or is the goal simply acceptance? What is the role of the sacred in defining our community? And what is sacred anyway?

We are discovering that we will need to be able to live with contradictions and disagreements – and that those very tensions are perhaps where we will learn the most.

We hope that everyone in the congregation will get involved in some way. Each Board meeting will explore a different aspect of membership and its meanings. Every member is welcome to join us at any board meeting, and to share your thoughts at any time. Members' meetings will address the topic as well, and we will surely be soliciting input from our community throughout the year through surveys, interviews, and parlor meetings.

Here is the initial schedule for the year:

October 27: How does a Jewish community engage people at different stages in the life cycle?

November 17: Members' Meeting

January 12: What kinds of communities are growing and thriving today? What can we learn from other congregations and organizations?

March 4: What are the benefits and expectations of membership at CDT – and what makes it so compelling? What is our "Special Sauce?"

April 13: The synagogue in the age of social media

May 4: The membership function at CDT: outreach, inreach and "radical hospitality"

Special thanks to Ora Grodsky, for her inspiring retreat planning and facilitation, and to all our board members who are stepping up to do research, lead discussions, debate, and engage.

We are launching a special page on the Members' area of the Dorshei Tzedek website where we will post all of the readings, meeting notes and presentations from the process. We plan to keep you up to date on and allow you to participate in our exploration process: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/membership-exploration>. And thanks to the congregation for joining us on this journey – we look forward to all of the creativity and insight that we know each of you will contribute!

Chesed

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, Donna Hirt and Wendy Gedanken (chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

Our congregation values chesed, acts of loving-kindness. The Chesed Committee coordinates our community's response for members who are in need of support, such as at the time of a birth or adoption, illness, death, or other significant life change. Some

of the types of things we coordinate include meals, grocery shopping, and transportation for a medical appointment.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone who provided chesed last month.

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.

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Learning

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays, 8:15-9:00 am
60 Highland Street, Library

NOTE: Mindful Mornings will not meet on Thanksgiving, November 28

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness and to cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, and compassion. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not. The group is facilitated by CDT members with occasional participation by Rabbi Toba. 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 **Laya Steinberg** (lasword@rcn.com) or **Carole Slipowitz** (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 or 617-332-5433 for more information.

ISRAEL & US: CREATING A NEW NARRATIVE WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

*Wednesdays, 7:15-9:00 pm
November 6, 13, 20; December 4, 11*

Once a distant dream of Jews longing for a homeland, the modern state of Israel has

become a difficult and contentious topic in American Jewish life. There are many narratives that surround the Jewish state, both positive and negative, yet most fail to capture the fullness and complexity of one of the most significant developments in Jewish life of the past few hundred years. In this class, we will audaciously attempt to craft a new narrative, one that can move us beyond both confusion and hardened stances, to a place of inquiry and deeper understanding, one that can encompass all of us, in our variety of views.

Whether you have lived in Israel or never visited, whatever your opinions (or lack thereof), you are invited to join us in an exploration of historical documents, traditional Jewish texts, contemporary Israeli and Palestinian narratives, personal reflections, and more. Nothing required but an open mind!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

In planning my daughter's wedding last year, I learned that it is no longer enough to send invitations a month or two in advance. Because people are so busy these days, it is now customary to send "Save the Date" cards six months (or more) in advance.

So here it is: SAVE THE DATE- May 3, 2014 for the *Siyyum* (a celebration of completion) for our *Darshanim* (10th grade) class. At our Shabbat services that morning, our tenth graders will lead part of the service and be honored for their participation in our Religious School program. This is a milestone in the life of our congregation: it is the first time we have had a group of students participate in our school through tenth grade.

In our post- B'nai mitzvah BaDerech program, the class has studied Jewish values, with teacher **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, comparative religions with **Rabbi Toba** and Jewish peoplehood with teacher **Gina Fried** (Morah Gina). They have participated in the TEL (Teens: Experience and Learning) program of the Reconstructionist movement, attending retreats at Camp JRF with their peers from other congregations.

This year, Morah Gina is leading our *Darshanim* class. We chose the name "*Darshanim*" because of its multiple meanings, sharing a Hebrew root with the word "*Dorshei*" - meaning "those who seek", the same root also meaning to consult, investigate, study, interpret or teach. Morah Gina likes to think of her students as "our next generation of seekers, learners, teachers, and - of course - Dorshei Tzedek-niks!"

Each of the students is working this year on writing a spiritual autobiography as well as studying what Jewish tradition teaches about issues of economic justice. The class hopes to develop curricular materials about economic justice to be used in future years in our Religious School.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend as we celebrate, as a community, the accomplishments of our *Darshanim* students and honor them for their commitment to Jewish life and learning.

Announcements

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

POST-MEAH SHABBATON AT HEBREW COLLEGE

Friday-Saturday November 15-16
Hebrew College, Newton

Come study with Hebrew College faculty on the topic: "What About God?" Panelists include esteemed Meah faculty Marc Brettler, Dr. Rabbi Shaye Cohen, Deanna Klepper, Jacob Meskin and a special Torah discussion with Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, President of Hebrew College and Reverend Nick Carter, President of Andover-Newton Theological School. Continue the celebration at the Saturday Evening Coffee House featuring Shuli Nathan, the voice of *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*. For further details and registration, visit the website, www.synagoguecouncil.org.

LIMMUD BOSTON

Sunday, December 8, Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill

The volunteer-driven Jewish learning fest of culture and identity seeks presenters and volunteers for this year's conference, which will take place on Sunday, December 8, at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. At LimmudBoston everyone is a learner, and anyone can offer to be a creative, dynamic, inspirational session presenter. To get involved as a team member or presenter, visit www.limmudboston.org. Hold the date—"volunticipate!"

RASHI SCHOOL'S PROGRAM FOR PRESCHOOLERS CURIOUS MINDS IN THE CITY: "A CHANUKAH MIRACLE"

Featuring Storyteller Cindy Rivka Marshall
(Dorshei Tzedek Member)

Sunday, November 24, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
University Club, 426 Stuart Street, Boston-
Get your preschooler ready for Chanukah with stories about the miracle of light and the importance of giving. Join us for

interactive stories, songs and crafts. This program will take place at the University Club. RSVP at www.rashi.org/cm

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT ISRAEL IS CALLING YOU!

May 14-21, 2014

Join us for the first Reconstructionist Movement trip to Israel, May 14-21, 2014. Deepen your connection to Judaism as you experience life in Israel today. Learn from leading academics, Israeli thinkers, and political activists in a unique series of stimulating and provocative programs. Take your part in a progressive Jewish conversation—an intellectual, spiritual and political dialogue that will build your knowledge, challenge your perspectives, and broaden your understanding of Israel. Learn more at www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip.

Chesed (continued)

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REFUAH SH'LEYMA

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

Condolences

To **Annie Spanel**, on the death of her mother, **Margaret Spanel**; may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Fran Molino**, on the death of her husband, **Eugene Black**. **Gene** was also a CDT member. May his memory be for a blessing.

YARZHEIT

We remember **Susannah Zisk**, whose 2nd yearzeit falls on November 18, and **Alex Fried**, whose 6th yearzeit falls on November 25. May both of their memories be for a blessing. We will be remembering both Susannah and Alex at Shabbat morning services on November 23.

AVELUT

Avelut (<http://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 yearzeit. 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). If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the Avelut group please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, at ellie.goldberg@gmail.com.

MOURNING AT CDT

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 on our website under: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/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.

Tikkun Olam

TIKKUN OLAM UPDATE: SO MANY PROJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM!

By Bonnie Tenneriello

The Tikkun Olam Committee meeting on October 3 was a veritable social justice feast. Laid on the table were a number of new projects. We'll be gathering more information and will make our selections at the next meeting.

The new projects we discussed include:

1. Support for legislation to create a domestic workers' bill of rights
2. EPOCA (Ex-prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement) "Jobs not Jails" campaign to change harsh sentencing policies
3. Newton Congregations' work for affordable housing in Newton
4. Ongoing support of the rights of Hyatt hotel workers to organize
5. The prospect of partnering with a congregation of another faith through Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries/Ruah
6. A work day with Habitat for Humanity in Wayland (planned for next April).

We'll also continue our ongoing Tikkun Olam projects:

1. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace, which benefits the Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace in Dorchester
2. Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO): organizing across religious, class and ethnic lines for the public good
3. Red Fire Farm CSA: supporting congregation members who choose to take part of this shared risk model of farming
4. Sindyanna Olive Oil: supporting Arab-Israeli cooperation through the sale of olive oil and za'atar at our congregation events
5. CIW: Coalition of Imokalee Workers has no active Boston Area organizing; we will re-engage when an active campaign comes to Boston
6. Family Table: We continue to collect food for Boston's kosher food pantry (see article below)

All are welcome to join us at our next meeting on Thursday, December 12 to learn more.

FAMILY TABLE DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Ilana Mainelli

Family Table is the Boston area's only food pantry offering kosher food. It is supported by volunteers from the Jewish community (including our synagogue) who collect, sort, pack, and deliver groceries monthly to more than 800 people. **CDT has committed to collect 25 cans of kosher or vegetarian soup, and 25 boxes of whole grain cereal every month.** This year, we have taken on the additional mitzvah of collecting money to help Family Table purchase fresh produce and dairy products to distribute to their client families.

Please make checks payable to "JF&CS" and write "Family Table" in the memo line. Please do not leave cash in our collection box. We also need a driver to bring our food and monetary contributions to Family Table at JF&CS in Waltham one Sunday morning each month. **We still need a volunteer for this task on December 1, January 5, March 2.** We have also promised to provide at least 8 volunteers (individuals or families) to help pack and deliver groceries on January 5, 2014.

To make a donation: We have collection boxes at the upper door to our sanctuary on Highland Street and outside the Hebrew School office at the FUSN building. When Hebrew School meets on Saturdays, donations are also collected.

To sign up to bring our donations to Family Table click on the following: <http://doodle.com/by72xr9h6bn2hq8m>; To sign up to pack and deliver groceries on January 5, 2014, go to the following link: <http://doodle.com/gxybbxnryscidew>

If you have any questions, please email **Ilana Mainelli** at familytable@dorsheitzedek.org

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Looking for a way to contribute to your community?

Want to boost your résumé or college application?

Volunteers are needed in the following positions at the newsletter:

1. Editor

2. Graphic designer

3. Photographer, especially someone who wants to go to Tikkun Olam events

4. Reporter (perhaps a high school student), someone who can interview committees and members for short articles about their activities, news of the congregation, or the board

Contact **Josette Akresh-Gonzales**, newsletter chair, for more information, at jakreshgonzales@gmail.com.

CDT Calendar

November 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>					<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>Simchat Shabbat 60 Highland Street: Room 111 10:30am to 12:00pm Kitot Dalet/Hey Parent Learning Session with Rabbi Adam 60 Highland Street: Library 10:45am to 12:00pm CDT Film Club: "Fill the Void" Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins 6:00pm</p>
<p>"Race To Nowhere" Film Viewing and Discussion 60 Highland Street 4:30pm</p>	<p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt First Unitarian Church in Newton: New classroom downstairs 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>		<p>Israel & Us: Creating a New Narrative with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:15pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Abby Roll 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
			<p>Israel & Us: Creating a New Narrative with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:15pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>Community Erev Shabbat Dinners At members' homes 6:00pm</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am - 12:00pm Costa Rican Sabbatical: Photos, Themes and Discussion, with Hilary Marcus 6:30pm</p>
<p>Members' Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm</p>	<p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt First Unitarian Church in Newton: New classroom downstairs 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>			<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat morning service 9:45am - 12:00pm Tot Shabbat 60 Highland Street: Rooms 110, 111 10:45am to 12:00pm</p>
	<p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt First Unitarian Church in Newton: New classroom downstairs 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>					<p>Shabbat morning service 9:45am - 12:00pm</p>
<p>Chanukah Party FUSN: Parish Hall, downstairs kitchen, Alliance Room, Head Start Room, Children's Chapel, 1-2 classrooms 4:30pm to 7:00pm</p>	<p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt First Unitarian Church in Newton: New classroom downstairs 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>		<p>Israel & Us: Creating a New Narrative with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:15pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm Kitot Dalet/Hey Learning Session 10:45am to 12:00pm CDT Film Club: "Yossi" Meets monthly in members' homes 6:00pm</p>

Community

CDT CHALKBOARD

by **Marla Lichtman**, Administrative Director

November Again?

It's hard to believe that it is November again, with winter just around the corner and the first quarter of our CDT year fully over. November member invoices will go into the mail mid-month so please look for those to arrive, and send in your payment as soon as possible. For any questions about your bill, do not hesitate to contact me to discuss, either by phone or email.

If you find it difficult to make your dues and/or tuition payments in larger, quarterly chunks as billed, you may want to consider setting up equal, automatic, monthly payments with your bank. This can not only help with your own budgeting, but also prevent that invoice from sifting down to the bottom of your "to do" pile and becoming forgotten. Regular and timely payments are sincerely appreciated as they help with our annual budgeting process.

As always, if you find yourself unable to make usual payments, or your financial situation has changed since you made your annual pledge, do connect with either Rabbi Toba or our treasurer, **Sivan Nasoff**. They can help you sort it out and come up with a mutually agreeable plan.

Just a reminder to connect with **Melanie Adler**, at madler@edc.org, for any membership-related issues, **Sivan Nasoff** at snasoff@hotmail.com if you want to discuss financial issues, and yours truly, at admin-director@dorsheitzedek.org, for anything related to CDT administrative functions. We will each do whatever we can to answer your questions and help you.

NEW MEMBERS

We give a hearty welcome to:
Jackie Slivko
Shirley Milgrom

MAZEL TOV

To **Linda** and **Peter Katz**, on the birth of their granddaughter, **Shoshana Eileen Leacu!**

TODAH RABBAH

A todah rabah and yasher koach to our Simchat Torah leyners: **Michele Arons**, **Sarah Hartman**, and **Sue Lanser!**

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in September and October: **Elaine Landes & David Felson**—*In honor of the Aufruf for Gabe Landes and Alexis Canter*, **Lisa Dee Port White, Susan Silberberg**—*In honor of the Aufruf for Gabe Landes and Alexis Canter*, **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**—*In memory of Mickey Schoenberg*, **Joel Reider & Nathan Reider**—*In memory of Raphael Reider*, **Emily Shumsky**—*In honor of David's Birthday*, **Rachel & Ruby Cohen, Melanie Adler, Elizabeth & David Roll, Paul Schimek, Allison Andrews, Doron Gan, Janelle Winston, Diana & Richard Gomborg, Danielle Klainberg and Mark Rosenberg, Jamie Tessler—*In memory of Ted and Eleanor Tessler*, **Andrew Stefano, Bruce Gore, Beth Brooks****

To those who helped with the Sukkot All-Ages Learning Program and Harvest Dinner: **James Kaplan, Hilary Marcus, Noah Magaziner & Maayan Magaziner**—*In honor of returning to our community!*, **Laya Steinberg, Michael Singer, Stacie & Andrew Garnett-Cook, Dan Halbert, Ben Newman, Rachel Pytel, and Bill Shorr**

Additional thank-you's for helping with the set-up and take-down of our new sukkah: **Danielle Kleinberg & Simon Rosenberg**—*In honor of Simon's Bar Mitzvah*, **Gabby Cummins, Jordan Namerow and Barbara Huggins**

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

11/1: Shabbat: Noam Shore / Carol Sklar / Rebecca Pomerantz / Irena Fayngold

11/9 Shabbat & Bat Mitzvah of Abby Roll
Kiddush Setup: Linda Kramer - *in memory of Alex Fried* / Stephen Zisk / Betsy Hinden / Susan Nitkin / Lisa Chedekel & Isabel Morais

Kiddush Cleanup: Jeffrey Marcus / Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen / Stephanie & Nem Hackett / Susan Bernstein

11/16 Shabbat: Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola / Amy Mazur - *in memory of Marvin Mazur (father)* / Linette Liebling - *in memory of Joel and Zelda Liebling*

11/17 Members' Meeting & Dinner: Susie Tanchel / Erica Streit-Kaplan - *in honor of my grandmother Ilse Weinberg's Yartzheit* / Jessica Keimowitz - *in memory of David Crozier* / Steve Ansolabehere

11/23 Shabbat: Ruth Paris - *in memory of Isaac and Dorothy Paris* / Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg / Becca Gutman

11/30 Shabbat: Corinne Lofchie / Rick Glassman & Alice Markowitz / Karen Arnold

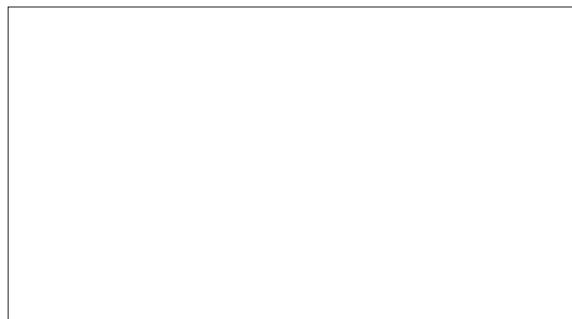
Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed 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.



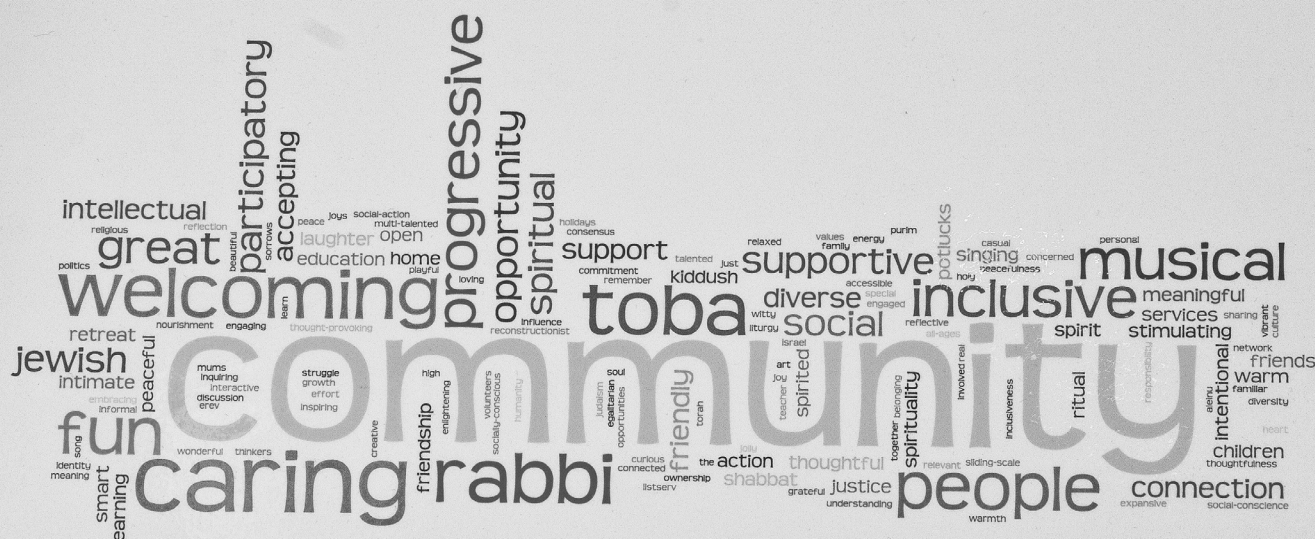
Address correction requested



Members' Meeting

Sunday, November 17
5:30pm Dinner, 6:15pm Meeting;
Childcare provided

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is...



Join us for the first Members' Meeting of 5774! We'll be going deeper into our inquiry about what it means to be a member at CDT including a special program led by Cindy Marshall, that will guide us through our own storytelling to discover new insights. Please RSVP for dinner (pizza plus a non-dairy/gluten free alternative) to **Allison Hausman** at adhausman@gmail.com or respond when you receive the invite.