



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Adar I/Adar II 5774 March, 2014

60 Highland Street, West Newton, Massachusetts 02465
617-965-0330 | www.dorsheitzedek.org | info@dorsheitzedek.org



Marion Ross speaking at the November, 2013 Members' Meeting

photo by Vivienne Shein

The More You Learn, The Less You Know

by Allison Daskal Hausman



THE DISCUSSIONS WE'VE been having as a board exploring the meaning of "membership" at CDT and a "covenantal community" have illustrated in an undeniable way that the more you learn, the less you know. So far, board members have led deep and fascinating discussions about how our membership experience changes over each member's life-span, and about what "membership" looks like in other thriving

Jewish communities. We all finished each of these sessions hungry for more information and more discussion.

As a result, we have decided to extend the conversation into next year. Our original two goals for the year were:

1. A deeper understanding of why and how commitment to the CDT community adds value to the lives of our members. This deepened understanding will enable us to articulate this value for current and potential members, and to evolve as a congregation in ways that enhance this value.
2. A set of concrete policies and procedures regarding the membership function at CDT, including leadership and staffing (i.e., Executive Committee role, Membership Committee role, and processes for reaching out to both potential and existing members.) We will still directly address the second goal this year. Our discussions shed light on how our membership function can be improved and we believe we can and should make significant progress to strengthen and support this crucial function of our congregation.

Our preliminary explorations, however, demonstrate that the first goal will require more time to complete and it is in the community's best interest to take that time. Our relationships to our Jewish community are complicated and are changing rapidly. In fact we've learned that we're not at all alone in our effort to grasp what a Jewish community can be in our current historical and social contexts. The community at large is struggling with similar questions. But, most importantly, we are certain that to truly succeed in gaining this understanding, we need to include everyone in the community. This takes time to do well.

What this means for you

The board has yet to define what exactly "extending our conversation" entails. While we've devoted some member meetings to asking some important questions, we think that the most valuable information from members needs to come from smaller, deeper conversations among individuals. In this way, members will be able to take the time to really understand why we are committed to CDT, how we see that relationship changing over time, and what our hopes are for the community. In addition, these conversations will help us as a community learn how we can benefit from all the resources we each bring to bear. The community is, after all, the sum of all of us as individuals.

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One way we're beginning these conversations is through participating in an initiative led by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) called "Relational Conversations". A group of us went to the first training for this effort on Sunday, February 9th. It was an interesting day with over a hundred members from a diverse collection of Boston area religious institutions. Some of you might remember that we worked with GBIO several years ago doing a similar effort. This group that attended the new training and the board will integrate what we learned into our discussion and determine how this method of "in reach" can help us expand and deepen our inquiry next year.

The conversation continues. It involves you because it's an effort to help our community serve all of us better as time goes on, as we change, and as the world changes. Please join us. We post notes to every meeting and every member is welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. You can also always connect with me, or other members of the board, to let us know what you're thinking. At our next meeting on March 2nd, we will be exploring the "Special Sauce" that makes CDT different. We will also be discussing the results of the GBIO training and its implications for next year.

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.

UPDATE ON OUR 5774 NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN

by Sharon Sevransky, CDT Nediv Lev Chair

Our 2014 Nediv Lev Campaign this year is well on its way. To those who have already given, THANK YOU! For those who have not yet made your Nediv Lev donation, please don't wait. We are working towards our goal of \$76,000 which is needed to ensure our congregation's financial health.

The Nediv Lev campaign is an opportunity to reflect on what the CDT community means to you—the music of our Shabbat services, our adult learning classes, our community celebration of holidays and festivals. Please honor the contribution that CDT makes to your life with a Nediv

Lev gift, large or small. Every contribution, of any size, is very important to the Nediv Lev campaign. If you choose, you may direct your gift to be in honor of a member of our community, or as a way to remember a loved one. It is easy to give:

- Online—You can go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/nediv-lev>
- Mail—Send a check (payable to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek) to the office at 60 Highland St, West Newton, 02465.

Thank you for your support of our community.

CDT

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members.

Board

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Staff

Education Director: Annette Lawson
 Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman
 Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner
 Assistant Rabbi: Rabbi Adam Lavitt
Executive Committee:
 President: Allison Hausman
 Immediate Past President: Peter Katz
 VP Finance: Sivan Nasoff
 VP Membership: Melanie Adler
 VP Education: Lisa Schneier
 VP Leadership: Laurie Gould
 Secretary: Jen Kaplan

Board Members-at-Large

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

Off-Board Chairs

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman
 Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky
 Website: Dan Halbert
 Space: Noam Shore
 Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome
 Chesed: Benita Danzing and Barbara Shatkin
 Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

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

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

GENERAL FUND

Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen—*In honor of Allison Hausman and the great work she is doing as president*
 Rose and Lloyd Adler
 Ellie Baron and Kate DeBethune
 Michele Arons and Michael Brann
 Barbara Beck
 Elaine Bresnick
 Helaine and John Carroll
 Stacey Chacker—*In memory of Fred Chacker*
 Alyssa Cohen
 Vilunya Diskin—*In honor of Nadia and Kyra Diskin*
 Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein
 Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein
 Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman—*In memory of Sara Fine*
 Ora Gladstone
 Ellie Goldberg—*In memory of my husband, Efreim Goldberg (3/18/47-9/20/02); in memory of my brother, Jesse Koenigsberg (4/18/51-6/5/10); honoring the first yahrzeit of my father, Emanuel Koenigsberg (d. 3/14/13)*
 Lynda Goldberg and Joseph Bayes
 Tessa Goldsmith
 Sharon Gorberg—*In loving memory of my George L. Gorberg*
 Ami and Jonathan Gordon—*In honor of Robert and Virginia Stern*
 Ora Grodsky and Jonathan Rosenthal
 Becca Gutman
 Jacklyn and Jarred Haas—*In memory of Katie Haas*
 Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg
 Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa—*In honor of Amy Mazur and Carole Slipowitz*
 Betsy Hinden and Karen Wasserman—*In memory of Jack and Charlotte Wasserman*
 Barbara Huggins
 Laura and Joel Katz—*In honor and support of Rabbi Toba's sabbatical*
 Linda and Peter Katz—*In memory of Vivian Katz*
 Alexis and Gabe Landes
 Sarah Little and Doug Hersh—*In memory of Michael and Marilyn Hersh; in memory of Betty Little*

Frances Malino—*In memory of Eugene Black; in memory of Rhoda Malino; in memory of Jerome Malino*
 Alice Markowitz and Rick Glassman
 Tatjana Meschede and Dani Krasa—*In memory of Leni Hollander*
 Shirley Milgrom
 Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon
 Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx—*In honor of Alison Lobron and Susan Moser for all of their hard work in nitzanim and Tot Shabbat*
 Gertrude Nemeth—*In memory of Leonard I. Nemeth*
 Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato—*In honor of Rabbi Adam Lavitt*
 Bonnie Tennereillo and Andrews Sofer—*In memory of Elaine Sofer and Paul Martin Sofer*
 Ellen Pashall—*In honor of all who stepped up during Toba's sabbatical*
 Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg—*In appreciation of CDT!*
 Rachel and Chad Pytel
 Marion Ross
 Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis—*In memory of Shirley Hattis*
 Linda Schiller and Steve Robins
 Liora and Ehud Schmidt—*In honor of Rabbi Toba*
 Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman
 Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman—*In memory of Nir Katz*
 Jodie Siegel—*In honor of Nancy Gertz; In memory of Allan Siegel; in memory of Martin Siegel*
 Susan Silberberg
 Emily Sper—*In memory of Roy Sper*
 Nessa Spitzer—*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried*
 Lauren and Andrew Stefano
 Chagit Steiner and Tom Brown
 Ellen White—*In memory of Benjamin Weiner; in memory of John White*

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*
 Ruth Paris and Rob Saper

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

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

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek religious school to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of our school and one of its first teachers; this fund allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

Shabbat

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays
8:45 am, Library
With Rabbi Adam Lavitt: 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, 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.

ENJOY A COMMUNITY EREV SHABBAT DINNER!

Friday, March 28

Join fellow CDT'ers for a delicious Erev Shabbat potluck dinner, hosted by CDT members in their homes. Choose a location convenient to you! Don't miss this opportunity to relax, enjoy a great meal, and schmooze with new and old friends. Signups will open on March 10 (go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members> and look under "Signups"). Contact **Melanie Adler** (mad...@edc.org) with any questions, or if you'd like to host a dinner. The more the merrier!

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

CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

Saturdays, March 1, March 29, May 10
10:30-noon

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

TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays, 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.

UPCOMING SHABBAT MORNING GUESTS

SHABBAT PEKUDEI WITH ROBERTA ISBERG AND YOHEVED KATZ



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

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

Roberta Isberg and Yoheved (Sheila) Katz guide meditation retreats at Temple Beth Zion's Nishmat Hayyim. Bobbi practices psychiatry and has a longstanding



interest in the ways that meditation supports emotional well-being. Yocheved is a professor of Middle East History and Contemplative

Studies at the Berklee College of Music and is writing a book on a century of Palestinian-Israeli joint nonviolence.

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 Post's On Scripture—The Torah.

SHABBAT TZAV WITH DR. SUSIE TANCHEL



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

The wisdom of the Dorshei Tzedek community will be in full force this shabbat as Susie delivers a

d'var torah.

Susie Tanchel, a CDT member, has a Ph.D. in Tanakh and Education from Brandeis University, and is the Head of School at JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School.

SHABBAT SERVICE WITH RABBI ADAM LAVITT

Saturday, March 22, 9:45 am -12 :00 pm

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, 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.

SHABBAT TAZRIA WITH RABBI NATAN MARGALIT

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

Natan will lead our shabbat service and guide our exploration of the week's Torah reading in the spirit of what he calls "Organic Torah"—an integration of Jewish wisdom with the world-wide struggle for a sustainable, healthy and just world.



Rabbi Natan Margalit is the founder of Organic Torah. He received rabbinic ordination at The Jerusalem Seminary in 1990

and earned a Ph.D. in Talmud from U.C. Berkeley in 2001. He 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.

Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, March 1
Potluck, 6:00 pm
Movie, 7:00 pm to be followed by group discussion
Location to be determined

Film: The Other Son (2012, French, English, Hebrew, Arabic 105m)

While preparing to enter the Israeli military for his compulsory service, young Joseph Silberg learns he was accidentally switched at birth with the son of an Arab couple from the West Bank—a shocking revelation that sends both families reeling. —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

April 5: *The Ritchie Boys*
May 10: *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), for more information or if you'd like to host a film.

ROSH CHODESH

Tuesday, April 1
7:30-9:00 pm
Living Room at 60 Highland Street

It's no joke! Rosh Chodesh Nisan is coming on Tuesday, April 1st.

Nisan is called the First Month because the Israelites left Egypt in Nisan, and it is the "first month" in the life of the Israelites as a free people. Nisan also marks the birth of spring. What is new in your life? Is there anything that you want to cultivate this spring? Come share conversation, reflection, fun and great snacks with other CDT women. For more info or to RSVP contact **Erica** at ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com.

Chesed

The Chesed coordinators for March are **Benita Danzing** and **Barbara Shatkin**, 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'LEYMAH

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

Yahrzeit

We will be remembering **Marion Weinberg** on the Shabbat of March 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 If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the AVELUT group contact **Ellie Goldberg** at ellie.goldberg@gmail.com

Mourning at CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website under: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

Please Complete the Chesed Committee Online Survey

The Chesed Committee asks that you complete a very brief survey to help us know which members to contact for what sorts of help. We hope that everyone in the community will respond. Thank you! Visit this link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HKDZTVM>.

Note: If you were at the November Members' Meeting and filled out the paper survey, you do not need to complete the online version.

with different approaches to Jewish education, with the assistance of funding and consultants provided by Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Our Project LO"X has explored different ways of engaging the whole family as Jewish learners and we have begun to experiment with Project Based Learning in our upper grades as a way of providing deeper learning experiences for our students.

With the help of our CJP consultant, Shaina Wasserman, we are now beginning to look comprehensively at our educational program to apply what we have learned from these experiments. As part of this redesign process, we have asked parents to participate in "re-visioning" meetings to share their ideas and hopes for their children's Jewish education. Additionally, an evaluation of all of our children's programming (including the school) will soon be underway. All of this input will be crucial to design decisions about our educational program as we move forward.

Learning

Jewish Approaches to Death & Mourning: A Practical Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday evenings, April 10 & 17, May 1, 7:30-9:00 pm
60 Highland Street, Room 111

What might it mean to imagine—and plan for—our own care at the end of our lives? What does Judaism have to say about end-of-life decision-making? What does tahrarah, the traditional Jewish preparation for burial, entail? Whether you are wrestling with your own mortality or caring for others as they near death, this class is an opportunity for learning and discussion in the context of the CDT community. Drawing on Jewish texts and traditions, and new local resources including a Jewish hospice center and community chevra kaddisha (burial society), we will delve into Jewish approaches to end-of-life decisions, burial and mourning practices, and what it means to care for ourselves and others at times of grief.

Topics:

April 10: Jewish approaches to dying and end-of-life decisions

April 17: Jewish burial traditions—caring for body and soul

May 1: The wisdom and practice of Jewish mourning

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 for more information.

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 with 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!

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. 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.

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Religious School News

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

This year there are two change processes currently underway in the Religious School, the first involving the "when" and "where" of the school and the second the "what" and "how".

The first addresses the issue of our school schedule and how it impacts enrollment. Our Tuesday/Thursday afternoon schedule for our upper grades presents a challenge to many of our families who find it difficult to get their children to religious school on busy workdays. They would be helped by changing our schedule to one weekday/one weekend day, which would also bring us into line with other area congregations and makes us more attractive to new families.

Last year our School Growth Committee conducted a survey of school families, which confirmed our families' preference for changing from our current schedule, and indicated that the preferred weekend day is Sunday. The decision was made to change

our class schedule for the 5775 school year to Sunday mornings for all grades through Kitah Vav (6th grade) with Kitah Gimmel through Kitah Vav also attending one afternoon per week (we are currently surveying families of upper grade students to help determine which weekday will work best).

Feedback from parents also indicated the importance of Shabbat programming to many of our families, so we are planning that once each month we will gather for Shabbat B'Yachad (together) with different Shabbat experiences geared to different age groups. On those weekends there will not be classes on Sunday.

Because we cannot use our current school space in FUSN on Sundays, a search for appropriate school space for Sundays was undertaken, a location was identified and we expect to finalize a lease very soon.

The second change process involves examining what and how we teach. For the last three years we have been experimenting

Community

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).

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

Community cont.

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.JewishReconBooks.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.

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.

CURIOUS MINDS AT THE RASHI SCHOOL: PURIM: BE HAPPY, IT'S ADAR

Friday, March 14th 1:30PM
Rashi School

Create a crazy gragger (noisemaker) to shake at a silly Megillah reading. Make mishloach manot (Purim baskets) to share with friends—and taste some yourself! Come dressed in your goofiest get-up and march in a costume parade! RSVP at www.rashi.org/cm

CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL

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 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) 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.

CURIOUS MINDS AT THE RASHI SCHOOL: PERSONALIZE YOUR PASSOVER

Wednesday, March 26th 1:45PM
Rashi School

Engage your children in the Passover preparations as together you decorate your own "uniquely yours" ceramic seder plate. The Passover story will come alive as we hear it told in words and song. Sing your favorite songs and learn some new ones! A snack will be provided. Advance registration appreciated. RSVP at www.rashi.org/cm

Continued on page 11

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 preseason practices. For more information, contact Elliot Pittel, Head Coach of the CDT Tzedekmen at epittel@comcast.net.



Tikkun Olam

Take a look below at all the world-changing energy in our congregation and join in! Our next Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting is *Sunday March 9, 7-8 pm in the Living Room of Second Church.*

CDT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Sunday, April 6, 1pm-4pm

CDT will be volunteering with MetroWest Habitat for Humanity, helping to build two duplexes on town-donated land at 93 Stonebridge Road in Wayland, near Wayland High School. 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 drywall and painting. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to volunteer, with some restriction on the work done by 16 and 17 year olds. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up for this event on the online members sign-up page. If you are planning on volunteering, it would be helpful if you could sign up sooner rather than later so we can be confident of having the minimum number of 15 volunteers needed in order to hold the event. Please contact **Barbara Shatkin** at bfshatkin@aol.com with any questions.

JOBS NOT JAILS INITIATIVE: FILM "THE HOUSE I LIVE IN" AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 to 6:00pm

The Jobs Not Jails initiative is well under way, and we have a great partner in BibleWay Christian Church in Boston. In concert with many other organizations across the state, Jobs Not Jails calls for:

- An end to new prison construction in the state
- Redirection of the \$2B savings toward jobs creation programs
- Changes in the discriminatory sentencing laws.

While other states, notably New York, Texas and Maine, are enacting criminal justice reforms, Massachusetts has been increasing its prison population and enacting a new "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law. It's time we stopped wasting our tax dollars on mass incarceration that is believed to be creating more crime than it's preventing.

We are building toward a large rally on Boston Common on Saturday, April 26 (save the date!). We are using a petition drive to begin conversations about the state of incarceration in Massachusetts and economic justice.

Come and join this satisfying way to make a difference! For more information contact **Alan Epstein**, alan.epstein@rcn.com, **Denise Yurkofsky**, yurk@comcast.net, or **Alex Sugerman-Brozan**, abg717@gmail.com.

MEET AND SUPPORT CITY LIFE/VIDA URBANA ACTIVISTS

Sunday, March 16, 2pm
Home of Bonnie Tenneriello

Those who heard City Life's Steve Meacham speak at our MLK Shabbat know that the group organizes communities affected by the foreclosure crisis and helps families stay in their homes through protest, eviction blockades and legal support. People facing loss of a home become organizers for themselves and others.

Come meet CLVU organizers and enjoy coffee, tea and baked goods at a house party fundraiser Sunday March 16 at 2pm at the home of Bonnie Tenneriello. (No minimum donation but bring a checkbook if you can.) Contact Bonnie or watch your email for more details.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE FOR NEWTON

Newton Congregations, an affiliate of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization of which Dorshei Tzedek is a member, is a coalition of approximately 12 churches and synagogues that work on local community and city issues. Newton Congregations is looking at affordable housing in Newton as its next project. The issue addresses important social justice and equity concerns for our city. Whether you are a current Newton resident, or wish you were able to afford a move to Newton, we hope you'll let us know if you see this as an important issue to tackle. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact CDT member **Ora Gladstone** at gladstone@brandeis.edu.

FAMILY TABLE FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

by **Ilana Mainelli**

Dorshei Tzedek is one of 70 synagogues and day schools, as well as individual volunteers, who 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.

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



SUPPORT CDT THROUGH AMAZON.COM

Buy your books, electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time! CDT is an Amazon Associate. When you click on the Amazon link on the bottom of the CDT homepage (www.dorsheitzedek.org), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. It's an easy way to support the congregation while doing the online shopping you were planning to do anyway!

CDT Calendar

March 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>						<p>Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm Education Committee Meeting 12:30pm to 2:00pm CDT Film Club: "The Other Son" 6:00pm</p>
<p>Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p> <p>CDT Board Meeting 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm</p> <p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church in Newton: 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>			<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service with Shoshana Friedman 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>Tikkun Olam Program 4:00pm to 6:00pm Tikkun Olam Meeting 7:00pm Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm</p> <p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>		<p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church 7:00-8:30pm</p>	<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Service with Dr. Susie Tanchel 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Tot Shabbat - Purim program 10:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Purim Party 7:00pm to 9:00pm First Unitarian Society of Newton</p>
	<p>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm</p> <p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>			<p>Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>		<p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>Members' Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm</p> <p>Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm</p> <p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>			<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>Community Erev Shabbat Dinners 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Natan Margalit 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Simchat Shabbat 10:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Kitot Dalet/Hey Parent Learning Session with Rabbi Adam 10:45am to 12:00pm</p>
	<p>Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm</p> <p>Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought First Unitarian Church 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>Rosh Chodesh 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>		<p>Mindful Mornings 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 6:00pm</p>	<p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>

Community cont.

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) 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.

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

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.

MAZEL TOV

To CDT member **Susan Moser**, for getting her green card after a 14-year-long ordeal.

TODAH RABBAH

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

Sharon Gorberg—in memory of Sylvia Gorberg; **Willa & Tom Kuh**; **Frances Malino**; **Betsy Hinden**; **Esther Kohn**—in memory of *Priva Kohn*; **Sara Dash**; **Scott Helman**; **Helaine & John Carroll**; **Karen Arnold**; **Kate Hoffman**; **Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis**; **Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz**; **Sharon Sevransky**—in memory of *Betty Baum*; **Roy Edelstein**; **Jacklyn Haas**; **Doug Hersh**

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

3/1 Shabbat: Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome / Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman

3/7 All ages Erev Shabbat: Haralie Alpert—*in memory of Sylvia and Francis Greenberg* / Ellen White - *in memory of John and Paul White* / Denise Yurkofsky / Mark Schafer

3/8 Shabbat: Linda Schiller & Steve Robins / Miriam Bronstein / Melanie Adler

3/15 Shabbat: Jennifer Nichols & Jerold Gelfand / Stuart Snyder / Diane Becker

3/22 Shabbat: Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess—*in memory of Alvin Galpert* / Rob Saper / Marion Ross

3/23 Members meeting: Ellen Pashall / Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa / Ilana Streit

3/29 Shabbat: Barbara & Elliot Pittel / Sarah Hartman / Corinne Lofchie

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,

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



The Shushan puppets entertain at the 2013 Purim celebration
photo by Vivienne Shein

Purim is coming!

*Saturday evening, March 15, 7:00-9:00pm,
First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington St, West Newton*

Get your costumes and groggers ready—Purim is coming! Come join special guest Esther Moonbeam for our yearly Purim bash, featuring zany costumes, Purim davening, hamantaschen, Megillah reading, and of course, the Spiel! Join fellow revelers and Spielers for part or all of the evening (times are approximate):

7:00pm—Purim davening with Esther Moonbeam (with sacred chanting and expressive movement).

7:20pm—Costume parade. Prizes for kids and adults with costumes!
Don't come as you are!

7:40-8pm—Megillah reading and Tot Purim. Come hear portions of the Megillah, with an alternate activity for the little ones.

8:00pm—The Speil. From the inimitable spielmeister **Sheree Galpert**.

8:30pm—The Vashti Dancing Party. Wear your dancing shoes (at least...)

If you are interested in being involved in the Spiel, please contact Spielmeister **Sheree Galpert** (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).