



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tammuz/Av/Elul 5774 July/August 2014

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## Introducing Kehillah and Our New Board

by Allison Hausman, CDT President



**THIS PAST** year has been very interesting for the Board as we wrestled with big questions about what it means to be part of a covenantal community.

We've learned a little about members' relationship to CDT across the lifespan, learned about other thriving Jewish communities, explored how social media can potentially strengthen our community, and begun a process of having deeper conversations with each other. Finally, we took the first step toward responding to what we're learning in a way that will strengthen and sustain CDT into the future. To do this we are initiating a new structure for what was previously the "membership committee," and we call this new structure *Kehillah*—Hebrew for "community."

Though we're still learning more through the "one-with-one" conversation that some members are doing this summer, our conception of Kehillah is emerging. It will be a much more comprehensive and decentralized group dedicated to connecting members to the myriad activities that comprise Jewish life at CDT. We have clustered and defined four critical areas that can nurture and build our community. These are described below:



Perry Miller and Lev Kling-Bronstein building community while building a house for Habitat for Humanity. Photo by Barry Ingber.

### 1. Connecting prospective and new members to CDT: *Helping people find a place in the congregation*

Potential activities include:

- Outreach conversation to families expressing interest in membership
- Intake conversations with new members and delivery of welcome bags
- Connecting new members to committees/activities of interest
- New member orientation
- Six-month check-in

### 2. Strengthening connections: *Fostering and maintaining existing structures to facilitate and deepen community bonds*

- Coordinate potluck Shabbat and Havdallah dinners
- Find ways to feature CDT activities and events to make them more accessible
- Entice members to upload their photos to the web
- Coordinate with Chesed to support life transitions

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3. **Expanding our online presence:** *Using social media for marketing as well as meaningful dialogue*

- Focus more attention on the CDT Facebook page
- Use social media as a platform for substantive conversation—both internally and externally
- Explore opportunities for virtual learning
- Conduct outreach for the school

4. **Welcoming guests and one another:** *Making sure that everyone—guests and members alike—feel welcomed and included*

- Create a culture of welcoming
- Greet High Holyday guests
- Identify “greeters” for services and other CDT events



- Connecting to Prospective and New Members
- Continuing Connection
- Substantive Communications
- Welcoming Guests & Each Other

We're excited to get this going! The success of this new initiative depends on widespread participation, but the beauty of this new, decentralized design is that no one needs to do much, so everyone has an opportunity to contribute. Please let me (**Allison Hausman**) or **Melanie Adler**

know if you'd like to play a role in making Kehillah a reality!

I'd also like to share my appreciation for the leaders who will be stepping down from the Board. We thanked and bid farewell to these members at the last Members' Meeting, but I want to acknowledge them in writing so everyone can see and appreciate their efforts. We will be saying goodbye to:

**Executive Committee:**

**Peter Katz**, Past President  
**Sivan Nasoff**, VP Finance  
**Laurie Gould**, VP Leadership

**Board Members-at-Large:**

**Laurie Goldman**, **Louise Enoch**,  
**Jonathan Rosenthal**, and **Jake Weinberg**

**Off-board Chairs:**

**Josette Akresh-Gonzales**, Newsletter  
**Sharon Sevransky**, Nediv Lev Chair

We gratefully welcome the new board, whose term begins on August 1. **See the list to the right.**

Have a wonderful summer!

## CDT

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

## Board

**Staff**

**Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

Education Director: Annette Lawson

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner

**Executive Committee**

President: Allison Hausman

First Vice President: Jen Kaplan

VP Finance: Cliff Cohen

VP Membership: Melanie Adler

VP Education: Lisa Schneier

VP Leadership: Ora Grodsky

Secretary: David Lobron

**Board Members-at-Large**

Vilunya Diskin, Linda Hsu, Jessica Keimowitz,

Lissy Medvedow, Roy Edelstein, Madeline

Steinberg and Mark Farber

**Off-Board Chairs**

Chesed: Ellie Goldberg and Donna Rae Hirt (July),

Elaine Landes and Janice Cole (August)

Nediv Lev: Peter Katz

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Space: Noam Shore

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

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 **chsrome@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, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily

Shumsky, Michael Singer

# Shabbat

## SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES, SUMMER SCHEDULE

Saturdays, July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

In July and August, we will have Shabbat morning services every other week, beginning July 12.

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).

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Friday, August 8 (no service in July)  
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.

# Chesed

## REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to **Stephanie Hackett, Jen Kaplan, David Lobron, and Susan Nitkin.**

## Yahrzeit

We remember CDT member **Evelyn Felson**, whose eighth yahrzeit falls this year on July 13. We will be remembering Evelyn at Shabbat morning services on July 12.

## 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 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 are interested in attending one of the meetings or have questions about the Avelut group, please contact **Ellie Goldberg** (617-965-9637, [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 at: [www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf).

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** ([rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org), 617-965-0330), or the Chesed coordinators. The Chesed coordinators in July are **Ellie Goldberg** and **Donna Rae Hirt**, and in August are **Elaine Landes** and **Janice Cole**. Please use [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to contact them.

Rabbi Toba will be on vacation for much of July and for a week in August; while she is away, there will be an on-call rabbi. In addition, there will be CDT members coordinating shivah minyanim for anyone in need during those times. If you are in need of a rabbi or help with a death in the family, call 617-965-0330 x2 (Rabbi Toba's extension); if she is out of town, there will be instructions to call the Chesed Coordinators, who will provide you with any necessary information and support.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential.

Our congregation values chesed, acts of loving-kindness. The Chesed Committee coordinates our community's response for members who are in need of support, such as at the time of a birth or adoption, illness, death, or other significant life change. Some of the types of things we coordinate include meals, grocery shopping, and transportation for a medical appointment.

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

# Community

## WELCOME

We give a hearty CDT welcome to new members, **Jennifer Sartori and Barry Gilbert**, and their daughter, **Celia** (8).

## MAZEL TOV

To proud parents, **Rachel Ross and Eric Pedersen**, and proud grandparents, **Marion and Bob Ross**, on the birth of daughter and granddaughter, **Elena Miriam Pedersen** on June 8!

To **Corinne Lofchie, Noam Shore**, and **Eytan**, on the birth of **Carmela Jordan**, born on June 22 at 6:00pm. She seemed to be in a rush to come into the world, arriving 15 minutes after they got to the hospital and perhaps coincidentally at the exact start of the US World Cup game!

To **Mark Farber and Sherry Katz**, on the marriage of Nate Farber to Aynsley Karpis!

To the *Sha'arim* class, on the wonderful celebration of their learning: **Kristin Butcher, Andy Cohen, Janice Cole, Vilunya Diskin, Sheree Galpert, Scott Gordon, Ora Grodsky, Alison Lobron, Sami O'Reilly**, and **Marion Ross**!

To **Sophie Siegel-Bernstein** and her family on becoming bat mitzvah!

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah rabbah to everyone who helped with, Events, Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in May and June:

**Bill Weinreb; Jodie Siegel**—*in memory of Allan Siegel*; **Nanette Byrnes; Marjorie Salvodon; Ora Grodsky; Benita Danzing; Laura and Joel Katz; Ezra Hausman; Ben Dash; Lilly Platt**—*in memory of Chaike and Yankel Platt*; **Jessica Keimowitz; Nancy Gertz**—*in honor of Allison Hausman's first year as president*; **Pamela Rosenstein; Sharon Sevransky; Gail Harris and David Reider; Madeline Steinberg and Mitch Feuer; Douglas Hersh.**

## AU REVOIR, CDT!

Becky and I, along with Ruby and Talia, are moving to France for two years. We had a dream of living abroad, having a crosscultural adventure, and giving the girls the opportunity to learn a second language, and now it's happening! We leave on August 12. Becky will be teaching middle school English and drama at the Lycee International in St. Germain En Laye, a suburb of Paris. Jake will be a stay-at-home dad, supporting Ruby and Talia with this transition (and doing some other stuff, too). We are very thankful to be a part of the Dorshei Tzedek community, and we will miss many things about CDT while we are gone, including friendship, spiritual nourishment, Jewish learning, and softball. Our plan is to return in two years. We look forward to reconnecting with you then. Jake may perhaps start a blog, *The American Dad in Paris*, so send him an email if you'd like to receive a link when it's created. And if you find yourself in Paris, give us a call!

*L'shalom,*

*Becky Cohen and Jake Weinberg*

## CDT SANCTUARY UPDATE

We are grateful to have our own dedicated sanctuary space in the Second Church, and we are making some improvements and additions!

This spring, our Kitah Vav (6th grade) class completed a wonderful project documenting the beautiful ritual objects in the sanctuary. Based on interviews with the artists and their own exploration of some of the artistic themes represented throughout the space, the students created an installation in the shape of trees that contains explanations of objects including the ark, Torah table, Torah covers, the stained glass window, and cloth hangings and screens. Many thanks to CDT artists **Sharon Gorberg** and **Joel Reider** for helping the students in this endeavor! Be sure to check it out next time you're at services.

The sanctuary is long overdue for a good cleaning, which is currently planned for some time in July. In addition to a deep cleaning, we will be replacing all of the chairs and the rug on the bimah. Our hope is that both the aesthetic experience and the air quality will be greatly improved! Stay tuned for updates on this process.

## CDT MEMBER SHEREE GALPERT IS BACK ON THE BOARDS!

Sheree is delighted to be appearing as "Maria" in this summer's Commonwealth Shakespeare production of *"Twelfth Night,"* which runs from July 23 to August 10 on Boston Common. FREE! For more information, go to CSC's website: <http://commshakes.org/>.

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.)



# Community cont.

## THIRD ANNUAL SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

by Hilary Marcus, Alison Lobron, and Kitah Gimmel families

On Saturday evening, May 31, Kitah Gimmel families enjoyed a third annual Shavuot celebration, this time in Jamaica Plain. Throughout the year, students in Kitah Gimmel learned about the following Jewish values: *bal tashchit* (being guardians of the earth), *tza'ar ba'alei chayim* (kindness to animals), *tzedakah* (righteous giving), and *b'tzelem elohim* (seeing all people as created in the image of God).

At the celebration, Kitah Gimmel reflected on these values. Alison Lobron led the families in a learning activity by asking each family to set a goal related to one of the values studied in class. On Saturday, each family reported back on their goal and their attempts to embody that goal in family life. One family listed the many ways they have tried to be better guardians of the earth by limiting waste and increasing creative recycling in their home. Another family described how they participated in a local food drive as a way to actively engage in a tzedakah project from start to finish. By working on these values as a group, Kitah Gimmel families are supporting one another in incorporating Jewish ideals into daily living.

**Tal Shalom-Kobi** brought spirit and music to the celebration. Prior to the gathering, Tal led a practice session where children rehearsed a traditional Shavuot song, "*Eretz Zavat Chalav*" ("Land of Milk and Honey"), and also made up lyrics to a tune that ended in a rousing "*Chag Sameach*." With kids playing keyboard, dumbek, percussion, violin, and recorder, it was an exciting night that ended with Havdallah and, of course, dessert. A highlight of this year's gathering was how little garbage we produced, as parents had decided that each family would bring their own dishes and cloth napkins. Iced tea and lemonade made even recycling unnecessary.



Kitah Gimmel violinists Tamar Arons-Brann and Malka Pomerantz. Photo by Hilary Marcus.

Kitah Gimmel families developed this self-organized Shavuot tradition through our time together in Project LO"X. We encourage other cohorts of families to do the same!



Tal Shalom-Kobi brought spirit and music to the Kitah Gimmel Shavuot celebration. Photo by Hilary Marcus.



Marjorie Feld and Nate Feinfeld share a moment. Photo by Hilary Marcus.

# Reconstructionist Movement

## CHAIRING THE CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

by Chayim Herzig-Marx

I joined a Reconstructionist synagogue for the same reasons most everyone does—it feels right; it feels warm and welcoming, a place where you don't have to leave your brain at the door. I came to understand that Reconstructionist communities don't happen by chance, that the College and the movement provide the environment and the leadership that enable congregations like Dorshei Tzedek to come into existence. And so I have been grateful, over the years, for opportunities to help sustain that environment, both at the local level, like Dorshei Tzedek, and at the national level.

In retrospect, perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised when I was asked to chair the first Congregational Services Committee (CSC) of the combined Reconstructionist movement. After all, David Roberts, then (and still) Chair of the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) and a founder of Dorshei Tzedek, has known Judy and me for years. He knew that I had served for eight years on the board of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (the former synagogue arm of the movement), had served as JRF interim Executive Director for one year, and was a member of the editorial board of the *Reconstructionist Guide to Jewish Practice* (edited by Rabbi David Teutsch).

Still, I was both surprised and grateful, and more than a bit humbled by the invitation. The RRC and the JRF were merging into a single organization, something no other North American religious com-

munity had ever done, and the CSC would play a substantive role in reconciling what were really two very different leadership cultures. Then again, he also knew that I love navigating through and managing organizational challenge. So accept I did.

Reflecting the somewhat tentative and halting way the merger was proceeding, CSC was made up of three representatives from RRC, three from the former JRF, and three from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, supported superbly by Rabbi Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin as our staff member. Our objectives were first and foremost to deliver a proposed set of programs and services that the Movement would provide to affiliates. Once they were delivered and approved by the Executive Committee and the Board, we were then to work with central office affiliate support staff to implement the proposal.

The proposal was in effect to be a strategic plan for "in-reach," not a simple task for a community of over 100 affiliates spread across North America, and we had only nine months to deliver. We had some starting materials from a survey done the year before, with half the input coming from rabbis and half from lay leadership. We decided to hold several focus groups drawn from different communities: presidents and past presidents, executive directors, education directors, and rabbis. We would group our recommendations in two ways: first, by timeframe (immediate, within one year, beyond one year), and second, by priority

(high, medium, low). We also decided we would not condition our proposal by what we thought might be the available budget. We met by conference call every two weeks for an hour, with homework in between, and submitted our proposal on time.

I know there was concern at the RRC Board that the committee might be factionalized along RRC/JRF lines. There was none of that. Everyone understood that the success of the merger depended upon work being done in committees like ours (especially in the Governance Committee). With diverse backgrounds and congregational experiences, committee members were able to engage in lively debate, and the final product was an excellent example of collaboration and consensus.

During the course of CSC's work, the Governance Committee proposed establishing a Plenum of affiliates as a key forum for involving affiliates in movement decision making. And they proposed that the chair of the Plenum should be the chair of CSC. Their logic was compelling to me, and so I agreed to take on that role as well. Fortunately, the work of organizing the Plenum could wait until our proposal was completed. As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, the Plenum has now met twice and enjoys a lively ongoing discussion through a closed and private Facebook group. Having turned over the chair of CSC to Abe Clott, I can look back with a fulfilling sense of accomplishment.

## HIGH HOLIDAY HAIKU CONTEST

*A haiku contest;  
You could win a free mahzor!  
Details are below.*

Give us your best High Holiday haiku, and the Reconstructionist Press will reward you. We're sponsoring two contests—one for youth (ages 8–16) and one for adults. The winner in each group will receive a free mahzor. To enter:

1. Like the Reconstructionist Press page on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/ReconstructionistPress](http://www.facebook.com/ReconstructionistPress).
2. Post your haiku on our Facebook page

The entry deadline is August 22. We will post the winning haikus on our page. No purchase necessary. Good luck!

## A CAMP JRF CELEBRATION

Join us for a day of smiles and song! On Sunday, August 3, we will dedicate the Eco-Village and celebrate our bat mitzvah season of joy, friendship, and community. Please visit [www.campjrf.org/celebrate](http://www.campjrf.org/celebrate) for more information.

## MEET THE NEW RABBIS!

They will inspire their congregants, build communities that work for social justice, comfort the sick and elderly, and bring original music and poetry to the bimah. We can only imagine the impact that these newly minted Jewish leaders will have. Learn more about the class of 2014 at [www.rrc.edu/2014grads](http://www.rrc.edu/2014grads).

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# Tikkun Olam

Bring your passion for social justice to the next Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting, Wednesday, August 27 at 7 pm in the Second Church Living Room. Please bring ideas for programming on economic justice and the prison system, projects you're interested in, or just an interest in joining our ongoing work.

**Save the Date:** Another "*Habitat for Humanity Build Day*" has been scheduled for Sunday, October 12 at the Wayland construction site. Contact **Barbara Shatkin** for more information.



Stephen & Joseph Katz (left) and Marjorie Greenberg (above) were among the volunteers at CDT's April 6 Habitat for Humanity Build Day. Photos by Barbara Shatkin & Barry Ingber.

## FAMILY TABLE—ONE DRIVER AND MORE DONATIONS NEEDED

by Ilana Mainelli

Now that my first year as the CDT Family Table Site Coordinator draws to a close, I notice how all of us, myself included, may be paying less attention to CDT's commitment to Family Table. We are probably thinking more about the summer changes in our family schedules and our vacation plans. However, Family Table still has one more distribution this year—on July 20—because food insecurity is a year-round issue in Massachusetts. Many families still depend on Family Table to have enough nutritious food to eat each month and, as you can imagine, Family Table's donations and volunteers decrease in the summer, but its clients' needs do not. So please help CDT and Family Table have a strong finish to our year!

Please donate kosher or vegetarian soup and/or whole grain cereal (CDT is committed to collect 25 of each, every month), or money that Family Table can use to purchase fresh produce and dairy items. Please place your donations in our collection boxes (food in the wooden one, checks in the cardboard one next to it) on the landing at the upper entrance to our sanctuary. **We still need a volunteer to bring our donations to JF&CS/Family Table on Sunday, July 20.** This only takes an hour, and you can do it anytime between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. If you will be in town that weekend, please sign up at [tinyurl.com/signupFT](http://tinyurl.com/signupFT), or you can link to it from the CDT website. If you have any questions, please call or email me (617-923-0789, [familytable@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:familytable@dorsheitzedek.org)). Thank you!

## Events

### TISHA B'AV

Monday, August 4, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Tisha B'Av, the Ninth of Av, is a fast day commemorating the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other catastrophes in the life of the Jewish people. We will usher in this day of reflection with a reading of selections from the book of Lamentations, and an exploration of the meanings of loss and exile on the communal as well as spiritual levels.

### CDT FILM CLUB

On hiatus until September. Contact **Stan Fleischman** or **Emily Sper** ([film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org)) if you have any questions.

### WHAT IS ROSH CHODESH?

The first of each Jewish month—the celebration of the new moon, its slender crescent barely visible in the night sky—is a day historically associated with women's renewal and celebration. In recent decades, Rosh Chodesh has become an occasion for Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual, and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages. (See [Ritualwell.org](http://Ritualwell.org))

The Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh group began in 2005, and meets every other month. In the past, the group has explored the themes associated with each Hebrew month through conversation, singing, movement, crafts, and reflection. Women at all ages and stages are welcome!

*When?* The Rosh Chodesh group will come together to celebrate the month of Av on Tuesday, July 29 from 7:30-9pm at the home of **Rachel Pytel** in Newton.

*Who?* Women members and visitors of CDT are welcome.

*What?* In the month of Av, we commemorate the destruction of the Temple, the end of an era of Jewish life. In Av, our mourning turns to celebration as we move from the sadness of losing the past to the hope of a brighter future. We begin our journey towards the messianic age—a time when some Jews believe the world will be perfect—with small steps towards tikkun olam (repairing the world).

*How?* To RSVP or for directions please contact **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at [ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com](mailto:ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com)



# Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

## GENERAL FUND

Beverly and Joseph Baron—in honor of the naming of our grandson, Jonah Baron-Bethune. Thanks for all your kindness!

Kate deBethune and Ellie Baron—in honor of Jonah's birth as well as the CDT members who have helped us welcome him to the community: service leaders, kiddush organizers, and Chesed Committee members

Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg—in honor of Jake Weinberg's service to the board; in honor of the Cohen-Weinberg family's successful and safe sojourn in France

Diana Fisher Gomberg—in memory of Stephen Fisher

Sandra Gertz—thanking God and all of Nancy's wonderful friends for her recovery. She is very special!

Caitlin Golden and Daniel Shain—in honor of Rabbi Toba, with gratitude for officiating at our wedding

Stacey and Bruce Gore

Allison and Ezra Hausman

Carol Hemley—in memory of my mother, Diane Haberman

Linda Hsu and Marc Steinberg

Hazel and Bob Keimowitz—in memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier

Ilana Mainelli—in memory of Rudolph Mainelli

Amy Mazur—in memory of Marvin Irwin Mazur and Rhoda Himmel Mazur

Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx—in honor of Stuart Snyder and Steve Siegel, with gratitude for their generosity, kindness, and overall menschlichkeit!

Jennifer Nichols and Jerold Gelfand

Susan Nitkin—in memory of Herb Cohen

Paley-Zimble Family

Elinor Schwartz and Bruce Labitt—in honor of Janice Cole

Steven Siegel—in memory of Sylvia Siegel  
Erica Streit-Kaplan—in memory of Irving Streit and Blanche Harris Streit

Sue Ann Wasserman and Yale Lansky—in memory of Edith Lansky's (ז'ל) first yahrzeit; in memory of Rose Bieler (ז'ל), my grandmother

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Beth and Jeffrey Green—in recognition of Rabbi Toba's deep caring for and personal attention to our family upon the death of our son, Eitan Shalom Green

## SCHOOL FUND

Stephanie and Nem Hackett

## HOLY BOOKS FUND

Marion and Robert Ross—in celebration of the birth of Elena Miriam Pedersen; in celebration of the third birthday of Isaac Daniel Pedersen

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Marna Sapsowitz—in honor of Jill Volk's yahrzeit

## BUILDING FUND

*Correction:* In the June newsletter, Cindy Rivka Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury's Nediv Lev donation should have been listed "in memory of my father, Arthur Marshall." The newsletter said "Arthur Mitchell." The newsletter staff apologizes for the mistake.

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.

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## 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](http://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 on-line shopping you were planning to do anyway!





# Learning

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by **Annette Lawson, Education Director**

During the summer when classes aren't in session, the focus shifts to preparing for the upcoming year. While Rabbi Toba and I work on some items (like program planning, curriculum updates, and engaging new teachers), parents can also help in important ways:

**1. Help to recruit new families.** Do you have friends who are looking for a Jewish educational program for their families? Suggest that they check us out. We have openings in all grades from pre-K through 9th. Please share with friends that they can enroll children up to Grade 3 for one year without becoming members. Also, let people know about our new schedule—Sundays (9:30–noon) for all grades and Tuesdays (3:45–5:45) for grades 3–6. I am always happy to meet with prospective families to explore whether we are the right school for them.

**2. Send in your registrations.** If you have already returned your completed school registrations for next year, thank you! It helps us to receive them as early as possible. If you are a parent of a student and haven't returned your registration forms yet because you have questions about the registration process or about school for the coming year, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**3. Get involved.** In our ongoing efforts to develop our children's education program, we have focused on four areas that need parent participation:

a. *Ongoing Children's Education Committee:* **Erica Streit-Kaplan**, Coordinator (minimum 1 year commitment; assists with the feedback process and with policy decisions as they arise; exact structure to be determined).

b. *Shabbat b'Yachad:* **Rabbi Toba**, Coordinator (joins with folks from other parts of the congregation to help shape what happens on the five Shabbat mornings when we're all together. Involves 2 meetings before the fall and possibly one or two over the next year to give feedback)

c. *Short-Term Transition to New School Space:* **Annette Lawson**, Coordinator (joins Annette for a walk-through of the new space and meets to discuss logistics for Sunday programming)

d. *Special Needs Advisory Group:* **Lisa Schneier**, Coordinator (helps staff and parents make our programs as inclusive as possible; serves as a place for staff to bring questions and ideas and to hear feedback from parents)

If you have interest in helping with any of these areas, or have an idea about another way you would like to be involved in the school, please let me know. I can be contacted at [school@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:school@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-5443.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer!

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

*Summer dates announced by email; contact the organizers if interested*

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. Over the summer, the group will be coordinating around people's schedules and availability; please be in touch with **Laya Steinberg** ([lasword@rcn.com](mailto:lasword@rcn.com)) or **Carole Slipowitz** ([carole@slipowitz.org](mailto:carole@slipowitz.org)) to find out when the group is meeting.

## 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 Dorshei 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.

## JEWISH LEARNING FOR LITTLE ONES

by **Jen Kaplan**

Is your child three, four, or five years old? Do you think you have a few more years before you should start worrying or thinking about religious school? CDT offers a wonderful "taste of Torah" for your pre-K or Kindergarten aged child. This is not your parents' or even your dreaded Hebrew school experience. The learning is joyous, fun, and easygoing. The class meets just once a month. It provides an opportunity for the children to learn about the holidays, their Jewish world, and Jewish blessings (*b'rachot*) while they also meet and bond with other kids from Dorshei.

Students, parents, and teachers begin the morning together (*b'yachad*) with "Mini-Minyan," an informal, joyful, family-friendly celebration of Shabbat. Siblings, grandparents, and others are welcome to take part. Mini-Minyan lasts about 30 minutes, after which we have kiddush, and then students go to class.

Parents also meet periodically during class time for our parents study group, which includes a lively discussion of topics of interest to parents of Jewish children.

Our daughter **loved** going to "Hebrew school." She loved wearing a dress (her choice), the Mini-Minyan, the challah, the grape juice, doing an art project associated with the topic, and meeting other kids her age from the shul. I can't imagine a better way to give our children a warm introduction to Judaism—indeed it is like putting honey on their lips.

There is information on the CDT website under the tabs "Learning" or "Kids and Families," and then scroll to "Religious School" where you can click on the links to register for next year now!

# CDT Calendar

# July 2014

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|--------|---|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| 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. |        |   |           | 3        | 4      | 5   |
| 6   | 7      | 8   | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12<br>Shabbat Morning Service<br>9:45am-12:00pm<br>60 Highland St, Room 111 |
| 13  | 14     | 15  | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19  |
| 20  | 21     | 22  | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26<br>Shabbat Morning Service<br>9:45am-12:00pm<br>60 Highland St, Room 111 |
| 27  | 28     | 29<br>Rosh Chodesh<br>7:30-9:00<br>Home of Rachel Pytel | 30        | 31       | 1      | 2   |

# August 2014

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                                  | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|-----------|---|---|----------|
| 3<br>Tisha b'av<br>program<br>8:00-10:00pm<br>60 Highland St. | 4      | 5  | 6         | 7<br>All-Ages Erev<br>Shabbat Service /<br>Potluck<br>6:00 pm | 8<br>Shabbat Morning Service<br>9:45am-12:00pm  | 9        |
| 10  | 11     | 12                                       | 13        | 14  | 15  | 16       |
| 17  | 18     | 19                                       | 20        | 21  | 22<br>Shabbat Morning Service<br>9:45am-12:00pm | 23       |
| 24/31   | 25     | 26<br>Tikkun Olam<br>Committee<br>7:00pm | 27        | 28  | 29  | 30       |

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**JULY 12** Shabbat Morning Service: Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder / Dianne Lior

**JULY 26** Shabbat Morning Service: Alison Lobron / Karen & Reinhard Engels

**AUG 8** All-ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Tom Kuh / Carol Sklar / Allison Andrews / Rebecca Pomerantz

**AUG 9** Shabbat Morning Service: Wendy & Charles Frankston / Linda & Peter Katz

**AUG 23** Shabbat Morning Service: Debby Saltzman / Joyce Traister - *in memory of Sylvia & Murray Traister, and Muriel & Lou Budd* / Caitlin Golden & Danny Shain

**SEP 5** All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck / Open House: Jonathan Gordon—*in memory of Evelyn Ackerman* / Arthur Lent / Susan Silberberg / Paul Schimek

**SEP 6** Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Jared Small: Sanctuary Cleanup: Ilana Mainelli / Madeline Steinberg; Kiddush Setup: Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr - *in memory of Bernie Shorr* / Alyssa Cohen / Ben Dash / Linda Kramer / Elizabeth Roll; Kiddush Cleanup: Eric Meltzer / Jennifer Greenberg / Jodi Sugerman-Brozan / David Roll / Jodie Siegel / Nem Hackett; Ushers: Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner —*in memory of Roslyn and Norman Marcus*

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

**Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades**, who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

**No Fragrances, Please.** So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

## Reconstructionist Movement cont.

### RECONSTRUCTIONISM ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Get a snapshot of what's happening in our movement in this year's annual report. Discover the optimistic vision that Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., brings to the presidency, and follow her personal journey from eager bat mitzvah to glass-ceiling shattering Jewish leader. See our Plenum through the eyes of an anthropologist. Get a Talmud-inspired take on Shabbat and holidays in the *Guide to Jewish Practice: Volume 2*. Take a peek behind the scenes at Camp JRF, and find out how RRC students create holiness in unexpected places.

This first online-only annual report is full of live links and sharable contents: [rrc.edu/report14/reader](http://rrc.edu/report14/reader). You can also download a printable PDF, which can be interpreted by screen readers for the visually impaired: [www.rrc.edu/printable-report.pdf](http://www.rrc.edu/printable-report.pdf).

## SAVE THE DATE — 2015 CDT RETREAT!

May 29-31, 2015 (the weekend following Memorial Day)

Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire

*The date is fixed  
The die is cast  
Other plans should be nixed  
Our retreat is a blast*

*So block out that weekend  
the last one in May  
'cuz 2015 is not that far away!*

## Newsletter Has Open Positions

*Are you looking for a way to contribute to your community?  
Want to boost your résumé or college application?*

Volunteers are needed in the following positions at the newsletter:

- **Newsletter chair** (contact Josette for details)
- **Editor** (gathers content, edits)
- **Graphic designer** (uses InDesign to create the layout)
- **Photographer** (we could especially use someone who wants to go to Tikken Olam events -- all you need is a pretty good camera!)
- **Reporter** (perhaps a high school student -- someone who can interview committees and members for short articles about their activities, news of the congregation, or the board)

Contact **Josette Akresh-Gonzales**, newsletter chair, for more information, at [jakreshgonzales@gmail.com](mailto:jakreshgonzales@gmail.com).



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

## A Father's Day Win!



The 2014 CDT Men's Softball team and its super fans celebrate their first victory of the season on Father's Day, June 15. Photo by Diana Fisher Gomberg