



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

## Adar 5774 February 2014

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## In the Board Room

by Peter Katz

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**WE ARE NOW** past the halfway point of the current year, so I want to take this opportunity to talk about what the board has been doing and to review how this work relates to the new board structure.

As Allison said in her column in the January newsletter, the board is in the midst of thinking about the nature of membership at CDT. This is a challenging and multifaceted process.

So far this year, the board has considered how different life stages affect attitudes towards membership, and has thought about what might be learned from other similar congregations and communities.

Future topics will include a look at whether social media can enhance the CDT experience; a conversation about the benefits and expectations of CDT membership; and a specific review of what these investigations may tell us about the CDT membership function.

One thread connecting these discussions is an attempt to understand the “special sauce” of CDT membership. This was the primary subject of the member conversations that took place at the November members’ meeting, which Allison summarized in her January column.

Photo: CDT Members Meeting  
Photo by Vivienne Shein.

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The board is continuing to learn from those conversations. This board work has been supported the new board structure. To refresh everyone's memory, in June of last year the members voted to adopt changes to the CDT governance model. The main changes were:

- To increase the size of the board by adding more at large members (seven in the new model vs. two in the old) and by enlarging the executive committee; and
- To ask the board to focus on strategic issues, and to schedule and structure meetings and assign tasks accordingly.

While we are still adapting to the new structure, so far it seems to have helped the board to devote real energy, over a sustained period of time, to significant and complex issues.

The subject of membership is rich and deep. We have a lot to learn and the conversation will likely continue into next year. The board is thinking about how to elicit as many voices and views as we can. One possibility is to engage in a series of small group conversations, an approach that CDT has adopted in the past with fruitful results. Another is to hear from members at board meetings, which are open to all. Materials about the topics the board is working on will be posted in the Members area of the website under the heading "Membership Exploration."

That we are digging into the topic of membership is not a sign of any specific worry. CDT, although not without challenges, is thriving. Rather, this is an attempt to tackle the difficult question of how the members of a covenantal community are unique in a world where such communities are increasingly the exception, not the norm. This challenge is, of course, not unique to CDT, but the CDT membership experience is its own. Our hope is that this exploration will help enrich that experience for all members.

## 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: Marin Ross and Laurie Goldman

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Website: Dan Halbert

Space: Noam Shore

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Chesed: Benita Danzing and Barbara Shatkin

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

## Rabbinic Liaison Committee

**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. Contact **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair** at [cbsrome@comcast.net](mailto:cbsrome@comcast.net), or **Marc Steinberg** at [marc@metaphasia.com](mailto: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](mailto: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: 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 February 7, March 7 and 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 6:00 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.

## SHABBAT SERVICES WITH RABBI ADAM LAVITT

Saturdays, February 22 and March 22, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm



On these Shabbat mornings, Rabbi Adam will lead us in prayer and Torah discussion during the Shabbat morning service.

*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, Jew-*

*ish 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.*

## UPCOMING SHABBAT MORNING GUESTS

Here are the special guests who will be joining our shabbat morning services as Rabbi Toba's sabbatical continues (through March 2014). As always, your presence is what makes all CDT shabbat services special.

## SHABBAT TERUMAH WITH CDT FOUNDERS & CINDY RIVKA MARSHALL

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



The Torah portion "Terumah," talks about 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. Several of CDT's founding members will be leading this service in celebration of all the gifts they have given and continue to give to this community.

*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



Rabbi David Dunn Bauer will give a teaching titled, "More Things in Heaven and Earth: Shaping a Queer theology from stone tablets and a golden calf." He will guide us in investigating the stories of Parshat Ki Tissa to

"discuss what we might *really* want from God." Keshet is generously co-sponsoring this visit.

*Rabbi David Dunn 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.queer-spiritual-counseling.com](http://www.queer-spiritual-counseling.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, and is the first Jew to earn the Certificate in Religion and Sexuality from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.*

**UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE DORSHEI TZEDEK PRAYER SPACE: 60 HIGHLAND STREET IN THE SECOND CHURCH OF NEWTON, WEST NEWTON. SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES ARE HELD WEEKLY, STARTING AT 9:45 AM. FREE CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE DURING SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN ROOM 112. FOR THE COMFORT AND HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS, WE ASK EVERYONE ATTENDING OUR SERVICES TO AVOID WEARING FRAGRANCES (PERFUME, COLOGNE, HAIR AND BODY SPRAYS).**

# Events

## CDT FILM CLUB

*Saturday, February 1*

*Potluck, 6:00 pm*

*Movie, 7:00 pm to be followed by group discussion*

*Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins  
98 Channing Rd., Watertown*

Film: *The Attack* (2012, Hebrew, 1hr 45m)  
An Arab Israeli physician offers assistance at the scene of a gruesome suicide bombing in Tel Aviv and then learns that the bomber was his own wife. Stunned and furious, he sets out to confront the people who encouraged her deadly decision. —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](mailto: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

*March 1: **The Other Son***

*April 5: **The Ritchie Boys***

*May 3: **Five Hours From Paris***

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

## ROSH CHODESH

*Monday, February 3, 7:30-9:00 pm*

*Living Room at 60 Highland Street*

Want to get a little more joy in your life? Rosh Chodesh Adar is coming, and all women members of CDT and guests are invited to join CDT's Rosh Chodesh group to discuss the month's theme, happiness. We also will get ready for Purim and create our own blessings. Please RSVP to **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at [ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com](mailto:ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com) and let Erica know if you have questions.

## SAVE THE DATE



## PURIM IS COMING!

*Saturday, March 15, 7:00-9:00 pm  
at the First Unitarian Society of Newton*

Get your costumes and groggers ready - Purim is coming! If you are interested in being involved in the Spiel, please contact Spielmeister **Sheree Galpert** ([sheree.galpert@gmail.com](mailto:sheree.galpert@gmail.com)).

If you'd like to help out with a younger kids program, please be in touch with **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** ([asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org)).

## DORSHEI TZEDEK MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM OPENS 2014 TRAINING CAMP BATTING PRACTICES TO START IN FEBRUARY

Are you a softball player? It is only a few months until spring, and that means, softball season! The CDT Men's Softball Team opens training camp for our 8th season with indoor batting practices in February, and outdoor practices starting in March.

The softball team is open to all men who are CDT members, and there are plenty of opportunities for rookies to make an impact. If you can swing the bat, run the bases, pitch, catch, or flash some leather, you're eligible to be on the team.

Our Men's Softball Team participates in the Men's Synagogue Softball League. The MSSL ([www.msslonline.com](http://www.msslonline.com)) has roughly 40 teams throughout Greater Boston. Games are played on Sunday mornings from mid-April to early-June, with playoffs starting in mid-June. The winner of the MSSL championship earns the "coveted" Kiddush Cup.

This year, the team will be aiming to make it into the playoffs for the third straight season. Last year's team had a 5-4 record, good enough for the playoffs, but we lost in the first round to Temple B'nai Torah by a score of 15-13.

**We cannot guarantee wins, but we do guarantee you'll have a lot of fun.**

Coming to the preseason practices is a good way to meet the guys on the team. So, if you're over 25 and a member, or a son of a member, and can play ball, we invite you to join the Tzedekmen for pre-season practices. For more information, contact **Elliot Pittel**, Head Coach of the CDT Tzedekmen at [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net).

# Shabbat (continued)

## SHABBAT PEKUDEI WITH ROBERTA ISBERG AND YOHEVED KATZ

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



Roberta and Yocheved will lead a contemplative service that combines meditation, chanting, and yoga with prayer and Torah study.



*Roberta Isberg and Yocheved (Sheila) Katz guide meditation retreats at venues including Nishmat Chayyim, the Jewish meditation collaborative of New England. Ro-*

*berta practices psychiatry and has a long-standing interest in the use of meditation in medicine and psychotherapy. Yocheved is a professor of Middle East History and Contemplative Studies at the Berklee College of Music where she integrates meditation in her courses and scholarship on music, conflict resolution, and contemplative practice.*

## SHABBAT VAYIKRA WITH SHOSHANA FRIEDMAN

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



Shoshana Meira Friedman is in her final year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Newton, and will be leading our Shabbat service with vibrant melodies accompanied by her ukulele, guitar, and sense of humor.

*Shoshana is a singer-songwriter who recently released her first album, Guesthouse and is a contributing writer for the Huffington's Post ON Scripture – The Torah.*

## SHABBAT TZAV WITH DR. SUSIE TANCHEL

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



Susie Tanchel, a CDT member, is the Head of School at JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School. A Ph.D. in Tanakh and Education from Brandeis University, she will be leading us in discussion of the Torah portion.

## SHABBAT TAZRIA WITH RABBI NATAN MARGALIT

Saturday, March 29 , 9:45 am -12 :00 pm



*Rabbi Natan Margalit, founder of Organic Torah, has held teaching positions at Bard College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in Boston. He has written and taught for many years on Judaism and the environment, innovative approaches to Jewish texts, Jewish spirituality, and gender and Judaism. With Organic Torah, Natan brings together his interests in Jewish texts, the environment and envisions a paradigm shift in the way we experience Torah and our world.*

## CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

### SIMCHAT SHABBAT

Saturdays, 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, February 22, March 15, April 19, May 3, 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 and Purim with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

# Learning

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

Sunday evenings, 7-9pm  
(beginning February 2)

60 Highland Street, Library

CDT is offering 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](mailto:elainep315@comcast.net).

## 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're able! (Please arrive no later than 8:20 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started.) For more information contact **Laya Steinberg** ([lasword@rcn.com](mailto:lasword@rcn.com)) or **Carole Slipowitz** ([carole@slipowitz.org](mailto: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 Tanakh 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 Dor-shei Tzedek members and their friends. This class will meet weekly through May, at participants' homes. Contact **Stan Fleischman** at [stanfma@gmail.com](mailto:stanfma@gmail.com) for more information.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by **Annette Lawson, Education Director**

Several weeks ago, I watched a group of our **Kitah Bet** or second grade girls run up to their parents at dismissal time and very excitedly say "Ani rotzah glidah," (I want ice cream). They had just learned the letter "gimmel" and the word "glidah" in class and their teacher **Jess Engel** had taught them a sentence to use it in. The students were so pleased to be able to say something useful in Hebrew! Watching them made me think about our Hebrew program, its strengths and its limitations.

Like most congregational school programs, our primary Hebrew goal is to teach students to decode Hebrew with sufficient accuracy and fluency to be able to participate in Jewish ritual life. I use the term "decode" rather than "read" because reading includes comprehension, not just sounding out words. (more about that in a minute) Students begin to learn Hebrew phonics in **Kitah Alef** and by the end of **Kitah Gimmel** (third grade) have learned all their letters, vowels and rules of pronunciation and are on their way to fluent decoding.

But what about the Hebrew words' meaning? It would be wonderful if we could teach enough Hebrew so that our students could develop fluent Hebrew language skills, but we simply don't have enough instructional time to do that. But as we are taught (in *Pirke Avot*), though we are not obligated to complete a task, in this case, teaching Hebrew language skills, we are also not free to desist from it entirely.

So one of the goals of our school's Hebrew curriculum is that our students learn some basic vocabulary and grammar of modern Hebrew to serve as a basis and motivation for later study. We want students to be excited about Hebrew as a living language of the Jewish people and interested in learning more.

This year we are experimenting with some ways of developing that interest. In **Kitah Dalet/Hey**, teachers **Vered Brooks** and **Gina Fried** chose not to use Hebrew textbooks this year. Instead, their students are reading simple Hebrew story books, both to improve their decoding skills, but also to begin developing language skills. Aided by word lists, dictionaries and using illustrations for clues as to meaning, students first read these stories and are now beginning to write (in Hebrew) and illustrate stories of their own.

Our **Merkaz Ivrit** (Hebrew Center) teacher **Dani Nurick** plays games based on a technique called "Total Physical Response" (TPR) to help our 3rd through 6th graders begin comprehension of spoken Hebrew. TPR follows the strategies used for a child acquiring a first language (language is connected to physical activity and acquired through a positive emotional climate) or an adult learning English as a Second Language from someone who doesn't know their language. So Dani models for students the directions she is giving them verbally in Hebrew and enthusiastically praises students as they watch and listen and then sit, stand, run, jump, spin when told to do so in Hebrew. As students play the game each week, they begin to understand the directions without watching for the motions and add new vocabulary. Also it's lots of fun!

## UPDATE ABOUT EDUCATION PLANNING AT CDT

by **Lisa Schneier, CDT Board VP of Education**

The CDT education program is continuing a "visioning" process that will help to shape the program in the future.

On January 11th, parents from four of the school grades met in their cohorts to think together about what is important to them in the Jewish education of their children and their families. The meetings were very animated and productive. Thanks to all who participated and helped make them happen!

We are anticipating that meetings will continue with parents of the Aleph class and of the upper grades as well as with the school staff and others in the congregation. Stay tuned for ways that you can get involved!

# Chesed

The Chesed coordinators for February are **Benita Danzing** and **Barbara Shatkin**, who may be contacted at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto: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'LEYMAH

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

## Yahrzeit

The Yahrzeit of **Francis Greenberg** falls on February 1 this year. We will be remembering Francis at the Shabbat Tetzaveh services on February 8.

## AVELUT

AVELUT is CDT's member-led group for adults following a loss or marking a yahrzeit. We talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and/or the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. You do not need to be in the official Jewish mourning period to attend.

The first meeting of 2014 was scheduled for January 26. Following introductions and remembrances, the topic was "*Lessons from loss: What have we learned? How have we changed?*" The next meeting will be announced by email. For more information about AVELUT see *After Shiva, Now What?* at [tinyurl.com/AvelutCDT](http://tinyurl.com/AvelutCDT) If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the AVELUT group contact **Ellie Goldberg** at [ellie.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto: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>.

# Community

## CONTACTS DURING RABBI TOBA'S SABBATICAL

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](mailto: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](mailto:asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org).

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 - 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

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

**\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\***

## 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 the Post-Holocaust Jewish Community." More details to follow soon. Questions? Contact **Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman** ([jlitman@rrc.edu](mailto:jlitman@rrc.edu)).

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# Tikkun Olam

## FAMILY TABLE FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

by Ilana Mainelli

Dorshei Tzedek is one of 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 Jewish Family & Children Service's Family Table food pantry. Family Table is the Boston metro area's only food pantry offering kosher food. **Thank you very much to those who were part of CDT's group at Family Table on January 5.**

You can help support Family Table by:

Donating cans of kosher or vegetarian soup and/or boxes of whole grain cereal as often as you can. (CDT is committed to collecting 25 of each, every month). Please put your donations in the collection boxes either outside of our Sanctuary or at our Religious School.

Donating money which Family Table can use to purchase fresh produce and dairy items to distribute to its clients. Please do that by putting a **check** into the smaller box next to the wooden one, near the door to our Sanctuary closest to the resource table. Checks should be made payable to "JF&CS" with "Family Table" in the memo line. Please note that we only collect food at the Religious School; do not drop off checks there.

Collecting our donations from the three boxes, in the two locations, and bringing them to JF&CS/Family Table food pantry in Waltham. We still need volunteers to do 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. To sign up for this go to <http://doodle.com/by72xr9h6bn2hq8m>.

Any help you can give is appreciated! If you have any questions, please call or email me at [familytable@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:familytable@dorsheitzedek.org). Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATE

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Sunday, April 6, 1:00-4:00 pm

Location TBA

CDT will be volunteering for Metrowest Habitat for Humanity on April 6, helping to build two duplexes on Stonebridge Road in Wayland. The exact nature of what we will be doing will depend on what stage the construction project is in, and ranges from framing and raising walls to hanging dry-wall and painting. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to volunteer, with some restriction on work done by 16 and 17 year olds. Please sign up on the CDT website, if interested. For more information, contact **Barbara Shatkin** at [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com).

# Community (continued)

## MAZEL TOV

To CDT Members **Stacie Garnet-Cook** and **Andrew Garnett-Cook** on the birth of their son, Samuel Frederick Garnett-Cook on January 9.

**Andrew Milsten; Sherry Katz & Mark Farber; Cheryl & Jeff Sacks.**

For their work on the Men's Shabbaton - **Rob Greenly, Josh Lieberman, James Kaplan, David Lobron, Michael Singer, Elliot Pittel** and **Alex Sugerman-Brozan.**

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Events, Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in December and January:

**Phyllis & Bill Kantor; Liz Reisberg; Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman; Matilda & Edward Bruckner; Michael Brann; Elaine Bresnick** - in memory of David Adler, **Martin Bresnick; Susan Moser;**

For their work on the Tu Bishvat Seder - **Barbara Huggins, Jackie Slivko, Ellie Goldberg, Lilly Platt, Annie Spanel, Marcia Okun, Linda Schiller-Robins and Ora Gladstone, Rachel Greenberg, Mark Paley** and **Donna Hirt.**

continued on page 11

# Nediv Lev

## OUR 5774 NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN



by Sharon Sevransky,  
Nediv Lev Chair

CDT has a unique dues structure, which includes an annual request for Nediv Lev donations. These donations are voluntary, but essential to CDT's operations. We have begun our Nediv Lev campaign for 5774 by asking all members to make a donation to our annual Nediv Lev giving campaign.

The Nediv Lev campaign is typically our only "fundraiser" at Dorshei Tzedek. Balancing our operating budget depends on meeting our Nediv Lev goal of \$76,000 this year. Each donation, large or small, helps us towards our current financial goal.

Please send your donation to the CDT office at 60 Highland St, Newton, 02465, or pledge online at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/nediv-lev-online-pledge-form>.

Thank you for your generosity.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

### GENERAL FUND

Barbara and Jerome Albenberg

Allison Andrews—*In memory of I. Cary Andrews, MD*

Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow—*In honor of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek*

Lori and Steven Gans—*In memory of Shirley Hattis, Paul Hattis's mother and Lisa Samelson's mother-in-law*

Laurie Goldman—*In appreciation for our exploration of what it means to be a covenantal community and all those who are participating in that process*

Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg—*In honor of Gina Fried, in appreciation for her intrepid and inspiring teaching of our Dorshei teenagers. Thanks!*

Sharon Gorberg—*In loving memory of my mother, Sylvia Gorberg*

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan —*In honor of Bill Shorr's service leadership*

Alison and David Lobron

Corinne Lofchie and Noam Shore

Carla Naumburg —*In memory of my grandmother, Leda DiCapi*

Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato

Lilly Platt —*In memory of Yankel Platt*

Lisa Dee Port White—*In honor of Lisa Goodwin-Robbins*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

Harry Sanders—*In memory of Nancy Anderson*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In memory of Chava and Herzl Rome*

Steven Siegel—*In memory of Philip Siegel*

Ilana Streit —*In memory of Matt Holland*

Deborah Waber

Deb and Gary Wasserman—*To express our appreciation to Rabbi Toba for helping with the service for my parents*

### CAMP JRF FUND

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx—*In honor of Rabbi Toba who officiated on the occasion of our 10th wedding anniversary*  
Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz—*In honor of Rabbi Toba and the DT leadership!*

### 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.

# CDT Calendar

# February 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Shabbat Morning Service with Cindy Rivka Marshall 9:45am to 12:00pm  Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm  CDT Film Club: "Fill the Void" 6:00pm
<b>2</b> Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 4:00pm to 6:00pm	<b>3</b> Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm to 9:00pm Sha'arim: Gate- ways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30pm to 9pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am	<b>7</b> All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm	<b>8</b> Shabbat Morning Service with Cantor Louise Treitman 9:45am to 12:00pm
<b>9</b> Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 4:00pm to 6:00pm	<b>10</b> Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Sha'arim: Gate- ways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30pm to 9pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David Dunn Bauer 9:45am to 12:00pm
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 8:45am to 9:40am  Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 9:45am to 12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30pm to 9:00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am	<b>28</b>	March 1 Contemplative Shabbat Morn- ing Service with Roberta Isberg and Yocheved Katz 9:45am to 12:00pm  Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm  CDT Film Club: "The Other Son" 6:00pm

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space:  
 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton.

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

### **Shabbat, Feb 1:** Setup/Cleanup:

Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis / Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz

### **Erev Shabbat, Feb 7:** Setup/Cleanup:

Betsy Hinden / Esther Kohn - in memory of Priva Kohn / Sara Dash / Scott Helman

### **Shabbat, Feb 8:** Setup/Cleanup:

Helaine & John Carroll / Jeffrey Arnold / Kate Hoffman

### **Shabbat, Feb 15:** Setup/Cleanup:

Sharon Gorberg - in memory of Sylvia Gorberg / Willa & Tom Kuh / Frances Malino

### **Shabbat, Feb 22:** Setup/Cleanup:

Dorie Fried / Miriam Bronstein / Diane Yates

### **Shabbat, Mar 1:** Setup/Cleanup:

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome / Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman

**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.

# Community (continued)

## 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](http://www.campjrf.org).

*Scholarships are available to help your child attend Camp JRF this coming summer. For an application, please be in touch with Marla Lichtman at [admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org).*

## GREAT NEW TITLES FROM THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST PRESS

*A Guide to Jewish Practice, Volume 2* is now available. This rich, flexible tool offers traditional and contemporary approaches to Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. (If you don't already have it in your collection, you may also want to consider volume one of the guide, on everyday living; the book helps navigate important contemporary issues, from sexual ethics and gender identity to end-of-life decisions.)

*Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives* invites readers into the lives of 20 women via beautifully written essays. The writers reflect on intimate experiences such as parenting, infertility and illness.

Through a Jewish lens, they detail the meaning they discovered.

These titles and more are available through the Reconstructionist Press at [www.Jewish-ReconBooks.org](http://www.Jewish-ReconBooks.org).

## MAKING IT OFFICIAL

What do a small Jewish community near the beach, a 108-year-old temple north of Boston, and a congregation that holds services in an arboretum have in common? All three communities recently decided to become affiliates of the Reconstructionist movement.

We welcome three new affiliates:

Selah in Fairfield County, CT  
Congregation Temple Emmanuel in Wakefield, MA

Beit Chaverim in West Palm Beach Gardens, FL

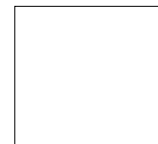
Read their stories at [www.jewishrecon.org/making-it-official](http://www.jewishrecon.org/making-it-official).

## ISRAEL IS CALLING YOU!

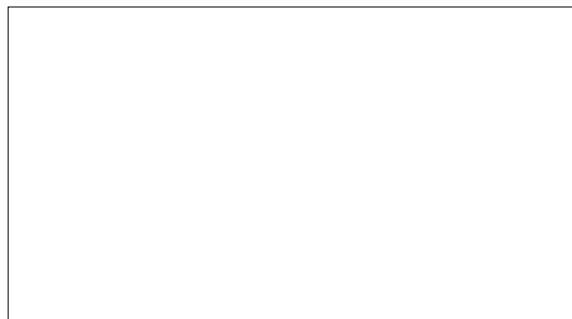
May 14-21, 2014

Join us for the first Reconstructionist Movement trip to Israel, May 14–21, 2014. 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](http://www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip).

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.)



Address correction requested



## MEN GATHER FOR THIRD ANNUAL SHABBATON

by Rob Greenly

If you walked along the first floor hallway of the Second Church on Saturday, December 21, you would have heard the resonance of men's voices chanting blessings and singing Shabbat prayers coming from the Living Room. For the third time in three years, a hardy group of Dorshei Tzedek men gathered for a Men's Shabbaton.

**Assistant Rabbi Adam Lavitt** organized fourteen men in the creation of a special men's space during Shabbat. It started with a potluck Friday night dinner at the home of Stan Fleischman. The men welcomed the Sabbath with the traditional blessing and lighting of the Shabbat candles. They were led in a guided discussion by Rabbi Adam followed by lively dialogue on a variety of topics.

Several men joined Rabbi Adam in leading different parts of Shabbat Services on Saturday morning, including **James Kaplan, David Lobron, Josh Lieberman, Michael Singer, and Alex Sugerman-Brozan**. Afternoon discussions were led by **Rob Greenly, Josh Lieberman, and Elliot Pittel**, with Elliot provid-

ing a yoga session. **Rabbi Toba** visited with the men prior to the Havdalah service.

The timing of this Shabbaton on the Winter Solstice--the shortest day of the year--inspired discussion of light and darkness. The Parsha, Shemot, and the role of Moses provided input for discussion of leadership in a Jewish male context.

The men are enthusiastic about sustaining the special space created by this year's Men's Shabbaton. Preliminary plans are underway for a quarterly men's Shabbat dinner and discussion, with other ideas being considered. Please contact **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** ([asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:asst.rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org)) if you want to participate, but were not able to attend this year's Shabbaton.



Men's Shabbaton attendees (l-r, standing): Josh lieberman, Bill Kantor, Rob Greenly, Paul Hattis, Elliot Pittel. Seated: Rabbi Adam Lavitt, Peter Shapiro, Daniel Kraza, Stan Fleischman.