



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tevet/Sh'vat 5775 January 2015

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



IN THE month of January, as we move into a new secular year, we also move from one book of the Torah to another,

from the stories of Genesis/Bereshit—

the saga of the ancestors, Abraham and Sarah through Joseph and his brothers—to the book of Exodus/Shemot. For years, I have been intrigued by the Hebrew name of this book. The English name, “Exodus,” refers to the action that occurs in the book—the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. The Hebrew name—“Shemot/Names”—seems, on the face of it, to merely be the first significant word of the first verse of the book, which is how each of the five books of the Torah receives its Hebrew designation. The book begins, “These are the

The Book of Names

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

names of the sons of Israel (the re-named patriarch Jacob), who came to Egypt with Joseph, each coming with his household,” providing a link to the ancestor saga just completed. Yet, by the sixth verse of the book, Joseph “and all that generation” have died, and we are in a new story: the narrative of Am Yisrael, the Israelite people, “Israel” no longer designating a person but a teeming mass of humanity.

While slavery and liberation, struggle and redemption, are indeed core themes of this book, so is the theme of identity, of naming and being named. The book of Shemot serves as the birth story of the Israelite people. Unlike in many other tribal myths, the ancient Israelites did not imagine themselves coming into being at the beginning of the world’s creation. Rather, they told this somewhat odd story of emerging out of the midst of another nation. There is a hint of what is to come in the story of Joseph: the captured Hebrew who

continued on next page



A mixed multitude of latkes waits to go out from the Dorshei Tzedek kitchen, accompanied by (l-r) Diana Gomberg, Jackie Slivko, Maya Gomberg, Susan Silberberg, Margo Michaels, Pamela Rosenstein, and Janice Cole. Photo submitted by Pamela Rosenstein.

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descends to Egypt as a slave and emerges as the vizier of the kingdom, given an Egyptian name and Egyptian wife, second only to Pharaoh in power. Joseph seems to have completely assimilated into Egyptian society, and yet on his deathbed, he leaves instructions that when the Israelites finally return to Canaan, the homeland he was taken from decades before, his bones must accompany them for burial there.

In the early chapters of the book of Shemot we are introduced to Moses, whose story mirrors and at the same times inverts that of Joseph. He begins life as the son of a Hebrew slave, but at the age of three months is adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh, and is raised as royalty. Yet, as a young man, Moses identifies with the oppressed Israelites, and throws his lot in with them. After killing an Egyptian overseer, he runs away. Interestingly, when he is met by a group of Midianite women (one of whom is his future wife), they think he is Egyptian, presumably based on his appearance and perhaps his language. It is only decades later, after living as a shepherd in Midian, that Moses will take on the identity of leader of the Israelite people.

Moses, like Joseph, like the Israelites themselves, must negotiate multiple identities. He grows up as Egyptian royalty, but later in life identifies with his birth people, who at the beginning neither recognize nor accept him. The Israelites themselves are not a clearly identified group: the text makes quite clear that when the Exodus from Egypt occurs, a “mixed multitude” accompanies them (one midrash says that Pharaoh’s daughter, Moses’ adopted mother, is among them!). What ultimately binds them together is not their status as literal “children of Israel,” but a collective identity they take on when they stand at Sinai and enter

into a covenant with their God and with one another.

What is intriguing to me is how these questions of identity, at the core of the Exodus narrative, continue to bubble in our collective Jewish consciousness. Who are we, exactly? A group defined by religion? By ethnic ties? By affinity? One can be born a Jew, choose to enter the Jewish people, or be linked to Jewish community through relationships with spouses and children. As the Torah teaches us, these questions of what it means to be a Jew, to be part of Jewish community, are not new questions; they are as old as our oldest stories about ourselves. And that, perhaps, is the best definition of what it means to be part of this collective: to tell the story from the inside, as “our” story, just as the Torah itself repeatedly instructs us to: “when your children ask you, on that (future) day, what all of this means, tell them how you went out of Egypt, and became a free people.” As we enter into this



A gang of CDT-ers came to Roxbury to see the play “Identity Crisis” by CDT member Linda Kramer’s cousin, and featuring member Sheree Galpert. In the photo are (l-r) Dan Halbert, Carol Slipowitz, Maya Gomberg, Marla Cummins, Gabby Cummins, Lily Gomberg, Sheree Galpert, Alan Epstein, Diana Gomberg, Louise Enoch, Richard Gomberg, and Laurie Goldman. Photo submitted by Sheree Galpert.

year’s reading of Exodus, may we each be empowered to find ourselves within the story, to make the story our own, challenging and deepening it from the inside.

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact Cindy Shulak–Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at cbsrome@comcast.net.

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.

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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

Got Shabbat?

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY SHABBAT

Saturday, January 17, 9:45 am-noon

All are invited to this community celebration of Shabbat, honoring Dr. King's legacy of working for equal rights, peace, and justice. We will begin together at 9:45 am for morning blessings and songs, featuring music of the Civil Rights movement. Then there will be a variety of workshops to choose from, including:

**Tot Shabbat* for kids age 0-5 and their parents.

Beyond the Dream* (Visual Arts) with **Sharon Gorberg: What does justice look like? In this creative workshop, we will work in teams to make literal and abstract collages to illustrate selections from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches. (ages 6 through adult)

Drumming for Justice* with **Lilly Rakia (educator and hip-hop artist): Calling all drummers, stompers, clappers, beat boxers, and rhythm-makers for this special musical workshop! In the tradition of countless justice movements that have used drumming and prayer to inspire people to action, we will create a collaborative circle of rhythm to raise up our voices, our hands, and our hearts. (ages 6 through adult)

Yoga* with **Esther Kohn: What does it mean to practice nonviolence in the present moment? How do we experience liberation in our mind and body? Commemorate this special holiday with a gentle yoga class that weaves in important themes from MLK's life and teachings. (for kids and adults; please note this will be gentle and contemplative movement)

The next Got Shabbat will be February 28.

SPECIAL GUEST: Tina Chery, founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, will join the service in the main sanctuary and share her personal journey of loss and empowerment, and her work promoting nonviolence and peace in Boston's neighborhoods.

BAT MITZVAH OF YANNIK GORDON

Saturday, January 31

Please join us as our daughter **Yannik Eva** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Yannik is a seventh grader at Learning Prep School in Newton, and she attends the Gateways program for Jewish learning. Through Gateways, she participates in the "Mitzvah Mensches" program, an inclusive social action group. Yannik enjoys swimming, riding horses, playing with her dogs, and having her friends and family make her laugh. Please join us for a festive Kiddush lunch, music, and dancing after the service. —*Kristin Butcher and Scott Gordon*

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, January 10, February 14, March 14,
8:45 am, Library
With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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!

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Fridays, January 9, February 6, March 13
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.

SHABBAT SHIRA

Friday, January 30
7:30-9:00 pm



For this Shabbat of Song, come join Rabbi Toba and CDT musicians **Nathan Aronow, Tal Shalom-Kobi, and Terry Traub**, for an evening of music and dance. We will sing our way through *Kabbalat Shabbat* and the evening service! All ages welcome, although please note that the service is oriented towards adults and older kids/teens.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday, January 23

The next round of CDT Erev Shabbat Community Potlucks will be happening Friday, January 23. Sign-ups will open Monday, January 5 in CDT's online members' area. Everyone is welcome!

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

Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, January 10

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

Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins

Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh (2008, 86 min., English): Joan Allen narrates this riveting portrait of Hungarian poet Hannah Senesh, a remarkable woman who risked her own life to parachute behind enemy lines—enduring capture, torture and, ultimately, death—to rescue Jews from Nazi persecution. Ahead of her time and on a mission of incredible odds, Senesh ultimately became a martyr in Israel, evoking the spirit of warrior-heroine Joan of Arc and earning the gratitude of those she saved. —Netflix

Potluck and movie are 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 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). 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:

Feb. 14: *Life According to Agfa*

Mar. 14: *Omar*

Apr. 18: *The Flat*

May 16: *Obvious Child*

MOCA MATTERS

by Louise Enoch

Members Of a Certain Age (MOCA) recently hosted Fran Malino's "TED" talk on "Uncovering and Preserving Hidden Jewish Treasures Across the Middle East." There was an excellent turnout to this most interesting and engaging program. Diarna's amazing geo-museum is available to all of us at <http://diarna.org>—check it out! Thank you Fran!

We are looking for anyone interested in giving our next "TED" talk. If you have a topic related to your work or to a passionate avocation that you think others might be interested in, please let us know.

Stand by for more details about participating in CDT's "Wise Aging" group, based on a curriculum developed by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. This will be an eight session journey in exploring the components of a positive aging experience.

The MOCA Planning Committee will be meeting on January 18 from 3:00–5:00 pm. If interested, please call or email **Louise Enoch** at lpnoch@rcn.com.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

Thursday, January 22, 7:30 pm

Living Room, Second Church

All women are invited to come to our first meeting after several months' hiatus! Please join us to celebrate the month of Sh'vat on Thursday, January 22 at 7:30 in

the Living Room. We will do some ritual, some learning, and some sharing. RSVP to **Margo Michaels** at margomichaels@gmail.com.

COMING SOON! UNDERSTANDING RACE AND RACISM

Saturday, March 7

12:45 pm following Shabbat morning services
60 Highland Street - Living Room

Issues of race are front and center in many people's minds this season. It is an area that can be difficult to wrap our minds around and is sometimes fraught with emotion and upset. For CDT members, we will convene a study group centered around the book *Waking up White* by Debby Irving. It tells the story of a white, middle class woman's journey to understand and come to grips with race and racial identity in her life and community. It is a great read for people new to the issue as well as for those who have been struggling with it.

Everyone is welcome to obtain the book and join our discussion on March 7 at 12:45 pm at CDT. **Alan Epstein**, **Sheree Galpert**, and **Ora Grodsky** will facilitate the conversation. Please read the book by March 7!

If you are interested in participating in the discussion, please email Alan at alan.epstein@rcn.com.



PURIM BREW: A BEER-MAKING WORKSHOP

Sundays, January 25 and February 8, 4:00-5:30 pm

First Unitarian Society in Newton, 1326 Washington Street

In the scroll of Esther, which recounts the Purim story, the Jewish community is exhorted to celebrate its victory over Haman with "days of drinking and joy." In honor of the mitzvah of inebriation on Purim, CDT member **Todd Carmody** will be leading a two-part workshop in which we'll brew, bottle, and name our very own Purim beer! No previous beer-brewing experience necessary. (And save the date for Purim—Wednesday evening, March 4!)

TU BISHVAT SEDER

Tuesday, February 3, 7:30-9:00 pm

FUSN, 1326 Washington Street

Tu Bishvat, the "New Year of the Trees," is an opportunity to celebrate our connection to the earth. Jewish mystics of the 16th century created the Tu Bishvat seder, in which they would eat fruits of the land of Israel with blessings and intentions. Join Rabbi Toba and CDT members for our own version of the seder, during which we'll explore our relationship to trees and the earth, the struggles of the workers who bring food to our table, and the possibility of healing our planet.

Community

CDT INCLUSION COMMITTEE

by Allison Lobron

Last spring, Dorshei Tzedek formed an Inclusion Committee to help make CDT more accessible for members with special needs and their families.

The committee worked to ensure that kids with special needs could be included in High Holiday services, and that families could participate in all aspects of the community celebration. We are working with the Religious School on practical aspects of inclusion, and we created a listserv, which we hope will be a place to give and receive support from one another.

This year, our congregation is exploring what it means to be a member of CDT. For many of us, having a child or family member with a disability plays a big role in shaping our experience of community. When children have special needs that keep them from participating in communal life, it can lead to feelings of isolation, but when the community reaches out, welcomes, and accommodates the needs of our families, it leads to a strengthening of our *kehillah* (community).

We are very grateful for the support that our congregation offers in many ways and on many levels. Throughout this year of membership exploration, we hope to share our experiences and thoughts with the wider congregation.

For more information about the Inclusion Committee, or to be added to our listserv, please contact **Alison Lobron** at auderial@yahoo.com.

ON AND OFF THE BIMA:

AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN ABOUT RITUAL PRACTICES OF OUR COMMUNITY

by The Ritual Committee

Q: *What is the meaning of the Hebrew written on the inside of our Ark and on the Torah table?*

A: When the ark is open, you can see the words etched into the frame above the place where the Torah scrolls rest. It says: *Etz chayim hi lamachazikim ba*—"It (the Torah) is a tree of life for those who hold fast to it."

This is what we chant when we return the Torah to the ark towards the end of the service, after we have read the week's portion and discussed its significance for our lives.

The words inscribed on the Torah table are the last words we say before we close the ark: *D'racheha darchei no'am v'chol netivoteha shalom*—"Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace."

The words that come between these two phrases are not inscribed on any of our specially crafted ritual furnishings. We sing: *V'tomcheha m'ushar*—"And her (the Torah's) supporters are happy" with guidance we've written in our hearts.

(With gratitude that our second Torah scroll has been repaired and restored to its newly secured place in the ark and in appreciation for Joel Reider's inspired craftsmanship.)

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.)

WELCOME

We give a hearty welcome to new member **Rachel Davenport**, engaged to CDT Member **Mark Paley**.

TODAH RABBAH

Todah rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in November and December:

Sue Lanser and Jo Radner; Debbie Waber; Lauren Gibbs; Janice Cole; Meryl Epstein and Trish Nuzzola; Susie Tanchel; Ora Gladstone; Mitch Feuer; Susan Bernstein; Marjorie Salvodon and Mark Schafer—*in memory of Laurencia Jean, Luce Attignol, Rosita Attignol, and Rose-Marie Salvodon; Jamie Tessler; Susan Nitkin; Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg; Alison Lobron; Susan Moser*—*in memory of my parents Kayla and Izzie Moser; Sue Ann Wasserman*—*in memory of my father, Jack Wasserman, z'l; Jacqui Bloomberg; Elaine Landes and David Felson; Ellen Pashall; Diane Becker; Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes; Ruth Paris & Rob Saper*—*in memory of Steven Paris.*

CDT member **Rachel Greenberg** is excited to be on the team that edited former CDT member Laurie Schloff's children's story, *Twenty Twinkling Stars*. This joyous and whimsical book with beautiful illustrations was inspired by the Newtown massacre at Sandy Hook. As a joint collaboration with the national organization SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere), all proceeds from book sales are going to SAVE to help end violence in schools and communities. Please consider buying this book. Your kids will love it, and you will be doing a mitzvah. The link is: <http://nationalsave.org/twenty-twinkling-stars>.

CDT member **Andrew Sofer** will be reading from his poetry book *Wave* at the Newburyport Public Library (94 State St., Newburyport, MA 01950) on Saturday, January 10th at 3:00 pm as part of the Powow River Poets Reading Series.

Community (continued)

DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

The CDT Men’s Softball 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!

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE— 2015 CDT RETREAT!

May 29-31 (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!

Reconstructionist Movement

A GUIDE TO JEWISH PRACTICE: THE LIFE CYCLE
NEW THIRD VOLUME COMPLETES HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT SERIES ON JEWISH LIFE

The Reconstructionist Press proudly announces publication of *A Guide to Jewish Practice Volume 3—The Life Cycle*, completing this three-volume set on living Jewishly in the 21st century. Lifecycle events—planning a marriage, mourning a death, celebrating the birth of a baby—are times when people most often seek the comfort and spiritual gratification of religious traditions. This includes rituals that they may have forgotten, or do not know.

Each chapter is written by a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), with additional ideas, opinions and commentary from 36 different contemporary thinkers—rabbis, educators, scholars, and teachers—printed at the bottom of every page. Volume 3 is now available for purchase at **<http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org>**. The complete set of all three books is also for sale.



We may not be obvious in the photo, but several groups of CDT members were among the 1000+ marchers in Boston on December 13 protesting against impunity for police violence against black men and boys. Photo by Barry Ingber.

Tikkun Olam

by Bonnie Tenneriello

This past month, you may have been inspired to justice by the lights of your *chanukkiyah*, and you may have been inspired by the thousands who poured into streets around the country to protest racism in our criminal justice system. If you want to carry a commitment to social change into the new year, join the Tikkun Olam Committee on Wednesday, January 14 in Room 111 of the Second Church. We will be planning our work on Jobs Not Jails, climate change, workers’ rights and restorative justice, and you’re welcome to bring new plans to the table.

Here are notes from a few committee members:

DOMESTIC WORKER BILL OF RIGHTS TRAININGS

by Amy Mazur

As the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights moves forward, we are now focusing on training employers to implement the new rights for these workers. Individuals are being trained and will communicate what they learn to other employers. I will be attending a training early in 2015, and will share what I learn with the CDT community of employers of domestic workers. Stay tuned...

CDT AND BLACK LIVES MATTER

by Alan Epstein

Louise and I joined the Black Lives Matter protest rallies in Boston these past few weeks, along with other CDT members. I am participating to join the hundreds of thousands of others of all races, classes, and ethnicities around the country who are saying “Enough!” to violence and the targeting of young black men and others. I want to show that although I am not personally affected by “Stop and Frisk” policies, it still matters to me that I live in a society that criminalizes people solely on the basis of their skin color. And I want ALL of our neighborhoods to be safe and diverse.

LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

by Abby Cohen

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which sponsors the annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace that CDT members have supported and participated in for a number of years, is reaching out to individuals who have been involved as well as welcoming newcomers through a workshop series: “On the roots of violence, the systems that divide us, and a vision of Peace to unite us.”

There are four sessions (Wednesday, January 28; Wednesday, February 25; Wednesday, March 25; and Wednesday, April 29). All will take place at the Peace Institute in Fields Corner from 6:00–8:30 pm. Dinner is provided! Participants are expected to attend all four sessions. For further information or to ask any questions, please contact me at **abby.cohen@verizon.net**. In addition, we have an opportunity to meet the founder of the LDB Peace Institute, Tina Chery, at Shabbat morning services on January 17 (see page 3).

FAMILY TABLE

by Ilana Mainelli

THANK YOU! We have collected a good amount of donations of soup and cereal for Family Table in October, November, and December. There has been an especially positive response by our Hebrew School families to our FT collection drives when they meet at JCDS on Sundays. However, we are still not meeting our commitment to collect 25 cans of kosher and/or vegetarian soup and 25 boxes of whole grain cereal every month. Here is what we need YOU to do THIS MONTH to help CDT meet our commitment to help Family Table help more than 400 needy families:

1. Bring a donation of soup, or cereal, or a check (made out to JFCS/Family Table) for Family Table with you every time you come to services, Hebrew School, or a CDT event. We have two collection boxes (one for food, and one for checks—no cash) at the upper door to our sanctuary on Highland Street, one box outside the Hebrew School office at the FUSN building, and one bin at JCDS on the Sundays when ALL the grades meet (food only, no money at FUSN & JCDS).

The following is especially easy to do, and necessary:

2. Sign up to bring our contributions from our boxes at Second Church and FUSN to Family Table/JFCS in Waltham on one Sunday morning each month. We still need volunteers to do this each month from January to July! You can sign up for this at: **tinyurl.com/delivertoFT**.

One in nine people in Eastern MA still go hungry every day, and that number is increasing! 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 one child under the age of 18! Please help us meet our commitment to Family Table, and improve the lives of hungry families in our local area! If you have any questions, please email me at **familytable@dorsheitzedek.org**.

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Miriam Bronstein

Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts

Rob Greenly—*in memory of Lucille Greenly*

Pamela and Steven Katz

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen—*in memory of Leon Medvedow*

Aline Newton and Peter Shapiro—*in memory of Leah Shapiro*

Ruth Paris and Rob Saper—*in memory of Dorothy Paris; in memory of Steven Paris*

Lisa Dee Port White

Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg—*in honor of Noah and Simone Klein's B'nei Mitzvah*

Marjorie Salvodon—*in honor of my two mothers: Luce Attignol, my mother, and Rose-Marie Salvodon, my stepmother*

Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman—*in honor of those who supported Heather's Bat Mitzvah: Melanie Adler for leyning, David Lobron for leyning, and Debby Gelber for being a great tutor*

Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steve Siegel—*in memory of Charles St. John's yahrzeit*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen—*in honor of Rabbi Toba's APN Award*

Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman—*in honor of Rabbi Toba for her support and kindness in planning Heather's Bat Mitzvah*

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

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!

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.

Chesed

Yahrzeit

We remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 13th yahrzeit falls this year on January 19. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 17.

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.

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](http://LotsaHelpingHands.org) 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 dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community so you can respond when a Chesed request goes out.

The Chesed coordinators in January are **Ellen Pashall** and **Fran Malino**; 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 appointment, please contact her (confidentially) at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330 x2. 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.

Learning

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays, NEW TIME: 8:45-9:30 am
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 8:45 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.

TELLING OUR STORIES: A SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursdays, January 22 and 29, February 5,
March 12, 19, and 26, 7:30-9:00 pm
Location TBD

(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!

“DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING” SEARCH PROCESS

by DCL Search Committee

At our November member's meeting it was announced that the CDT Board has made the decision to staff a new full-time position, “Director of Congregational Learning” (DCL). This decision was made based on an assessment of our own needs in recent years, and exploring the current trends in the field of Jewish education. The DCL will be responsible for our children's education program as well as the overall educational vision for our congregation, including inter-generational and adult learning. We're excited about the opportunities this new position will open for a new lens on Jewish learning at CDT.

A search committee has been formed to oversee the process of recruiting and hiring the Director of Congregational Learning (DCL). Co-chairs of the committee are **Jen Kaplan** and **Cindy Shulak-Rome**. Committee members, who represent a cross-section of our community, are **Sarah Birkeland**, **Betsy Hinden**, **Hilary Marcus**, **Jeffrey Sacks**, and **David Shumsky**. Our goal is to have the new position filled by June 2015.

The DCL position has been posted on jewishjobs.com and members can access relevant information on the CDT website, including our position posting. If you know of someone qualified who might be interested, we'd appreciate if you would send them our information.

Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the committee and provide input into the process at a community meeting in January. Please watch the CDT listserv for details. If you have any questions or ideas regarding the position or hiring process, please send an email to dclsearch@dorsheitzedek.org.

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 stanfma@gmail.com for more information.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR PARENTING WITHOUT PANIC

with Brenda Dater

Sunday, February 1, 2-3:30pm
60 Highland Street - Sanctuary

The CDT Inclusion Committee is hosting local author/speaker Brenda Dater, the author of *Parenting without Panic: A Pocket Support Group for Parents of Children and Teens on the Autism Spectrum (Asperger's Syndrome)*. She is also the Director of Child and Teen Services at AANE where she teaches workshops, facilitates support groups and provides consultations for parents, grandparents and professionals. At the event, Brenda will facilitate a discussion based on her book. Topics include chronic stress, siblings, deciding on how to spend your time-money-and energy, parenting on the same page, extended family dilemmas... or whatever else is on people's minds. Childcare will be provided. Anyone from the CDT community is welcome to join this spirited discussion.

CDT Calendar

January 2015

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.					1	2
						3 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
4	5 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	6 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	7	8 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	9 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6:00pm	10 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm CDT Film Club: "Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh" Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm Participants' homes
11 Religious School Classes for Nitzanim-Zayin (Pre-K - Gr.7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon DCL Search Committee Meeting with members JCDS 10:30-11:45am CDT Board Meeting 7:00-9:00pm Living Room	12 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	13 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	14 Tikkun Olam Meeting 7:30pm 60 Highland Street Rm 111	15 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	16	17 Martin Luther King "Got Shabbat" Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
18 MOCA Planning Committee Meeting 3:00-5:00pm	19	20 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	21	22 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:00pm Living Room Telling Our Stories Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm	23 Erev Shabbat Community Potlucks 6:00pm	24 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
25 Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon Purim Beer Brewing Workshop 4:00-5:30pm FUSN	26 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	27 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	28	29 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm	30 Erev Shabbat Shira Service 7:30pm	31 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Yannik Gordon 9:45am-12:00pm
February 1 Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon Parenting Kids with Special Needs, with Brenda Dater 2:00-3:30pm Sanctuary CDT Board 7:00-9:00pm Living Room	2 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	3 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm Tu Bishvat Seder 7:30-9:00pm FUSN	4 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm	5 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6:00pm	6	7 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 3 Shabbat Morning Service: Vivienne & Norman Shein / Rachel Ross

Jan 9 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Michael Brann / Ezra Hausman / Noah Rumpf / Bobby Kleinberg

Jan 10 Shabbat Morning Service: Linette Liebling - *in memory of Zelda and Joel Liebling* / Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein / Jackie Slivko

Jan 17 “Got Shabbat” Morning Service: Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury / Nancy Gertz / Linda Schiller & Steve Robins / Elaine Pollack

Jan 24 Shabbat Morning Service: Jonathan Rosenthal / Tessa Goldsmith / Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

Jan 31 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Yannik Gordon: Sanctuary Cleanup: Pamela & Steven Katz; Ushers: Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg

Feb 6 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Thea Breite / Idit Klein / Rebecca Gutman / Roy Wilson

Feb 7 Shabbat Morning Service: Sherry Katz & Mark Farber / Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

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.

Children's Education

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL—A LINK TO THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

by Hilary Marcus

Adult members of CDT recently convened after Shabbat services to talk about Ari Shavit's book *My Promised Land*. (Thank you to **Andrew Sofer** and **Louise Enoch** for facilitating). Many points from Shavit's compelling book are still on my mind—the future of the conflicted Jewish state being the primary one. Another relates to the future of Jewish demographics worldwide. He writes, “The numbers are controversial, but roughly speaking, in 1950, 3 percent of Americans were Jews; in 1980, it was 2.4 percent, and in 2010 approximately 2 percent. By 2050 Jews might comprise only a fraction of the population of the United States” (p. 386).

No matter how our children live out their Jewish identities, it is probable they will look to Israel as the place where a high percentage of the world's Jews reside and where Jewish history is on live display. This has me wondering—what relationship are we fostering between our kids and Israelis, between our children and the modern experiment of the State of Israel?

Each family may have a unique link to Israel. Our children have 6 first cousins who have begun to parent the next generations of Israelis. So if we can afford to take an occasional trip there, our children will have a connection whether I teach them about Israel's complex history or not. And still, I want to foster a relationship with Israel that goes beyond the family bond, a relationship that will likely take twists and turns.

So, I ask, how do Dorshei Tzedek families open the door to our children's exploration of Israel (before they get to a college campus) beyond relying on teachers to do so?

One way we do this as a congregation is by encouraging our members to participate in “Passport to Israel,” a collaborative program in which families and Combined Jewish Philanthropies contribute funds to be used towards an educational program in Israel. The purpose is to enable students enrolled in Jewish educational programs to enjoy a trip to Israel as early as the summer after 10th grade. Through regular savings over a number of years plus a CJP matching grant, families eventually accumulate approximately \$2,000 that is available for any sort of peer program in Israel, from a Reconstructionist summer trip for 10th graders to an internship during college; it's very flexible.

This past summer 16-year-old **Lily Gomborg**, daughter of CDT members Richard and Diana, used her Passport to Israel account to go to Israel for 4 weeks on the No'ar Hadash Israel Experience, organized by Camp JRF. I asked Lily for a few comments about her trip. “I really liked learning about Israel by being there. I thought it was way more engaging than learning in a classroom.” As she was in Israel during an intense time of war, Lily added, “I feel like I have a really solid understanding of the conflict and how it affects different groups of people after having been in Israel this summer. The entire trip gave me a better understanding of the complications and difficulties of creating a country based on Judaism. The international Jewish community is so diverse that no matter what, the government cannot please everyone.”

Dorshei Tzedek members with children in grades 3–7 are eligible to sign up by February 15, whether the children are enrolled in our school or not. To register for Passport to Israel, please ask **Marla Lichtman** for the appropriate forms (admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org), or reach out to me (hmr99@hotmail.com) or **Pamela Schonberg** (jomela@rcn.com) with any questions.



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

Chanukah 2014



Above: Leah Diskin, Nadia Diskin-Gaudette,
and Kyra Diskin-Gaudette.
Above right: Robyn Stefano
Right: Nuriel Gutman's *chanukkiyah*.
All photos by Vivienne Shein.

