



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Kislev/Tevet 5774 December 2013

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Sabbatical Redux

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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AS MANY of you know, this year and last I split my sabbatical in two—taking three months last fall, with the remaining three months beginning in January, through the end of March. I will be heading off on a family vacation on December 24, and from there into my sabbatical.

I feel deeply blessed to be in one of the few professions in the U.S. where sabbaticals are an accepted practice, and to work for a congregation which has let me take this time with its blessing! I know that last fall went really well, with wonderful guest service leaders and speakers, and many members stepping up to the plate in so many ways—from coordinating shivah minyanim to leading services to keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. I am also confident that our staff—Marla and Jon in the office, our assistant rabbi, Adam Lavitt, and Annette Lawson at the school—will be keeping an eye on things in my absence, and they are all available to you for anything you might need.

Last fall, I spent much of my time at local coffee shops, learning about theories of cognition and metaphor and beginning to do some writing about God and metaphor. After teaching a wonderful class this past spring on that topic, I have new material and hope again to do some writing. But this time, the scene won't only be local! In mid-February, Gina and I will be heading off to Sevilla, Spain for a one-month sojourn. I visited Andalucia (southern Spain) for a week during my first sabbatical 8 years ago, and have always wanted to go back. Now we'll have that opportunity, in a little apartment in the Macarena neighborhood. I am looking forward to re-learning a bit of the Spanish I once

Photo: Chanukah games at the annual CDT Chanukah Party. Photo by Vivienne Shein at the 2012 party.

knew, enjoying churros, and taking in the sights and sounds of Spain.

As I head off for a few months, the congregation is at an exciting place as well. Under the leadership of **Allison Hausman**, the CDT Board has undertaken a fascinating exploration of what it means to be a member of a community like CDT in an age of virtual communication, shifting definitions of Jewish identity, and our own congregation's maturation as our early generation of members moves into new life cycle stages. At the November Members' Meeting, congregants shared with one another stories of moments of connection, growth, challenge and transformation at CDT, and the room was abuzz with an incredible richness of experience. I am looking forward to hearing more about where this conversation goes in my absence!

On the education front, a variety of conversations are also happening about how we want to re-imagine our children's

education, and Jewish education in general, at CDT. We are looking forward to new possibilities next year with the rental (still being explored) of Sunday morning space, allowing us to do programming for kids and adults at the same time, and cutting back our mid-week program to just one weekday for our older kids. We are also, with the help of consulting from Combined Jewish Philanthropies, beginning to think about how to apply some of the learning we've done in our Project LO"X (Learning Outside the boX) program, where we've explored Jewish learning in settings outside the classroom and synagogue, and experimented with family education that leads to practice both at home and in the world.

I hope the three months of my absence are fruitful ones for the congregation, and I look forward to being back just as Red Sox spring training begins—a time of hope and expectation!



Photo: Allison Hausman, CDT President, at the CDT members meeting, in November. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

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. To discuss a question or concern, contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at cbsrome@comcast.net, or Marc Steinberg at marc@metaphasia.com.

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

Staff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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: Diane Lior and Chagit Steiner

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

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 (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer

Shabbat

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, 8:45 am, Library

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer: December 14

With Rabbi Adam Lavitt (while Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical): January 25, February 22, March 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 Rabbi Arthur Green. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Fridays, December 6, January 10, February 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 NOTE: January 10th is Shabbat Shira! We will celebrate the “Shabbat of Song” with lots of special music, led by our very own Bill Shorr. If you are (or have been) somewhat comfortable playing an instrument for the enjoyment of others and would like to explore the possibility of participating musically in the service, contact Bill at bill.shorr@gmail.com.

SHABBAT MORNING GUESTS FOR SABBATICAL MONTHS

In January of 2014, Rabbi Toba will leave CDT for a three-month period to complete her sabbatical, the first half of which she took in the fall of 2012. The Ritual Committee has been hard at work planning for Shabbat services in her absence. The Shabbat program will again be a mix of member led services and special guests (with an assist from Rabbi Adam), like the last sabbatical period. This mix of the familiar (member-led services) and the new (diversity of guests) received very positive reviews in 2012. Be on the lookout for brochures that will provide more detail about our guests, and most important, bring your presence to the community on Shabbat mornings during the sabbatical!!

Shabbat Beshalach

January 11

D'var Torah by Deanna Klepper, BU Professor of medieval society, currently teaching a class on Jewish-Muslim-Christian Spain.

Shabbat Yitro

January 18

Special musical service marking MLK's birthday and remarks by Jim Brooks, director of tenant organizing at City Life/Vida Urbana (sponsored by Tikkun Olam Committee)

Shabbat T'rumah

February 1

Our own storyteller **Cindy Rivka Marshall** will lead a special Torah study around the theme of community and the gifts we all bring.

SHABBAT TETZAVEH

February 8

Cantor Louise Treitman, Cantor Emeritus of Temple Beth David in Westwood, MA and Associate Dean of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. Cantor Louise Treitman will once again present a program about Jewish musical tradition.

Shabbat Tazria

March 29

Rabbi Natan Margalit, founder of Organic Torah, will lead the service and d'var Torah within the framework of his “Organic Torah” approach, connecting to larger themes of ecology and environmental awareness.

CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

Saturdays, December 7, February 1, March 1, March 29, May 10

10:30 am-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, December 7, January 25, February 22, March 15 (Purim!), April 19, May 3, June 14

10:45 am-noon

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for children age 5 and younger and their parents, led by CDT members and Jewish educators Susan Moser and Alison Lobron. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

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).

Shabbat

CONTEMPLATIVE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, December 7, 9:45 am

Join Rabbi Toba for a morning of song and silence, as we celebrate Shabbat with a combination of chanting and guided and silent meditation. Instead of the regular Torah service, we will study together the Torah portion. No meditation experience required! Just an ability to sit quietly for 10–15 minutes at a time. At this service, we will be remembering Susannah Zisk on the occasion of her 2nd yahrzeit.

****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).

Events

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH!

Sunday, December 1, 4:30-7:00 pm

*First Unitarian Society of Newton,
1326 Washington Street*

Come welcome the 5th night of Chanukah! We will begin with candle-lighting and singing at 4:30 pm (please bring your own chanukiah/menorah and 6 candles), followed by a variety of activities for kids of all ages—including crafts, music, and Professor Presto, the Magician! For teens and adults, there will be a learning opportunity with Rabbi Toba. We'll gather for a potluck latke dinner at 6:00 pm — please bring a salad (green, tuna, pasta, veggie — whatever you like!) to compliment the latkes. Please avoid nuts. We look forward to seeing you on December 1!

CDT FILM CLUB

December 7

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

*Location: Home of Judy Hersh and Tim
Rosa*

Yossi, 2012, Israel. The sequel to *Yossi & Jagger* takes places a decade later. It follows Yossi, a closeted gay cardiologist who struggles to find meaning in his life while overcoming the loss of his lover and reconciling his past with his future.

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 Judy and Tim 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 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.

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

February 1: *The Attack*

March 1: *The Other Son*

April 5: *The Ritchie Boys*

May 3: *Five Hours From Paris*

ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 5

7:30-9:00 pm, Living Room

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.

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

LIMMUDBOSTON

Sunday, December 8

9 am-6:30 pm

*Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 300
Hammond Pond Parkway, Chestnut Hill*

Come to LimmudBoston 2013, the annual 'recharge your Jewish batteries' conference celebration of Jewish culture! Learn, laugh, meet, greet, sing and share! It's fun for everyone—beginner to scholar, secular to observant. Grand Finale Concert @ 5pm featuring Peri Smilow, Ellen Allard, and more musical friends! For details and registration, visit www.limmudboston.org.

Board Notes

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS TO GET TO KNOW THE RASHI SCHOOL

Curious Minds: All About Bugs

Friday, December 13, 1:30-3:00pm

Admissions Information Session

Sunday, December 15, 10:30am

If you have a child from preschool to middle school age, now is the time to find out more about The Rashi School, The Boston Area Reform Jewish K-8 Independent School. By encouraging questions and open conversations, Rashi's joyfully Jewish approach to learning helps children engage with the world and grow into the people they can become. Please join us at a Curious Minds program for preschoolers or admissions information session. RSVP at www.rashi.org/info.

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. Our unique tour will include unusual stops such as the Ein Shemer Ecological Greenhouse and Co-existence Workshop and the Museum on the Seam, and meetings with Women of the Wall, journalist Yossi Klein Halevy, and Knesset member Ruth Calderon. Learn more at www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip.

ON OCTOBER 27, the CDT Board met for the first of a series of discussions focusing on membership. Over the course of the year the Board will be exploring both how to deepen the meaning and value of membership in congregants' lives, as well as how to improve and expand the functions of our membership committee. This first conversation focused specifically on Membership Across the Life Cycle and was led by **David Lobron, Louise Enoch, and Laurie Gould.**

The meeting began with David leading a text study from Pirkei Avot, which delineates and characterizes the "Stages of Life." Next Louise, using a chart developed by the Reconstructionist Movement, led a discussion about life cycle events and their intersection with institutional resources. This chart (which you can view on the "Membership Exploration" area of the CDT website) shows the interaction between an individual's life events, and where and how a congregation offers such things as education, ritual, clergy support, religious observance, and celebrations. It was possible to see where there may be gaps in either acknowledging or supporting difficult life events or transitions and where more outreach might be useful to varying age groups.

In preparation for the meeting, David and Louise conducted interviews with members of the congregation representing different age groups to get a better sense of what kinds of interaction with CDT is most meaningful to members at different stages of their lives. David interviewed several families with children. He reported, among other things, that these families are drawn to CDT by our religious school; that some find particular meaning in being part of an interdependent community; and that they value CDT's focus on Tikkun Olam. Louise interviewed congregants in the 50-70 age range. She reported, among other things, that older members of the congregation, whether single or beyond child rearing, are finding their engagement with various aspects of the congregation very meaningful, and that they are exploring evolving ways of engaging with the congregation as their lives and households evolve.

Both David and Louise made some specific programming recommendations based on the information they collected. Some of these recommendations included stronger youth group-type programming for teens and special programming aimed at older congregants and their needs. Several broader themes emerged as the group discussed the interview results. In particular, we explored how CDT might focus on supporting people through difficult life transitions such as divorce, and how CDT might work proactively with soon to be empty nesters, a life phase where for some the connection to the community becomes more tenuous.

Finally, Laurie led us in a discussion of some next steps based on what we had learned during the evening. We all agreed that one-on-one discussions are a particularly rich way to explore the meaning of membership at CDT, and we decided to expand this individual outreach as part of our membership exploration. At our next Board meeting, on December 16th, we will begin to plan this individual outreach.

Community

CDT BECOMES PART OF THE NEW COMMUNITY HEVRA KADISHA OF GREATER BOSTON

by Jamie Tessler, Dianne Lior and Elaine Pollack

SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENED on a Sunday in early October. Three of us from CDT attended a daylong workshop to learn about Tahara, the ritual act of preparing a body for Jewish burial. The groups of men and women who volunteer to do this sacred work are called a Hevra Kadisha, or Holy Society. The room where we gathered was filled with like-

minded folks who wanted to know more about this meaningful Jewish ritual, and to gain access to participating in it. Our facilitator David Zinner is an experienced community organizer who inspired us and guided us through the day. David is the Executive Director of Kavod v'Nichum, (Respect and Compassion), a national organization that seeks to revitalize the mitzvot that surround death, ritual washing, funerals, burial and mourning. David is traveling all over the U.S. helping communities get started.

The agenda that Sunday could have filled a week: we did a simulated washing and dressing session with a fearless volunteer;

liturgy; enjoyed an entertaining and illuminating lecture on the afterlife and soul from Jewish perspectives, and discussed next steps.

The program was followed by an evening tour of the Brezniak-Rodman funeral home in West Newton, which is the first funeral home in our area to agree to work with our nascent Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston. Many synagogues and temples, Dorshei Tzedek included, have already helped to fund The Community Hevra Kadisha. This regional group seeks to offer educational programs around death and mourning practices, as well as to train those who want to participate actively in Tahara. As members we will be able to avail ourselves of the educational materials, speakers, training, and support that will be available in the near future.

To learn more:

1. Come on Tuesday December 10th, 8 pm, to the Community Hevra Kadisha-sponsored event at Hebrew College: "Walking Together: How Jewish End-of-Life Rituals Enhance Community" with Rena Boroditsky, who manages both a community Hevra Kadisha and a nonprofit funeral chapel in Winnipeg, Canada. To learn more about this program and about the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston, visit the website: www.hevrakadisha.org/

2. Read the wonderful interview with Hal Miller-Jacobs in an October issue of the Forward: <http://forward.com/articles/186048/liberal-jews-stake-claim-to-burial-rituals-as-plur/?p=all>

3. Learn about Kavod v'Nichum: www.jewish-funerals.org/

Please contact one of us if you are interested in learning more about Tahara and how you might become more involved in this effort. We look forward to deepening the community conversation within CDT in the upcoming months.

Jamie - jtessler@igc.org

Dianne - dianne.lior@gmail.com

Elaine - elainep315@comcast.net



Photo: Storyteller Cindy Rivka Marshall at CDT's member meeting in November. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

reviewed
the Tahara

continued on page 11

Learning

NEW CLASS!

LEARN TO LEYN (CHANT TORAH) WITH ELAINE

Sunday evenings, 7-9pm, beginning mid-January, 2014

Beginning early in 2014, CDT will offer a six-to-eight session Torah chanting class with our very own Rabbi Elaine Pollack. In this class, students will learn the two-thousand-year-old tradition of the chanting of verses of Torah. Leyning involves noticing how a verse of Torah is phrased, and learning the different cantillation phrases that are repeated in each sentence. If you can read Hebrew, you can learn to chant Torah! If you are interested in learning to leyn, please contact Elaine at elainep315@comcast.net or 617 965-1174.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays, 8:15-9:00 am

60 Highland Street, Library

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

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**

Learning in our Religious School program takes place not just in our classrooms, but out in the world as well.

This past month, our 8th grade BaDerech class visited the Islamic Cultural Center of

Boston as part of their comparative religion studies with Rabbi Toba and teacher Vered Brooks. The students toured the mosque while they learned about Islam.

Future visits to a Protestant and a Catholic church are on the schedule.

Our Kitah Zayin (7th grade) class, taught by Rabbi Adam, has been studying Jewish life in Eastern Europe and the immigrant experience, while exploring their own families' stories. The students are working on creating an online exhibit of family artifacts. As part of their studies, the class visited the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, in October and traveled to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst last month.

It wasn't just students who were out and learning. In November, I had the privilege of attending the Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA)

Learning in our Religious School program takes place not just in our classrooms, but out in the world as well.

annual conference which was held at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD. The focus of the conference was "Reconstructing Congregational Education – Keeping Supplementary Schools Relevant and Engaging."

Some highlights from the conference included a workshop exploring the Prophets through a modern lens led by Rabbi Isaac Saposnik, director of Camp JRF and a workshop about incorporating the arts in teaching Torah led by author and artist Marilyn Price.

Also valuable was a meeting of RENA educators with representatives from the newly reconfigured Reconstructionist movement, to develop a vision of mutual support between the movement and congregational educators.

I am grateful for the opportunity to spend three days learning, collaborating and networking with 25 Reconstructionist educators from all over the United States.

Chesed

REFUAH SH'LEYMA

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

CONDOLENCES

To **Marjorie Salvadon**, on the death of her stepmother Rose-Marie Salvadon, may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Susan Moser**, on the death of her father Izzie Moser, may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Paul Hattis**, on the death of his mother, Shirley Hattis, may her memory be for a blessing.

To Amy Mazur, on the death of her mother, Rhoda Himmel Mazur, may her memory be for a blessing.

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 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). If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the Avelut group please contact **Ellie Goldberg** (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 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.

WHAT IS CHESED?

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek values chesed, acts of loving kindness that we expect when we belong to a caring community.

The Chesed Committee is dedicated to involving Dorshei Tzedek members in giving and receiving acts of chesed--those acts of loving-kindness with which we create a caring community. We coordinate acts of support and comfort when someone has a major life event or crisis such as a death in the family, the arrival of a child, an injury or illness. If you or someone in your family needs support, notify Rabbi Toba Spitzer (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org, 617-965-0330), or one of the Chesed coordinators, **Dianne Lior** and **Chagit Steiner** (chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

The website LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) enables CDT members to volunteer for Chesed tasks posted on Dorshei Tzedek's LHH Calendar. The tasks may include preparing a Shabbat meal, doing errands, providing transportation, babysitting and other activities. We encourage all members to sign up on the LHH website to get notices of Chesed opportunities and to sign up for a Chesed task. The committee also asks members for their volunteer preferences (type of task, geographic area, etc.)

The chesed coordinators can facilitate a more limited or private pool of chesed volunteers. And, when needs are ongoing, a member household can create a personal LHH calendar to blend CDT and non-CDT networks of friends and family.

The Chesed Committee thanks everyone who provided chesed last month. We are always interested in your feedback. And we invite you to join us. We meet quarterly to discuss how to better serve the needs of our community.

Feel free to contact any member of the Chesed Committee: **Janice Cole, Benita Danzing, Wendy Gedanken, Ellie Goldberg, Judy Hersh, Donna Hirt, Elaine Landes, Dianne Lior, Corinne Lofchie, Fran Malino, Ruth Paris, Ellen Pashall, Lilly Platt, Barbara Shatkin, Chagit Steiner, and Jamie Tessler.**

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.



Photo: Chesed committee, 2012. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

Tikkun Olam

TIKKUN OLAM PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Join Tikkun Olam Coordinator **Bonnie Tenneriello**, **Rabbi Toba**, and other CDT members to help us move forward on a number of social justice initiatives this year! Some of the topics will include: affordable housing in Newton; involvement in a “Jobs Not Jails”

Affordable housing, a “Jobs Not Jails” campaign, a Habitat for Humanity work day, and support for domestic workers—some of what the Tikkun Olam committee will tackle this year.

campaign to change harsh sentencing policies in Massachusetts; a Habitat for Humanity work day in the spring; and support for legislation to protect domestic workers in the state. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Bonnie at tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

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/gxybbxnrysadew>

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Linda Kramer—*In memory of Alex Fried*
Susan Nitkin—*In memory of Ralph Nitkin*
Diane Yates—*With thanks to Rabbi Toba*
Susan Moser—*In memory of Kayla Moser*
Marjorie Greenberg—*In memory of my father, Henry Kutner*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Frances Malino—*In gratitude to Rabbi Toba*

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan—*In appreciation of the support Erica received in her job search*

BUILDING FUND

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including 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.

CDT Calendar

December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>1</div> <div>Chanukah Party FUSN 4:30pm to 7:00pm</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes, 3:30pm</div> <div>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</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Israel & Us: Creating a New Narrative with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:15pm to 9:00pm</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</div> <div>Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm to 9:00pm</div>	<div>6</div> <div>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</div> <div>Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm</div> <div>Kitot Dalet/Hey Parent Learning Session with Rabbi Adam</div> <div>Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm</div> <div>CDT Film Club: "Yossi" 6:00pm</div>
<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes, 3:30pm</div> <div>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</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</div> <div>Tikkun Olam Meeting 7:00pm to 9:00pm</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am</div> <div>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</div>
<div>15</div> <div>CDT Newsletter, October issue, Final Content Due 5p</div> <div>CDT Board Meeting 60 Highland Street: Library 7:00pm to 9:00pm</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes, 3:30pm</div> <div>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</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Third Annual CDT Men's Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam Lavitt Men's Shabbaton dinner in a member's home 6:00pm to 8:00pm</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Third Annual CDT Men's Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 9:00am</div> <div>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</div>
<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes, 3:30pm</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</div>
<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes, 3:30pm</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>JAN 1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</div>
<div>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</div>						

Community (continued)

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

New Movement Leader Announced

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., is the new president elect of RRC. She will take office on January 1.

Waxman, a historian of American Judaism, brings a vision well-suited to today's landscape. As many readers will know, a recent study by the Religion and Public Life Project of Pew Research found that three quarters of U.S. Jews feel "a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people," although 42 percent of those say they have no religion. Waxman offered a decidedly upbeat take on the study: "Reconstructionist Judaism brought to the forefront of Jewish thinking the concept of Jewish peoplehood, and our approach continues to offer pathways for non-religious Jews—inviting them to explore and ideally deepen their experience of Judaism and Jewishness," she said.

Waxman previously served as vice president for governance at RRC. She also serves on the faculty, teaching courses on Reconstructionist Judaism and practical rabbinics. From 2002 to 2012, she was a High Holiday rabbi for Congregation Bet Havarim in Fayetteville, NY. Learn more about our president elect at www.rrc.edu/MeetDeborahWaxman.

Registration Is Now Open for Summer 2014 at Camp JRF!

Recognized as one of the "Top 10 Jewish Camps," Camp JRF provides innovative, creative and engaging programs for youth entering second through 12th grades. As an inclusive community, we welcome children from a wide variety of family structures, religious practices, and socioeconomic backgrounds. At the center of our Reconstructionist philosophy is a deep commitment to building a community in which all are welcome to grow and thrive. And it wouldn't be camp without all the fun of summer – swimming, sports, arts, music, friends, and so much more! One, two, three, and four week sessions, plus a five-day Family Camp program, all in the beautiful Pocono Mountains! For more information and to register, call 877.226.7573 or visit www.campjrf.org.

NEW MEMBERS

We give a hearty welcome to: Jacklyn & Jarred Haas and their children Roselyn and Moira.

Deborah Lang Saltzman & John Saltzman

MAZEL TOV

To Andrew Sofer on the publication of his new book, *Dark Matter: Invisibility in Drama, Theater, and Performance*, University of Michigan Press.

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in October and November: Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn—In memory of Ellen Brodesky, Elaine Pollack, Barbara Beck—In memory of Edith and Irving Beck, Noam Shore, Carol Sklar, Rebecca Pomerantz, Irena Fayngold, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Janice Cole, Lauren Gibbs, Jan Gortler-Small, Marc Steinberg, Linda Kramer—In memory of Alex Fried, Stephen Zisk, Karen Wasserman, Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus, Lisa Chedekel & Isabel Morais, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Bill Shorr, Yale Lansky, Susan Bernstein, and Ilana Mainelli.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Dec 1 Chanukah Party: Setup: Polly Crozier - in memory of David Crozier / Sarah Birkeland / Lauren Stefano / Josette Akresh-Gonzales / Mark Yurkofsky / Noah Rumpf / John Holohan / Debbie Isenberg
Cleanup: Michael Gonzales / Ben Dash / Thea Breite / Ricky Greenly / Ora Grodsky / Kim Ockene

Dec 6 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck:

Michele Arons / Carole Slipowitz / Terry Traub / Lee Pinstein

Dec 7 Shabbat: Phyllis Glazerman / Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon / Ellie Baron

Dec 14 Shabbat: Emily Sper / Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes / Jacqui Bloomberg

Dec 21 Shabbat: Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried - in honor of Jen's graduation! / Vivienne & Norman Shein

Dec 28 Shabbat: Phyllis & Bill Kantor / Liz Reisberg / Diane Yates

Jan 4 Shabbat: Carolyn Fine Friedman & Jerry Friedman / Matilda & Edward Bruckner

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. Thank you!

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.

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.)



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested



Wanted: A Few Good Men!

It's time to register for the 3rd annual men's shabbaton, coming on **Friday December 20 and Saturday December 21**. Join Rabbi Adam Lavitt, our Assistant Rabbi, and connect with other Dorshei Tzedek men to do some learning and celebrating together. To register, go to the CDT website, dorsheitzedek.org. For information or to help with organizing, please contact Rabbi Adam (asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org).

