

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tevet/Sh'vat/Adar 5774 January 2014

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Weaving Our Stories Together

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ABOUT 60 CDT members met on November 17 for the first of three member meetings this year. In addition to updating the congregation about business, the participants shared stories about how different experiences we have as members of our congregation provide

us opportunities to grow and experience meaningful, even life-changing, moments. The goal of this discussion was to inform the board's effort to explore membership at CDT, what's special about it, how it has changed, and how to improve the membership function overall.

Cindy Rivka Marshall generously offered her expertise by leading the congregation in an exercise around "appreciative inquiry." She guided us through a meditation to remember an experience when being a part of the CDT community caused us to step out of our comfort zone, and allowed us to grow in some way. She also taught us specific strategies for listening and responding to each other's stories. The results, at least for me, were informative and powerful.

The inspirational level of involvement in the exercise exemplified how our spirit to give of ourselves and to be positive adds to the success of all that we do. With this positive attitude, the stories that came out were telling about the ways in which membership at CDT can be transformational. Reviewing all that we discussed, I noticed three themes in the ways participation in our community has provided members with opportunities to grow: growth through vulnerability; growth through leadership; and growth through spirituality.

Growth through Vulnerability

Many stories were shared about the lessons learned when we allowed ourselves to take a risk and let down our guard. Whether it was from opening ourselves up to the comfort of chesed or choosing to join a new community as an older person, people told stories of initial trepidation leading to a sense of comfort, strength, and well-being. The feeling that CDT is a safe place to try something new, or allow others to take care of you when you need it, is something that makes CDT special to many of us.

Growth through Leadership

There were also stories of bravely accepting responsibility to lead in a new way, and the sense of accomplishment that came with the results. People shared what it felt like to take on a new role helping with children's programming, or directing and coordinating the Purim spiel. The lessons learned were unique, but the sense of new self-knowledge and the pride in contributing to the community were shared. There was also a sense of gratitude for the support that comes with taking on leadership roles. People who step up didn't feel alone.

Growth through Spirituality

Finally, we heard stories about taking on a new Jewish practice leading to a new sense of ourselves. Some talked about learning to leyn despite not having gone to Hebrew school, and the excitement they felt discovering the trope and reading directly from the Torah. Others recalled participating in the mitzvah of shemirah (keeping the dead company), and how both helping a family with this sacred act and pushing beyond the discomfort around death was a transformational experience.

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting and contributed to this stage of our inquiry into the meaning of membership at CDT. If you couldn't make it, there will be more opportunities. Look for more outreach, or join us at board meetings which are always open to the community. Anyone on the board would also welcome your thoughts and ideas directly. We are posting notes from the Board discussions on our website, so please take a look and let me know your thoughts.

As we begin the first of three months of Rabbi Toba's sabbatical, I am so grateful for the positive, collaborative spirit of our community. While we will miss our wonderful rabbi, I know that people will keep coming to services (check out what's coming in this newsletter and the new brochure!) and we will keep learning and growing together. Thank you for being so inspiring!

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

Chesed: Dianne Lior and Chagit Steiner

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Space: Noam Shore Website: Dan Halbert

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure 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.

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 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, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4 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). 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.

UPCOMING SHABBAT MORNING GUESTS

Sing songs for justice, hear about community organizing, tell your story about being part of the community, and experience sacred music all while enjoying shabbat with fellow CDT members!

Here are the special guests who will be joining our Shabbat morning services during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical (January through March 2014). See the CDT calendar and the sabbatical brochure to see what more is in store. As always, your presence is what makes all CDT shabbat services special.

SHABBAT BESHALACH WITH PROFESSOR DEEANA KLEPPER

Saturday, January 11, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Deeana will offer an enlightening d'var Torah to accompany our reading of the "Song at the Sea" and the Israelites' crossing out of

Egypt.



Deeana Copeland Klepper is an associate professor of Religion and History at Boston University, where she teaches courses on various aspects of Juda-

ism, Christianity, and Islam. She holds a Ph.D. in medieval European history from Northwestern University, and her research focuses on medieval Jewish-Christian encounters. Deeana is also a longtime instructor in Hebrew College's Me'ah program.

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 YITRO WITH JIM BROOKS, TENANT ORGANIZER AT CITY LIFE/ VIDA URBANA

Saturday, January 18, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for this special Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Shabbat service, with music of the Civil Rights movement and special guest

Jim Brooks.

Jim Brooks is an organizer with City Life/Vida Urbana, an organization that fights for racial, social and economic justice



and gender equality. CL/VU seeks to empower disenfranchised people and build a movement for systemic change. In recent years it has led a campaign for homeowners and tenants affected by foreclosure. Through civil disobedience and protest by hundreds of families, this campaign has succeeded in keeping many families in their homes and driving legislative reform.

SHABBAT VAYAK'HEL WITH RABBI ADAM LAVITT

Saturday, January 25, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Rabbi Adam Lavitt is serving as CDT's Assistant Rabbi this year. He is a 2012 $graduate\ of\ the\ Rabbinical\ School\ of\ Hebrew$ College. He recently served as Liturgist in Residence at the National Havurah Institute, and is currently part of Clal's Rabbis

Without Borders Fellowship. His interest in experiential, embodied, Jewish education and spiritual practice has led him to found several projects, including the



Movement Minyan and Circus Shul. In his service leading, he draws on his interest in meditation and embodiment.

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Chesed

The Chesed coordinators for January are **Dianne Lior** and **Chagit Steiner**, who may be contacted at **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 did acts of chesed last month.

REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to Sam Feuer, Stephanie Hackett, Nancy Gertz, Steffi Karp, and Ruby Gan.

CONDOLENCES

To **Allison Hausman**, on the death of her stepfather, William Weaver; may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Debbie Isenberg**, on the death of her father, Martin Isenberg; may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Sue Ann Wasserman** and **Karen Wasserman**, on the death of their father, Jack Wasserman; may his memory be for a blessing.

YAHRZEIT

The 13th yahrzeit of CDT member **Marty Bresnick** falls on December 31 this year. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat Shira services on January 10.

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

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 at: www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf.

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Lisa Samelson-in memory of Rosalie Samelson

Marjorie Salvodon-in memory of Rosita Attignol; in memory of Luce Attignol; in memory of Laurencia Jean

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome-in memory of Izzie Moser, mother of Susan Moser; in memory of William Weaver, stepfather of Allison Hausman; in memory of Shirley Hattis, mother of Paul Hattis

Jodie Siegel-in memory of Rick Goldberg Gail Harris and David Reider-in memory of Raphael Reider

Sandy Goodman and Sue Weil- $in\ memory$ of Rachel Jeanne Lehr

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks-in memory of Jack Wasserman, Karen Wasserman's father; in memory of Rhoda Mazur, Amy Mazur's mother; in memory of Shirley Hattis, Paul Hattis' mother; in memory of William N. Weaver, step-father of Allison Hausman

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yale Lansky-in memory of Jerome Glassman, my beloved uncle, and husband of Anna Glassman, of blessed memory

Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury-in memory of Susannah Zisk and Alex Fried Lilly Platt-in memory of Rhoda Himmel Mazur, mother of Amy Mazur

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

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.

Shabbat (continued)

SHABBAT TERUMAH WITH CINDY RIVKA MARSHALL

Saturday, February 1, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

The Torah portion "Terumah" discusses the gifts the Israelites brought to create the Mishkan, the wilderness sanctuary. Cindy will lead us in an exploration of the varied gifts we each bring to our community, moments when we have experienced that our gifts were appreciated by our community and our experiences of sacred space in community. This is designed to dovetail with CDT's year-long exploration into what it means to be a covenantal community. At this service, we will also be honoring CDT's



founding members and past presidents, who will take roles in leading the service.

Cindy Rivka Marshall is an

award winning professional storyteller and offers classes and coaching at her Dancing Tree Story Workshop in Needham. She consults with organizations, using story eliciting and listening to facilitate learning, to build community in synagogues and schools, and for professional development. She's also a CDT member!

SHABBAT TETZAVEH WITH CANTOR LOUISE TREITMAN

Saturday, February 8, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Louise will lead us during the Shacharit



part of our Shabbat morning service and offer us a musical and spiritual d'var Torah. Come experience her beautiful voice and presence.

Cantor Louise Treitman, Cantor Emeritus of Temple Beth David in Westwood, MA, is presently the Associate Dean of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College

SHABBAT KI TISSA WITH RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER

Saturday, February 15, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Co-sponsored with Keshet, Rabbi David Dunn Bauer of Temple Beth Sholom in San Jose, CA joins us to give a teaching titled "More Things in Heaven and Earth—Shaping a Queer theology from stone tablets and a golden calf." We'll investigate the stories of Parshat Ki Tissa and discuss what we might really want from God.

Rabbi Bauer is the Director of Social Justice Programming at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City and the founder of Queer Spiritual Counseling



(www.queerspiritualcounseling.com). From 2003-2010 the rabbi of the Jewish Community of Amherst in Amherst, MA, he is a graduate of Yale University and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

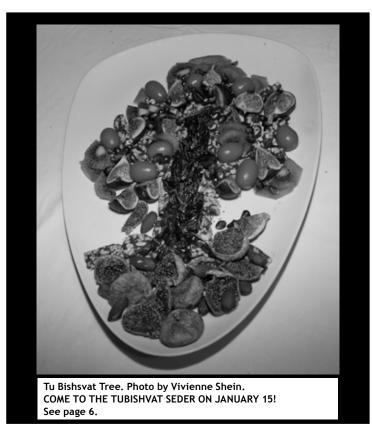
Saturdays, February 1, March 1, March 29, May 10 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

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, January 25, February 22, March 15 (Purim!), April 19, May 3, June 14 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

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.



Events

TU BISHVAT SEDER

Wednesday, January 15, 7:30-9:00 pm 60 Highland Street, Room 111

The holiday of Tu Bishvat is a time to celebrate our connection to each other and the natural world. This year, Tu Bishvat gives us an opportunity to reflect, along with the rest of the congregation, on what it means to "belong" to the community of CDT, and to expand that sense of community to include the natural world around us.

Join Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for a Tu Bishvat seder that will explore the ways we root in our individuality, gain strength from our bonds with one another, and can reach toward new and higher visions as a covenantal community. We will eat the traditional fruits of the holiday, representing the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual symbols that inspire our feelings of rootedness, connection, strength, and abundance.

The seder is oriented towards older kids, teens and adults. If you would like to be involved in planning the seder, please contact Rabbi Adam Lavitt (asst.rabbi@ dorsheitzedek.org).

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, January 11 Potluck, 6:00 pm Movie, 7:00 pm to be followed by group discussion Home of Jackie and Stan Fleischman

Film: Turn Left at the End of the World (2006, Israel).

It's the late 1960s, and two immigrant families-one from Morocco and the other from India—living in an isolated Israeli village must learn to coexist as neighbors. They have little in common except for their teenage daughters and hope for a better life. Amid the culture clash, Moroccan Nicole and Indian Sara forge a friendship despite their parents' resentments and prejudices in this coming-of-age drama.—Netflix

Feel free to come for 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).

We hope you can join us! Please contact Stan Fleischman or Emily Sper (film-club@dorsheitzedek.org) if you need directions/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 Stan Fleischman or Emily Sper for more information or if you'd like to host a film.

February 1: arch 1: The Other Son April 5: The Ritchie Boys May 3: Five Hours From Paris

ROSH CHODESH

There is no meeting of the CDT Rosh Chodesh group in January. Save the date for our next meeting: Sunday, February 2.

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

VISIT THE RASHI SCHOOL

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 an admissions information session.

Admissions Information Session: Sunday, January 12, 10:30am. RSVP at www.rashi.org/info.

Curious Minds: Fun With The Science of Sound: Friday, January 31, 1:45-3:00pm. RSVP at rashi. org/cm. Shut your eyes and open your ears: How many sounds do you hear? Shake the eggs and play the drums: Discover where the sounds come from! Sing, have fun, and learn about sound. Join us at 2:25 PM for a joyous song-filled Kabbalat Shabbat.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

RECONSTRUCTIONISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

April 26-27, 2014 **Boston**

Join us for a gathering of Reconstructionists from all over New England. Please mark your calendar! Our program will feature a special presentation by Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.—president of Jewish Reconstructionist Communities and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She will speak on "Composing a New Song: Reconstructing Post-Holocaust Jewish Community." More details to follow soon. Questions? Contact Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman (jlitman@rrc.edu).

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 socio-economic 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.

Tikkun Olam

FAMILY TABLE DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Ilana Mainelli

As most of you already know, Dorshei Tzedek is one 70 synagogues and day schools, and individual volunteers, that donate, collect, sort, pack, and deliver groceries monthly to more than 800 people as part of JF&CS's Family Table. Family Table is the Boston metro area's only food pantry offering kosher food. Thank you very much to those of you who are planning to be part of CDT's group at Family Table on January 5.

You still can be part of Dorshei Tzedek's involvement in Family Table in three other ways:

- 1. Donate cans of kosher or vegetarian soup and/or boxes of whole grain cereal as often as you can. (CDT is committed to collect 25 of each, every month). Please put your donations in the wooden collection boxes either in our Sanctuary or at our Hebrew School.
- 2. Donate money that Family Table can use to purchase fresh produce and dairy items to distribute to its clients. Please do that by putting a check in the smaller box next to the wooden one on the landing near the door to our Sanctuary that is closest to the choir robes. The checks should be made payable to "JF&CS" with "Family Table" in the memo line. Please note that we collect only food at the Hebrew School; we do not collect money there.
- 3. Collect our donations from the three boxes, in the two locations, and bring them to JF&CS/Family Table. We still need volunteers for this on the following Sundays: March 2, May 18, and July 20. This takes about one hour and you can do it anytime between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. Please sign up for this at http://doodle.com/by72xr9h6bn2hq8m.

Please help in whatever way you can! If you have any questions, please call or email me (617-923-0789, familytable@dorsheitzedek.org). Thank you!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On Sunday, April 6, from 1–4 pm, CDT is scheduled to volunteer with Metrowest Habitat for Humanity, helping to build two duplexes on town-donated land on Stonebridge Road in Wayland (near Wayland High School). The exact nature of the work we will be doing will depend on what stage the construction project is in, and ranges from framing and raising walls to hanging drywall and painting. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to participate, with some restriction on the work done by 16 and 17 year olds. Keep an eye out for the online sign-up sheet to be posted in early February.

INTERFAITH ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT

With the help of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), we are exploring a relationship with a church in Roxbury to collaborate on an economic justice project, "Jobs Not Jails." This is a state-wide campaign to: stop the proliferation of prison construction, reform sentencing, boost prison education, and create jobs. We will be looking into: creating an educational event, conducting a petition drive, preparing for an April "Jobs Not Jails" rally, creating Passover materials, and promoting Hebrew school projects.

MINIMUM WAGE / PAID SICK LEAVE

CDT is part of a successful campaign to raise the minimum wage and get paid sick leave! A number of CDT members helped the "Raise Up Massachusetts" coalition gather enough signatures to get on the ballot a measure to raise the minimum wage from \$8 to \$10.50/hour, and another measure that would require 40 hours of sick leave per year for all workers (with pay if the employer has over 11 employees). As a result of this outpouring of support—over 250,000 signatures—the Massachusetts Senate on November 19 approved legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$11 an hour. So the measure now has two avenues to success!



CDT pays a visit to Wendy's in Waltham. I-r: Diana Fisher Gomberg, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Helaine Carroll, and Josette Akresh-Gonzales. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' FAIR FOOD CAMPAIGN

In the week following International Human Rights Dayon December 10, we organized two delegations to local Wendy's restaurants as part of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food campaign (http://ciw-online.org/wendys). All of the other major fastfood chains have signed onto the Fair Food Program, which sets standards for work conditions in Florida's tomato fields, and the CIW is seeking to bring pressure on Wendy's to join these other major corporations. CDT members and Rabbi Toba met with managers at Wendy's restaurants in Waltham and Boston, bringing the message of human rights in the tomato fields!

Community

Rabbi Toba will be on sabbatical from January 1 through March 30. Rabbi Michael Luckens will be "on call" during this time. To reach Rabbi Luckens or for other Chesed needs, please contact the Chesed coordinators (chesed@dorsheitzedek. org) or CDT President Allison Hausman. If there is a death in your family and you need to organize shivah, please be in touch with Judy Herzig-Marx or Amy Mazur (they can also put you in touch with a rabbi if needed). Rabbi Adam Lavitt, our assistant rabbi, is also available for pastoral support, and can be reached at asst. rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

Contacts during Rabbi Toba's Sabbatical: While Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical, here are people to reach out to if you have questions or concerns:

Announcements to the congregation – Allison Hausman

Services and ritual - Marion Ross or Laurie Goldman

All-ages erev Shabbat services - Bill Shorr

Tot Shabbat - Susan Moser or Alison Lobron

 $Chesed \hbox{ -- the Chesed coordinators will be listed on the website and in the newsletter} \\$

Shivah minyanim – Judy Herzig-Marx or Amy Mazur

School - Annette Lawson

Adult education - Rabbi Adam Lavitt

Reserving rooms - Marla Lichtman

Questions about dues adjustments - Sivan Nasoff

Questions about billing/finances - Marla Lichtman

Anything else - Allison Hausman, Marla Lichtman, or any member of the Board

CDT Chalkboard

by Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director New Year

A NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to all! As we start the new year of 2014, it's time for us administrators to do our 2013 year-end wrap-up. To this end, we will be working hard to get vear-end tax statements out to all CDT households who contributed \$250 or more in 2013. Please look for yours to arrive by the end of January. All contributions for dues, adult High Holydays admission and Nediv Lev contributions made in 2013, including those to any CDT fund—Rabbi's Discretionary, School, Building, Camp JRF, etc.—are considered deductible for tax purposes. After receiving yours, if you have questions, please feel free to reach me at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org.

Wishing each of you a happy, healthy, joyous and abundant (secular) new year.

MAZEL TOV

To **Haralie Alpert** on the birth of her first grandchild, Julia Simone Alpert, born on November 10. Proud parents are Alla and Sam Alpert of Newton.

To **Vivienne and Norman Schein**, on the birth of their grandson, Julian Perry Stein (Jude), born on November 26.

To **Abby Roll** and her family, on Abby becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

To Steffi Karp, on another wonderful LimmudBoston .

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush, B'nei Mitzvah, and/or the Chanukah Party in November and December:

Emily Sper; Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes; Jacqui Bloomberg; Ruth Parisin memory of Isaac and Dorothy Paris; Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg; Becca Gutman; Polly Crozier-in memory of David Crozier; Roy & Tali Edelstein; Josette Akresh-Gonzales & Michael Gonzales; Denise & Mark Yurkofsky; Noah Rumpf; John Holohan; Debbie Isenberg; Jeff Goldman; Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow; Kim Ockene; Corinne Lofchie; Ellie Baron; Rick Glassman & Alice Markowitz; Karen & Jeffrey Arnold; Michele Arons; Carole Slipowitz; Terry Traub; Phyllis Glazerman; Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon; Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Friedin honor of Jen's graduation; Vivienne & Norman Shein-in honor of the birth of our grandson, Julian Perry Stein.

A huge Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped plan, organize, staff, and cook for the Chanukah party: "Latke Czar" Janice Cole, with the help of Marjorie Salvadon and Jackie Slivko; and all those who helped with the wonderful kids' activities—Carla Naumburg, Sarah Birkeland, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Mark Schafer, Michele Arons, Michael Brann, Sue Ann Wasserman, Jennifer Nichols, and Lily Fisher Gomberg—thank you thank you!

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

Learning

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education **Director**

At the Religious School this year, we have been trying a new approach to learning in our upper grade classes. We have been introducing elements of Project Based Learning into our Dalet/Hey, Vav and Zayin classes.

With this approach, students engage in "learning expeditions" in which they master areas of inquiry the way professionals do: with in depth study, collaborative work with members of a team, consultation with experts and fieldwork, culminating with students producing a high quality project to an authentic audience beyond the classroom.

Kitah Zayin (7th grade), guided by Rabbi Adam, has been working this fall on understanding the Jewish journeys of their families from Europe to twenty-first century America. As part of their learning expedition, the students visited the Vilna Shul to explore the immigrant experience as well as learning how to present artifacts to tell a story. The class also visited the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst where they learned about Yiddish culture and also learned how to take oral histories.

Zayin students used these skills to explore their own families' stories through family artifacts and heirlooms and shared them through an on-line exhibition of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. You can see our students work, "Jewish Journeys, American Journeys" on the museum's website at: www.living-museum.org/ show/exhibition/29283. Kol HaKavod (great work) Kitah Zayin!

In Kitah Dalet/Hey, the students, along with teachers Vered Brooks and Gina Fried have been considering how people experience the Divine and the language used to describe those experiences. Using both Torah texts and prayers from the siddur, the class is exploring how our ancestors described their encounters with and understanding of God. Their inquiry will lead to the class creating a siddur for use by our school that embodies their learning.

Kitah Vav, along with teacher Dayna Bailen, is studying the idea of sacred space. After studying Jewish texts about the concept of sacred space in Jewish history, their learning expedition will explore our own sacred space-the Dorshei Tzedek sanctuary-and the class will create a guide to the handcrafted objects and art that beautify the space and the artists and artisans who created them.

I look forward to Dalet/Hey and Vav sharing their finished projects with all of us in the spring!

LEARN TO LEYN (CHANT TORAH) WITH ELAINE - NEW CLASS!

with Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Sundays, 7-9 pm (beginning February 2) Newton

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 twothousand-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. No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you are able! (Please arrive no later than 8:20 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started.) For more information contact Carole Slipowitz (carole@slipowitz.org) or Lava Steinberg (lasword@rcn.com).

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.

CDT Calendar

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			January 1		3	Shabbat Bo Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
5	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm FUSN	7	8	9 Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am	Shabbat Shira Service/Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Beshalach Morning Service with Professor Deeana Klepper 9:45am-12:00pm CDT Film Club Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm Home of Jackie & Stan Fleischman
CDT Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm FUSN	14	Tu Bishvat Seder 7:30-9:00pm	16	17	Martin Luther King Shabbat Yitro Morning Service with Jim Brooks 9:45am-12:00pm
		21	22	Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am	24	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitks 8:45am-9:40am Shabbat Vayak'hel Morning Service with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 9:45am-12:00pm Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12:00pm
	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm FUSN	28		Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am		Shabbat Terumah Morning Service with Cindy Rivka Marshall 9:45am-12:00pm Simchat Shabbat 10:30am-12:00pm CDT Film Club Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm
Learn to Leyn w/ Elaine Pollack 7:00pm - 9:00pm Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm - 9:00pm	3 Exploring the Bible Sha'arim	4	5	6	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Shira Service/Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Tetzaveh Morning Service with Cantor Louise Treitman 9:45am-12:00pm

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

JAN 4 Shabbat Morning Service: Matilda & Edward Bruckner / Carolyn Fine Friedman & Jerry Friedman

JAN 10 All-ages Erev Shabbat Shira Service / Potluck: Michael Brann / Elaine Bresnick - in memory of David Adler, Martin Bresnick / Susan Moser / Andrew Milsten

JAN 11 Shabbat Morning Service: Sherry Katz & Mark Farber / Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

JAN 15 Tu Bishvat Seder: Diane Becker / Barbara Huggins / Mark Paley / Jacklyn Haas

JAN 18 Shabbat Morning Service: Ora Gladstone / Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein / Stace Gore

JAN 25 Shabbat Morning Service: Sharon Sevransky in memory of Betty Baum / Roy Edelstein / Donna Rae Hirt / Doug Hersh

FEB 1 Shabbat Morning Service: Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis / Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz

FEB 7 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Betsy Hinden / Esther Kohn - in memory of Priva Kohn / Sara Dash / Scott Helman

FEB 8 Shabbat Morning Service: Helaine & John Carroll / Jeffrey Arnold / Kate Hoffman

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.

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.

Community (continued)

VISITING ISRAEL WITH HELP FROM THE "PASSPORT TO ISRAEL" PROGRAM

by Pamela Schoenberg Reider

Our sons, Jonah and Nathan, went on the Israel summer program Machaneh Bonim B'Yisrael, associated with their much loved Habonim Dror summer camp, Camp Na'aleh. They eagerly awaited the departure date, counting down from the last day of camp the previous summer. At the airport, they were reunited with their beloved summer "family," and met new kids from all around the country and Canada. The group of 100 kids traveled the land of Israel by hiking in the desert, the mountains, the wadis and waterfalls. They swam, visited many holy sites, participated in a lot of discussions and workshops, spoke to people of all sorts, stayed on a kibbutz, built a raft and sailed into the Kinneret, and climbed rocks and walls all over the country. They had a wonderful summer exploring the land of Israel in all its complexities.

Thanks to the opportunity through Dorshei Tzedek, we had set aside some money each year through The Robert and Myra Kraft "Passport to Israel" program. Passport to Israel is a cooperative program in which families and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) each contribute funds toward an educational program in Israel. The purpose of the program is to enable students enrolled in Jewish educational programs to have an experience visiting Israel (beginning in 10th grade, through college). Students can enter the plan in grade 3 (with a family annual contribution of \$200) or grade 7 (with a family annual contribution of \$400). By the time the kids are in grade 10, there is about \$2000 saved. Passport to Israel will then chip in \$700 toward a summer program in Israel. If in the end participants do not use the money, they can request a refund of the full amount which they set aside.

The Passport to Israel funds can be used on any 5+ week trip to Israel, including programs associated with a camp, with a leadership training program, with an arts or archaeology focus, a religious orientation, an outdoor education focus—any program at all. If you want to talk to other CDT families who have benefited from this savings plan, contact the Paris-Saper family, the Meschede-Krasa family, or the Spitzer-Fried family.

For more information on Passport to Israel, contact me, Pamela Schoenberg Reider (jomela@rcn.com) or Hilary Marcus (hrm99@hotmail. com). For 3rd and 7th grade families, please request forms from myself or Hilary, and sign up for the program by January 31.



Address correction requested



For a list of contacts during Rabbi Toba's Sabbatical, see page 8.