



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Kislev/Tevet 5775 December 2014

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

Exploring Your Values and Your Membership

by Allison Hausman, CDT President



REVISITING WHAT IT means to be a member of CDT is a complex and ambitious endeavor. It allows us to deepen our understanding of membership. It means

reviewing our history, exploring who we are as a community and what membership means to each of us, and creating a new consensus on a set of practices as a community, today.

Last year, we decided to rename what has been called the “Membership” function at CDT as “Kehilla,” meaning “Community.” The Board realized that more than just “outreach” and “in-reach,” Kehilla implies attention to all aspects of what it means to be a member of our congregation. This year the CDT board is devoting a significant amount of our meeting time to further exploring aspects of what membership and community mean at CDT, leading to a statement that defines membership in our community. Our work is building on the results of our brainstorming and community conversations over the course of last year. Our goal is for this new statement to be a much better articulation of what Kehilla is and could look like at CDT, as well as the basis for aligning our infrastructure to support the growth and development of our community, our Kehilla.

With this goal in mind, we engaged in a vibrant conversation about our values at the November members’ meeting to set a foundation for our efforts this year. This column will summarize the outcome of that con-



CDT members engaged in conversation about congregation values at the November members’ meeting.

versation. If you weren’t able to make the meeting, you can find the list of values with definitions on our website at: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/membership-exploration>. I urge you to take a look and think about it. It is a fascinating and challenging process to consider the common values that can serve as the foundation for our community.

Setting the Foundation with Values

Rabbi Toba explained to us the concept of “Values-Based Decision-making” as a way to ground discussions such as this. She reminded us that this was the way we undertook a similar, challenging discussion more than 15 years ago about our dues system. (If you haven’t recently read the dues pam-

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Kehilla/Community
 Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World
 Chesed/Loving Kindness
 Jewish Learning/Limud Torah/Lifelong Learning
 Tzedek/Social Justice
 Shalsholet Hakabbala/Preservation of tradition

Please note that this illustration is a guide for the board but by no means the only guide. Members at the meeting had wonderful contributions and ideas that will be incorporated into the Board's efforts and are not reflected in this illustration.

phlet, I recommend taking a look. It is based on values I expect will resonate with most of you and it is a compelling and validating reflection of what makes CDT, CDT). With an ultimate goal of understanding what specific values shape our commitments and opportunities as members, we decided to begin with a more fundamental discussion of core values that describe our aspirations as a congregation.

At the members' meeting we took time as small groups to review a list of values prepared by the Board and to identify those that seem particularly resonant. With the recognition that we are all unique, and our relationship to CDT is fluid and changes based on our circumstances, we wanted to see what values were the most common to prioritize and unite our congregation. As I mentioned above, you can find the full list of values posted on the members-only portion of our website. But to give you a quick idea of how people responded to the list, take a look at the Wordle I created from the "voting" that took place at the meeting.

After our conversations, people prioritized the five values that they felt most strongly reflected our community. In the Wordle above, the larger values represent those that more people selected.

I urge you to engage with us (or me directly) on these values and our conversation throughout the year. Like last year, we will be reporting on our progress and we will be seeking your input periodically during the year so that the result of our work reflects everyone's input.



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**

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**

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Chesed: **Chagit Steiner and Diane Lior**

Nediv Lev: **Peter Katz**

Newsletter: **Danny Shain**

Ritual: **Marin Ross and Laurie Goldman**

Rabbinic Liaison: **Cindy Shulak-Rome**

Space: **Noam Shore**

Tikkun Olam: **Bonnie Tenneriello**

Website: **Dan Halbert**

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. To discuss a question or concern, contact **Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair** at cbsrome@comcast.net.

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: Danny Shain (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer

Shabbat

SPECIAL GUEST!

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE WITH RABBI MAURICE HARRIS



December 6

9:45 am-noon

Join us as we welcome Rabbi Maurice Harris, who will lead us in Torah study during the service. Rabbi Harris is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the author of two books on the

Torah: *Moses: A Stranger Among Us* and *Leviticus: You Have No Idea*. He currently serves as Rabbi/Senior Educator with InterfaithFamily.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Fridays, December 12, January 9, February 6

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.

Fun for all ages! The Chanukah Celebration is coming on Sunday, December 21.
(See the back cover for more information!)

CHANTING AND MEDITATION SERVICE

Saturday, December 13

9:45 am-noon

During this contemplative Shabbat morning service, we will utilize song, silence, and mindful Torah study to taste the peace that is possible on Shabbat.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, December 20, January 10, February 14

8:45 am

60 Highland Street, Library

Each month before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore parashat hashavua, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both

traditional and contemporary. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday morning December 20

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Our second “**Got Shabbat**” will be happening **January 17**, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. 's Birthday weekend. Stay tuned for more details!



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).

Community

MAZEL TOV

To our numerous November bnei mitzvah – **Hannah Steinberg, Nadia Diskin-Gaudette, Heather Goldman, and Simone and Noah Klein** – and their families!

To **Jamie Tessler** who was honored by the Massachusetts Commission for Occupational Safety and Health at its annual dinner on December 3 for her many years of dedication to workers' health and safety!

To former CDT Member **Laurie Schloff** on the publication of her new children's book, *Twenty Twinkling Stars* and to **Rachel Greenberg**, one of its editors. This book was inspired by the Newtown massacre at Sandy Hook. All proceeds from the book's sales are going to a national organization, SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere), which works to help end violence in schools and communities. More information is available at <http://twentytwinklingstars.org>.

TODAH RABBAH

Many many thanks to our members who helped make our first "Got Shabbat" so special – **Sharon Gorberg, Susie Tanchel, Alison Lobron, Laurie Goldman, Cindy Rivka Marshall, Sami O'Reilly, and Karen Wasserman**.

A huge thanks to **Joel Reider** for repairing the broken *eytzim*, wooden handles, of one of our Torah scrolls, and refashioning the inside of the Ark to make it safer for our precious Torah scrolls.

Todah Rabah to the following folks who helped provide kiddush for the Sukkot celebration in October:

Sara Dash, Audra Karp & Deb Albenberg, Jennifer & David Greenberg, Terry Traub, Chad Pytel, Stacie Garnett-Cook and Rachel Greenberg.

And to **David Shumsky** who helped with both Sukkah set-up and take-down in October.

CDT COMMUNITY POTLUCKS: EXPLORING A NEW APPROACH

by **Melanie Adler, VP Membership**

One of CDT's wonderful traditions is the hosting of Erev Shabbat community potluck dinners. These dinners, hosted by community members in their homes, offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new people, eat delicious food, and celebrate our covenantal community. This year, making these dinners accessible and welcoming to all is a priority—but we need your help!

This year we have a schedule! We've designated four Fridays for our community potlucks, so mark your calendars:

November 21 (a great success!)

January 23

March 27

May 8

If you'd like to host a dinner on one (or several) of these nights, contact **Melanie Adler** (madler@edc.org). If a Saturday Havdallah potluck works better for you, we're flexible! But how do we get more people to participate? We know from experience that everyone who attends CDT potlucks has a great time, and we'd like to encourage more members to attend. How can we make these events more welcoming to those who are interested but may feel uncomfortable signing up?

Please send us your ideas! Here are some of ours:

1. Offer thematic potlucks. Some of our current potlucks target specific age and geographic groups. But how about targeting specific interest groups? For example, offering a potluck for people who love dogs or wine, who grew up in the Midwest, or who love to play tennis or go to rock concerts? What "specialty" potlucks would you want to attend?

2. Set a challenge. I know—quality is more important than quantity. But maybe for one month we could create a potluck challenge and see how many members we could get to attend, or how many members who had never been to a potluck before to sign up!

3. Bring a friend! All CDT members are welcome at all potlucks, but people sometimes feel uncomfortable going to a dinner at an unfamiliar house. So, what about working out a buddy system, where each person who signs up for a dinner reaches out to someone they know (or who they're interested in getting to know better) and inviting them to come along?

The possibilities are endless, so please send your thoughts/suggestions to **Melanie Adler**, madler@edc.org. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush/B'nei Mitzvah in October and November: **Judy Hersh, Debbie Waber, Marion Ross, Alyssa Cohen, Linda Hsu, Pamela & Steven Katz, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn - in memory of Ellen Brodesky, Tom Brown, Willa Kuh, Joel Reider, Josh Lieberman, Jan Gortler-Small, Sharon Sevransky, Michele Arons, Allison Andrews, Miranda Phillips, Doron Gan, Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr - in memory of Marilyn Shorr, Jeff Goldman and Betsy Hinden**.

WELCOME

We give a hearty welcome to several new (and returning!) members:

Linda Steiff

Kevin Hsu-Weinstein and Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein

Beth and Jeffrey Green

Gail Pressberg

Eva Sartori

Diana Perretta

Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg and their children, William (2) and Julia (5).

Children's Education

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by **Annette Lawson,**
Education Director

Last year, we introduced a new approach, Project Based Learning (PBL), to our upper grade classes. With this approach, students engage in "learning expeditions" in which they master areas of inquiry the way professionals do: with in depth study, collaborative work with members of a team, consultation with experts and fieldwork, culminating with students producing a high quality project to a public audience beyond the classroom.

Using this approach, students in Dalet/Hey explored how people experience the Divine and the language they use to describe their experiences. Out of their learning, the students created a beautiful new siddur, which students and parents

use on Sunday mornings at the school this year. Last year, Kitah Vav studied the idea of sacred space and explored our own sacred space, the Dorshei Tzedek sanctuary. After meeting with the artists and artisans who created the handcrafted objects and art that beautify the space, the students used what they learned to create guides to these objects on the two tree plaques that now adorn the sanctuary.

Excited by the success of these learning expeditions, we decided to continue using PBL as part of our school program this year in Kitah Dalet (4th grade) and Kitah Hey/Vav (5th/6th grade).

Kitah Dalet, led by teacher **Vered Brooks**, is looking at the text of the book of Genesis, particularly the biblical stories of Abraham and his descendants, to explore what factors give rise to conflict among people and how we can avoid and resolve conflicts.

The students will design materials to use in our school and congregation about conflict resolution.

Kitah Hey/Vav is engaged in a learning expedition, guided by teacher **Itai Gal**, that is focusing on themes of slavery and freedom in our world. Studying the biblical story of the Israelite enslavement in Egypt and redemption from slavery, the students are comparing that narrative to slavery in modern times. Students will be working to bring the issue of contemporary slavery to our attention by creating a new ritual and Seder reading for use by our congregants this Passover. They will also be educating the community about fair labor practices and selling "**Fair Trade**" Chanukah gelt at the **CDT Chanukah Party** on Sunday, December 21. Make sure to stop by their table!

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Janet Boguslaw and Howard Kaufman—*In memory of Elissa Kaufman; in memory of Bernard Kaufman; in memory of Robert Boguslaw*

Kate deBethune—*With thanks to Jen Kaplan, Susie Tanchel & Jordy for the bike seat!*

Linda Hsu and Marc Steinberg—*In honor of Elaine Pollack for tutoring Hannah for her bat mitzvah*

Fran Malino—*In memory of Eugene C. Black*

Alexander Narinsky

Marion Ross—*In memory of my brother Leslie David Levenson*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Henry Wasser-*

man; in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Steinberg

Ilana Streit

Deborah Waber—*In memory of Helen Waber*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman

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.

Learning

DECEMBER DILEMMAS & OPPORTUNITIES: LIVING IN TWO CIVILIZATIONS

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Sunday morning, December 14,
10:30am-Noon

Jewish Community Day School,
57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown

All CDT parents are invited to join Rabbi Toba for a discussion of some of the challenges we face raising Jewish children at a time of year when the dominant Christian culture is most visible. How does the Chanukah story itself frame these issues? What are some strategies for making this time of year less stressful and more joyful? Reconstructionist thinker Mordecai Kaplan coined the phrase “living in two civilizations” – how do we navigate the multiple civilizations in which we are raising our children, at this time of year and at all times? Come join the discussion!

HOPE INTO PRACTICE WITH PENNY ROSENWASSER



Sunday,
December 14,
4:30-6:30pm

CDT Sanctuary,
60 Highland
Street,
West Newton

We are excited to host Penny Rosenwasser, author of *Hope into Practice*:

Jewish Women Choosing Justice Despite Our Fears. Penny's interactive presentation is based in Jewish ethical tradition and community-building, linking personal healing with activism for a more just and generous world. Using stories from a diverse plethora of Jewish women, and weaving humor throughout, she touches on various themes from her book – including Jewish multiculturalism, human rights in Israel-Palestine and recovery from internalized victimization, historical Jewish resistance to persecution, various healing modalities, and stories of activism and alliance-building. Not for women only! For all who

are interested, adults and older teens, this promises to be an inspiring and thought-provoking event.

Penny Rosenwasser is the author of *Visionary Voices: Women on Power and Voices from a Promised Land: Palestinian and Israeli Peace Activists Speak Their Hearts*. She is a self-described “life-long heartfelt rabble-rouser for justice,” and teaches at City College of San Francisco. You can read more about her and her new book, *Hope into Practice*, at PennyRosenwasser.com.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings
(please see on-line calendar for times-
<http://dorsheitzedek.org/calendar>)

Library, 60 Highland Street

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 Rabbi Toba Spitzer. On the first Thursday of each month, **Karen Arnold** will be leading a meditation based on that week's Torah portion (Karen is currently participating in the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training program with Rabbi Sheila Weinberg). No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! (Please arrive no later than 9:15 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started).

Please be in touch with **Laya Steinberg** (lasword@rcn.com) or **Carole Slipowitz** (carole@slipowitz.org) for more information.

COMING UP!

TELLING OUR STORIES: A SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00, January 22
& 29, and February 5; March 12, 19 & 26

at 60 Highland Street, Room 111

(Dorshei Tzedek members only)

Where have we been, and where are we going—as Jews, as human beings? This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys, and to inquire into the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process, and after a break the class will re-convene to share what people have written. Past participants have found the process of writing a spiritual autobiography to be a powerful and transformative experience. Because class size is limited, you must contact Rabbi Toba to register – rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org. No writing experience or expertise needed!

EXPLORING THE BIBLE WITH DR. SANFORD GOLDFLESS

The class is open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends. \$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 stan-fma@gmail.com for more information.

Events

MOCA MATTERS

by Louise Enoch

Listed below is an event planned by MOCA [Members Of a Certain Age] and open to all. Hope you can join us!

OUR FIRST MOCA “TED TALK”: UNCOVERING AND PRESERVING HIDDEN JEWISH TREASURES ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST-WITH CDT MEMBER FRAN MOLINO

Thursday, December 11

7:30pm

60 Highland Street, Sanctuary

CDT's own **Fran Malino**, Sophia Moses Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Wellesley College and Chair of Digital Heritage Mapping, will be offering a unique, virtual tour of rare Jewish heritage sites in the Middle East. Using Google Earth and cutting-edge multimedia technology, Fran will take us on a virtual visit to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya, Syria, and other locations in the region to explore sites central to Jewish history and heritage. Behind each

site is a remarkable story—and a network of Muslims, Jews, and Christians working together to digitally preserve sites before it is too late. Fran will offer a primer of the new field of “geo-mapping” and “digital preservation,” and share behind-the-scenes vignettes from the often clandestine effort to document Jewish history amidst the turmoil of the Middle East.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, December 13

6:00pm, potluck; 7:00pm, movie starts

Home of Emily Sper

The Jewish Cardinal (2014, 100 min., French with English subtitles): This drama details the true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants, who became a leader in the Catholic Church. Amid controversy, Lustiger doesn't waver from his Jewish identity, even as he is ordained Archbishop of Paris. —Netflix
Potluck at 6:00pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion. 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 con-

straints, 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). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families only.

We hope you can join us! 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.

Upcoming schedule:

Jan. 10: *Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*

Feb. 14: *Life According to Agfa*

Mar. 14: *Omar*

Apr. 18: *The Flat*

May 16: *Obvious Child*

SAVE THE DATE—2015 CDT RETREAT!

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

Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire

Stay tuned - information will be coming soon for our fabulous bi-annual communal get-away!

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 (continued)

DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

The CDT Men's Softball Team wrapped up the 2014 season with a 1-8 record in the “AA” Division of the Men's Shul Softball League. The Tzedekmen will begin winter training soon at the indoor batting cage.

The team has openings for 2015 and we are inviting men of the CDT community who love playing softball to join the team. We are looking to expand our roster for 2015! We welcome new players! December would be a great time to get in touch, as we need to solidify our roster well before play starts in the spring. The team plays on Sunday mornings from mid-April through June.

Whether you are new to CDT or a long-standing member, if you have any one of these skills: swing the bat, run the bases, pitch, catch... there's a roster spot waiting for you.

There are many advantages to being on the softball team. We are the only CDT activity where you get shirts and hats that announce you're a proud member of Dorshei Tzedek. We are the only CDT athletic team, and therefore we get all of the press on the Newsletter sports page.

For more information, contact **Elliot Pittel**, Head Coach of the CDT Tzedekmen: epittel@comcast.net

Tikkun Olam

TIKKUN OLAM - NOTES FROM THE BEEHIVE

by Bonnie Tenneriello

There are many ways to engage in Tikkun Olam / social justice at CDT, and all are connected. Take a look at these projects and see if you're moved to get in touch with the contact person and get involved. Here are some of the things we're working on:

- Fighting global warming. For more information, contact **Alex Sugerman-Broz** at abg717@gmail.com
- To end needless incarceration and help ex-prisoners succeed, we are working with *Jobs not Jails*. For more information, contact **Alan Epstein** at alan.epstein@rcn.com
- Supporting peace in urban communities – join a series of workshops with the *Louis D. Brown Peace Institute*. For more information, contact **Abby Cohen** at abby.cohen@verizon.net
- Fight for workers' rights and work with the Jewish Labor Committee on initiatives such as the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. For more information, contact, **Amy Mazur** at acmazur@comcast.net
- Organize or attend periodic screenings of films on social justice themes at CDT (starting in January!). For more information, contact **Bonnie Tenneriello**, bonniet4@gmail.com

Bring your energy and ideas to the **next Tikkun Olam meeting**, Wednesday, January 14, 2014, 7:30 pm, 60 Highland Street, Room 111. We'll be glad to see you!

FAMILY TABLE

by Ilana Mainelli

Here's the problem we're facing locally: 1 in 9 people in Eastern MA **still go hungry every day**, and that number is **increasing**! In addition, about **1/3 of the households** that receive food assistance from an agency that uses the Greater Boston Food Bank (including Family Table) have **at least 1 child under the age of 18** in them! **The Greater**

Boston Food Bank has witnessed a 21% increase in requests for food assistance since 2008! So we need to keep doing our bit to help them.

Here's what you can do **THIS MONTH** to help CDT fulfill our commitment to help Family Table, which serves more than 400 needy families in the Jewish Community:

1. Bring a donation of kosher or vegetarian soup or whole grain cereal, or a check (made out to JFCS/Family Table) for Family Table with you whenever you come to Services, Hebrew School, or a CDT event. We have 2 collection boxes (one for food, and one for checks – no cash) at the upper door to our sanctuary on Highland Street, 1 box outside the Hebrew School office at the FUSN building, and 1 bin at JCDS on the Sundays that ALL the grades meet there (food only, no money at FUSN or JCDS).

2. Sign up to bring our contributions from our boxes at Second Church and FUSN to Family Table in Waltham on one Sunday morning each month. You can sign up for this quick, easy, but necessary, task at: tinyurl.com/delivertoFT (doodle poll).

3. Sign up to bring the donations that we collect at JCDS back to our collection box outside our Hebrew School office at FUSN. This is an especially easy task if you are already picking up your child from our Sunday morning program at JCDS. You can sign up for this task at: tinyurl.com/ftJCDSToFUSN (also a doodle poll).

Please help us meet our commitment to Family Table, and you will be improving the lives of hungry families in our community! If you have any questions, please email them to me at familytable@dorsheitzedek.org.

CDT JOINS 400,000 PEOPLE MARCHING TO CONFRONT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

by Bob Warren

More than 400,000 people turned out for the People's Climate March in New York City on Sunday, September 21, just days before many of the world's leaders debated environmental action at the United Nations Climate Summit. Between 20 and 30 CDT members participated in the march with some members marching under the CDT banner while the rest of us were scattered among the throngs.

The march was the largest action concerning climate change in U.S. history. While we were marching, over 1,600 actions that took place around the world in 130 other countries.

The march began around 11:30 a.m., at New York City's Columbus Circle. At times, it stretched more than 4 miles as marchers carried banners, signs and entire contraptions depicting everything from Mother Earth herself to the dinosaurs that now make up fossil fuels.

Many marchers never made it beyond 70th Street as tens of thousands of people were stuck between the barricades set up by the NYPD. At 1:00 pm there was a moment of silence throughout the march demonstrating the seriousness of the impact of global climate change. This moment of silence was followed by a deafening cacophony of horns, whistles, trumpets and shofars to show the marchers' commitment to changing the direction the world is moving regarding climate change.

"I went to the march to help [the world of] my future because I don't want to grow up in a world that is going downhill without getting better," said CDT member **Sophia Wilcox-Warren**.

CDT members who returned from the march and other concerned members have already met to discuss our impressions of the march, why we marched, why other members are committed to this issue and plan to brainstorm ongoing work in our congregation.

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Chesed

Chesed (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value.

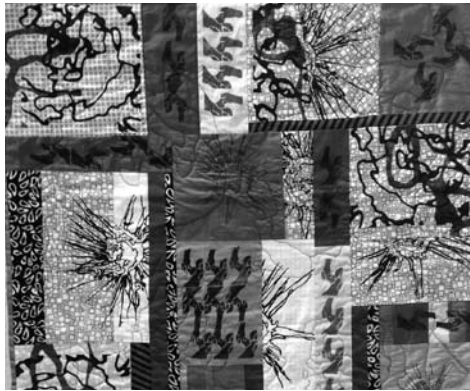
The **Chesed Committee** is dedicated to creating a caring community by providing a gesture of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness or other significant life cycle event.

Chesed coordinators use the website **Lotsa Helping Hands** to post volunteer opportunities, often a Shabbat meal, and occasionally for doing grocery shopping, errands, giving rides to doctor appointments or taking children to school when a member is in need.

The Chesed Committee encourages all members to sign up at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community> so you can respond when a Chesed request goes out.

The Chesed coordinators for December are: **Chagit Steiner** and **Dianne Lior**. Please use chesed@dorsheitzedek.org to contact them.

Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba Spitzer is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an ap-



One of the quilts by Susannah Zisk from the Oncoglyphs exhibit in 2012.

pointment, please contact her (confidentially) at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330 #2. She does not check email or voicemail on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off).

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.

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

CONDOLENCES

To **Stephen Zisk** and **Leila Zisk**, on the death of his mother and her grandmother, Betty Zisk. May her memory be for a blessing to both of them and their family.

Yahrzeit

We remember CDT members **Susannah Zisk**, whose third yahrzeit falls this year on December 7, and **Alex Fried**, whose 7th yahrzeit falls this year on December 14. We will be remembering Susannah at Shabbat morning services on **December 6**, and we will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on **December 20**.

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>.

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Members are networking with a variety of organizations working on climate change issues to bring ideas to our working group.

Some immediate action plans include creating a short resource guide for CDT members along the lines of "Not Just Lightbulbs," getting involved in the Jewish Climate Action Network (JCAN), organizing monthly bike-to-shul events; work on getting a bike rack installed at 60 Highland St..

In future meetings we will have discussions on potential campaigns to join, such as a campaign for a carbon tax. If you are interested in keeping informed about CDT Climate Action, please join the working group list-serve by contacting us at cdt-climate@dorsheitzedek.org.

Did you know you can access the newsletter at any time online? Learn more at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/newsletters>

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 on-line shopping you were planning to do anyway!

CDT Calendar

December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	2 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm	3 Fire, Stone, Cloud: God in Metaphor, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland Street: Library 7:30pm to 9:00pm	4 Mindful Mornings (please see on-line calendar for times- http://dorsheitzedek.org/calendar)	5	6 Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Maurice Harris 9:45am to 12pm
7 Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin JCDS, 57 Stanley Ave., Watertown 9:30am to 12:00pm Children's Education Committee 60 Highland Street: Living Room, 7:00pm to 9:30pm	8 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	9 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm	10	11 Mindful Mornings (please see on-line calendar for times- http://dorsheitzedek.org/calendar) "TED" talk sponsored by MOCA 60 Highland Street	12 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck Candle lighting and dinner 6:00pm Service 6:45pm	13 Shabbat Morning Chanting and Meditation Service 9:45am to 12:00pm CDT Film Club: "The Jewish Cardinal" 6:00pm
14 Religious School Classes for Nit-zanim and Gan, Alef-Zayin 9:30am to 12:00pm Hope Into Practice, with Penny Rosenwasser 60 Highland Street 4:30pm to 6:30pm	15 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	16 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm	17	18 Mindful Mornings (please see on-line calendar for times- http://dorsheitzedek.org/calendar)	19	20 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm Tot Shabbat 10:45am to 12:00pm
21 Chanukah Party FUSN 4:30pm to 7:00pm	22 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	23	24	25	26	27 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
28	29 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	30	31	January 1	2	3 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm

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.

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.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Shabbat, December 3: Susan Nitkin / Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg / Alison Lobron

Erev Shabbat, December 12: Susan Moser - *in memory of my parents Kayla and Izzie Moser* / Sue Ann Wasserman - *in memory of my father, Jack Wasserman, z'l* / Ilana Streit

Shabbat, December 13: Elaine Landes & David Felson / Ellen Pashall / Diane Becker

Shabbat, December 20: Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes / Ruth Paris & Rob Saper - *in memory of Steven Paris*

Chanukah Party, December 21: Setup: Polly Crozier - *in memory of David Crozier* / Emily Sper / Emily Shumsky - *in honor of Marsha Tobias* / Jerold Gelfand / Merav Opher / Joel Auslander / Michael Singer / Abby Cohen
Cleanup: Jennifer Hochschild - *in memory of Melissa Hochschild* / Kim Ockene / Sami O'Reilly / Andrew Sofer / Denise Yurkofsky / Jonathan Rosenthal

Shabbat, December 27: Liz Reisberg / Phyllis & Bill Kantor

Shabbat, January 3: Vivienne & Norman Shein / Rachel Ross

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.

Jewish Community Events

LIMMUDBOSTON 2014

Sunday, December 7, 9 am-6 pm

Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 300 Hammond Pond Pkwy, Chestnut Hill

Free shuttle from Chestnut Hill T

LimmudBoston is the annual all-day, ALL AGES, volunteer-driven conference/celebration of Jewish culture. With more than 75 sessions, panels and performances for everyone—beginner to scholar, young to young-at-heart. The day includes participatory talks, panels, and presentations on everything Jewish: Israel, Social Justice, Text, Interfaith, Spirituality, Family, Food, Movement & Meditation, Music and Storytelling. There is even a Camp Limmud program for ages 3-13!! Register now! \$36 adult pre-registration, \$54 at door. Special discounts and details: www.LimmudBoston.org

Some of the special guests include:

- Storytellers Peninnah Schram and Cindy Rivka Marshall
- Poet and author Danny Siegel and
- President Rabbi Rick Jacobs of the URJ (Reform Movement)
- Rabbi Toba Spitzer (our very own)
- Carla Naumburg

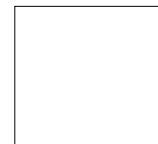
Workshops Include:

- Jewish values and resources for parents of LGBT children
- Just One Planet: Honoring our Dark Emotions and Moving Forward
- Mindful Parenting
- Hiking the Israel National Trail, the Shivel and what the journey brought forth
- 50 Shades of Torah they don't teach in Hebrew school
- Introduction to Jewish Genealogy
- Reimagining Jewish intermarriage
- Special Needs Inclusion in Religious Schools

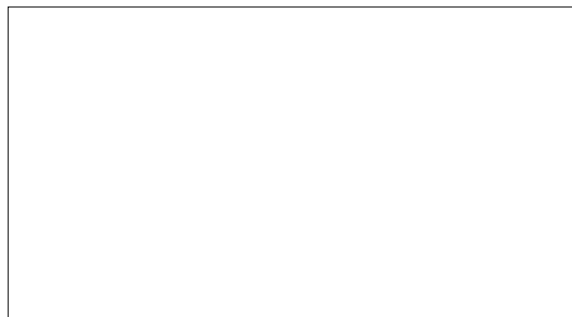
You don't want to miss out on this wonderful event!



Carol Sklar, Phyllis Kantor, Bill Kantor and other MOCAs enjoy the first MOCA social .



Address correction requested



CDT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 21

4:30-7pm

FUSN, 1326 Washington Street

Come celebrate the Festival of Lights!

On our new model of “Got Shabbat,” there will be activities for all ages, adults and kids both together and separate! We will begin together with **candle-lighting and Chanukah songs at 4:30pm** – bring your own menorah and 7 candles for lighting! Then at **5pm** we will have workshops including:

- ***Story, songs and crafts for little ones** (kids age 0-5 and parents)
- ***Chanukah Karaoke** (led by teens for kids in grade 5 and up)
- ***Israeli Dancing** (ages 6+ thru adult)
- ***Mosaic Menorah Art Workshop** (ages 6+ thru adult)
- ***Apple Sauce Making** (ages 6+ thru adult)
- ***Adult Text Study**

At 6:00pm we will gather for a **potluck plus latkes dinner**. For the dinner, **please bring a salad of any sort – veggie, pasta, tuna – to accompany latkes, enough**

for 20 people. Drinks and dessert will be provided. There will be kids activities and a Chanukah sing-down during dinner! There will also be a Quiet Room available, with books and games, for anyone who needs a break from the crowds.

Calling all Latke Makers! The “Latke Brigade” will be meeting at 2pm to prepare latkes for the dinner. If you can help out, please contact **Pamela Rosenstein** at pamela_rosenstein@wgbh.org.



Bring your checkbook! Kitah Hey/Vav will be selling “**Guilt-Free Gelt**” – fair trade chocolate Chanukah gelt, and Sindyaanna fair trade, organic, kosher olive oil will also be on sale!

You are also encouraged to **bring a donation for Family Table** –vegetarian or kosher soup or whole grain breakfast cereal. And finally – **bring a friend or two!** This is a great way for folks to learn more about CDT.