



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Cheshvan/Kislev 5776 November 2015

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Our Core Values

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



OVER THE COURSE of last year, the CDT Board engaged the congregation in a process of delineating our community's "core values" as part of a more general inquiry into the meaning of membership at Dorshei Tzedek. Beginning with a long list of Jewish and Reconstructionist values developed by Rabbi David Teutsch for use in the Reconstructionist Guide to Jewish Practice (published by the Center for Jewish Ethics at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College), the Board brought those values it deemed most relevant to last November's Members Meeting. There, congregants took the opportunity to lift up those values they felt are most important to our life as a community. The resulting list was then distributed to the various CDT

committees for their reflection and comments. Finally, over the course of the spring and summer, members of the Board focused in on nine core values that reflect both the commitments stated in the CDT mission statement (which you can see at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/mission-statement>), and our year-long conversation. You can now see our Core Values on the CDT website (<http://dorsheitzedek.org/core-values>). They are:

Kehillah (Commitment to Community): The Torah teaches that the holiest form of community is formed by a brit, a covenant, in which individuals enter into sacred relationship with one another and with the Source of Life. Anchored within a web of mutual obligation, members share a com-

mitment to the wellbeing of the community and its values, and to one another.

Chesed (Lovingkindness): We extend to one another lovingkindness, sharing joyful times and difficult times, providing comfort, marking milestones, and supporting one another through life's transitions.

Inclusion and Human Dignity: We affirm the idea that every human being is created *b'tzelem Elohim*, "in God's image," and is thus deserving of care and respect. We welcome all those who share our values: people of all ages, races and ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations.

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Simchat Torah 2015

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Kavanah (Sacred Intention): We engage in speech and action with integrity and with deliberate, thoughtful attention and intention.

Lifelong Jewish Learning: We are committed to dynamic Jewish study, engaging with Jewish texts, values, practices, and traditions and “reconstructing” them in ways that move and inspire us today. We are committed to developing the Jewish education of our children, nourishing the next generation’s values, traditions, and spiritual and ethical practices.

Machaloket l’shem shamayim (Debate for the Sake of Heaven): We foster respectful discourse and affirm the traditional Jewish value of “debate for the sake of heaven.”

Mitzvah (Ethical & Ritual Practice): We affirm the concept of mitzvah as “sacred connector,” a religious or ethical practice that connects us in many ways: to other people, to God/liness, to Jewish history and tradition, to the earth, to our own best selves. We seek to learn about both traditional and contemporary mitzvot and to explore their relevance to our lives and our world today.

Spirituality: We seek out and nurture experiences, both individually and collectively, that elevate, inspire, and connect

us to That which is beyond ourselves. Our collective spiritual life, informed by Jewish practice, strengthens the community as a whole while supporting and fostering the spiritual journeys and personal growth of members.



Discussion at the MOCA Havdallah gathering.

Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World): We strive to create a world that is just and kind. We pursue justice/*tzedeck* for all—through personal, social, and political action. We understand that we are responsible for our broader community and our planet.

From our Vice President for Leadership, Ora Grodsky, I have learned that core values “express our highest aspirations for who we are and who we hope to be as a congregation. They are a touchstone for us to reflect on in our actions and our decisions, guiding us in our life together as a community.” I personally hope that they will become a foundation and a touchstone for us as we move forward as a community, whether we are discussing what it means to be a caring community, sharing our thoughts and opinions on the situation in Israel, thinking about education for ourselves and our children, supporting one another’s spiritual journeys, or doing the work of social justice. They are both a challenge and an inspiration, and I am excited to learn together with you what it means to live these values in our communal life.

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

Interim Education Director: **Alison Lobron**

Director of Congregational Learning: **Shahar Colt**

Administrative Director: **Marla Lichtman**

Administrative Assistant: **Shaena Grossman**

Executive Committee

President: **Jen Kaplan**

VP Finance: **Cliff Cohen**

VP Membership: **Melanie Adler**

VP Education: **Lisa Schneier**

VP Leadership: **Ora Grodsky**

Secretary: **David Lobron**

Past President: **Allison Hausman**

Board Members-at-Large:

Roy Edelstein, Mark Farber, Jessica

Keimowitz, Jen Levine-Fried, Lissy

Medvedow, Susan Silberberg, Andrew Sofer

Off-Board Chairs

Children’s Education: **Erica Streit-Kaplan**

Chesed: **Corinne Lofchie and Susan Nitkin**

Nediv Lev: **Mark Paley**

Newsletter: **Danny Shain**

Ritual: **Marion 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 10th 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 & Holidays

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

*Fridays, November 6, December 4,
January 8*

6:00 pm Candle-lighting & potluck dinner

6:45 pm service

Join us for this monthly fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We'll begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people; challah, drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45 pm, and we'll end with an Oneg Shabbat (dessert) at 7:30 pm. Services are geared towards children ages 3-8, but all are welcome!

GOT SHABBAT?

*Saturdays, November 21, January 16,
March 19*

9:45 am-noon

"Got Shabbat?" is an opportunity for the whole community to gather and have fun, learn together, and explore new ways to celebrate Shabbat. Beginning together with songs and blessings, adults and kids are then invited to choose from a panoply of activities until we gather again to read Torah and close the morning together. At November's "Got Shabbat" we will be exploring the Torah portion *Vayetzei*, featuring Jacob's dream of the ladder to the heavens. CDT member **Chanda Prescod-Weinstein** will give a talk on the intersections of astrophysics, science, and creativity, and workshops will include Torah acrobatics, art, Tot Shabbat, and more!

TOT SHABBAT

*Saturdays, November 21, December 19,
January 16*

10:45-noon

Monthly Shabbat program, led by CDT members, musicians and educators, **Susan Moser** and **Tal Shalom-Kobi**, for children under age 5 and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with song, stories, and crafts.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturdays, November 14, December 19,
January 23*

8:45 am, Library

Each month before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore parshat hashavua, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both traditional and contemporary. No prior experience necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

SHABBAT MORNING

November 14

9:45 am-noon

At this Shabbat morning service, we will be celebrating and welcoming **Batya Shira**, daughter of **Elizabeth Ferrenz** and **Jenny Siegel**. And as part of Interfaith Family Month, we will be honoring our interfaith households and their special role within the Jewish community.

CHANTING AND MEDITATION SERVICE

Saturday, December 5

9:45 am-noon

At this contemplative Shabbat morning service, we will use both sacred chant and guided and silent meditation to enter into the peace and joy of Shabbat. Torah study begins at 11:15 am, followed by kiddush lunch at noon.



Simchat Torah 2015

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 111. 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 HIKES...MIDDLESEX FELLS

Sunday, November 15

Meet at CDT parking lot at 12:30 pm for carpool or meet at trailhead at 1:00 pm

Our **final** autumn hike will be on Sunday afternoon, 11/15, meeting at the CDT parking lot for carpools at 12:30 pm or meeting at the trailhead* at 1pm. We will hike the Eastern section of Middlesex Fells, about a half-hour drive from West Newton. Expect not to return until dinner time. Dogs are welcome but they must be leashed.

As always, please wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers, and bring a water bottle and a snack. Be sure to wear good shoes because there are uneven rocks and some rock scrambling required on the Rock Circuit Trail which makes up about half of the hike. Special for this hike, please bring a headlamp or flashlight *just in case* since the days are getting shorter. As always, no RSVP is necessary—just show up!

Questions? Please contact **Diana** (dfgomborg@gmail.com), **Richard** (richardgomborg@gmail.com), **Marc** (marc@metaphasia.com), or **Stuart** (SLS@SnyderLegal.com).

*Driving directions to the trailhead: Take 128 North to 93 South. Take exit 25 toward Melrose and Stoneham. Take a left at the end of the ramp and then turn right onto N.Border Rd, following signs for the Stone Zoo. Go through the lights and take your first left after the zoo parking lot onto Pond Street. Take your first right onto Fellsway, then take your first right (again) onto Ravine. Park on the side of the road in the grass near a large yellow gate on your right and the #39 post.

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, November 21

Potluck at 6:00 pm; movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion

Home of Emily Sper

Ida (2014, 82 min., Polish with subtitles)

Raised in a Catholic orphanage during the Nazi occupation of Poland, Anna is poised to join the order when she learns she has a surviving aunt. But visiting the woman before taking her vows uncovers some inconvenient truths about her heritage.—Netflix

Potluck at 6:00 pm, 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 attending 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, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families.

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.

CDT PADDLES

by Barry Ehrlich

The first "CDT Paddles" took place on a beautiful Sunday morning in late September. We left from the Nahanton Park launch and had a wonderful, leisurely paddle along the Charles. Along the way we saw many herons (or one heron many times) and a log with 24 sunning turtles—I counted them! We'll start again next spring and hopefully do a variety of trips—join us!

More scenes from the MOCA Havdallah gathering.



Community

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Noah Magaziner and his family, on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with kiddush/holiday programs in October:

Ami Gordon, Bobby Kleinberg, Jan Gortler-Small, Dan Halbert, Becca Gutman, Barbara Beck—*in memory of Irving and Edith Beck, and Stephen Beck, Elizabeth Ferrenz and Jenny Siegel, David Shumsky, Benjamin Dash, Joel Auslander, Rachel Pytel, Chad Pytel, Josh Lieberman, Sarah Hartman, Miriam Bronstein, Peter Hess, Chanda Prescod Hsu-Weinstein, Andy Cohen, Rachel Cohen, Robin Bernstein, Scott Gordon, Melanie Adler, Gail Pressberg.*

A Special Green *Todah Rabbah* to **Alex Sugerman-Brozan** for spearheading the CDT Carbon Challenge, to everyone who participated, and to **Dan Halbert** for making it work on the website!

A few more High Holyday *Todot* that didn't make it into the October newsletter:

Todah Rabbah to our Shofar blowers: **Jacqui Bloomberg, Ezra Hausman, Josh Lieberman, Lisa Port White, Josh Sacks, and Karen Wasserman!**

Todah Rabbah to **Elaine Pollack**, mistakenly left off of the CDT Sings line-up.

A big *Todah Rabbah* to all those who worked on our Sukkot program: **David Shumsky**, for coordinating the set-up and take-down of the sukkah. The following members helped:

Sukkah builders: **David Shumsky, Marla Cummins, Danielle Klainberg, Mark Rosenberg, Barbara Huggins, Stuart Snyder, and Jethro Berkman.**

Sukkah take-down: **Benjamin Dash, Joel Auslander, Rachel Pytel, Chad Pytel, Josh Lieberman, and Sarah Hartman.**

To the Sukkot program workshop leaders: **Shahar Colt, Audra Karp, Steffi Karp, and Jodi and Alex Sugerman-Brozan** for coordinating the session with the "Bikes Not Bombs" leaders.

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped make our first Got Shabbat? of the year so successful: workshop leaders **Shahar Colt, Alison Lobron, Irit Trokman-Levitan and Susie Tanchel**; and our fabulous Torah team of **Laurie Goldman and Cindy Rivka Marshall.**

On and Off the Bimah

OUR TORAH SERVICE: RE-LIVING THE EXPERIENCE OF SINAI AND THE DESERT

by Elaine Pollack

The words sung just before lifting the Torah out of the ark, "*Va'yehi binsoa ha-aron, va-yomer Moshe...*" come directly from the Book of Numbers 10:35: "And it came to pass, that when the ark set out, Moses would say: "Rise up, YHVH, and let Your enemies be scattered..." These words are proclaimed by our service leader in advance of marching with the Torah, and are intended to echo our ancestors' experience, and re-enact, as it were, how the Torah led us in the wilderness throughout our forty year trek. The verse just preceding this declaration states: "And the cloud of YHVH was over them by day" (Num. 10:34), and we know from elsewhere in the Torah that "a pillar of fire" protected the people by night. Both the Torah and these miraculous signs, a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire, were intended to reassure the people of God's presence and protection (see Exodus 13:21-22).

After the Torah was given at Sinai, the tablets of the Law (ultimately the broken and the whole ones) were placed in an *aron* (a special wooden box overlaid in gold) and carried in the lead whenever our people set out for their next resting place. Thus, the Torah guided our people, physically and spiritually, leading and protecting them, as well as inspiring them to learn and to do. Our re-enactment of receiving Torah and then placing it in the lead of our march replicates, symbolically, our experience in the wilderness. Our service leader marches around the congregation, giving everyone a chance to draw near to Torah. Some folks also have the tradition of turning to follow the Torah around the room. We stand and we follow, showing our respect and awe that such an ancient scroll with our history and traditions is still ours, even after thousands of years.

Then we return to the *bimah* and settle the Torah on the reading table. When the Torah is at rest, then we are at rest, and so we sit down. This, too, re-enacts our wilderness experience where we were led by the Torah, and then we camped around the Torah at day's end when the ark was set down. Once

we settle the Torah on the *bimah*, we chant, listen, read, and study, exploring the relevance of its teachings, and learning our early history, rituals, and values. For a brief moment, we stand with our ancestors at Sinai, linked to them in a long chain of tradition.

When the Torah service is completed, and we are returning the Torah to the ark, we continue the passage from Numbers 10: "*uv-nucho yomar: Shuvah Adonai...*" ("And when it rested, the people would say, 'Return, O Lord unto the ten thousands of the families of Israel...' (Num. 10:36). Then we complete the Torah service by singing a passage taken from Proverbs 3:18: "*Etz hayyim hee l'mahazeekim ba...*" ("It is a tree of life to those who hold fast to it..."), after which the ark is closed.

Our Sages of Mishnah and Talmud had the task of creating a portable religion in which the history and practices of our ancient ancestors, if they were to be remembered, had to feel authentic in every age. That was a huge challenge, and, as we see, they turned to the Torah as their guide!

Learning

SEEK SHALOM AND PURSUE IT: JEWISH APPROACHES TO PEACE AND WAR



with Rabbi Toba
Spitzer and Larry
Rosenwald

Wednesday evenings,
7:30-9:00 pm

Continuing November
4, 11 and 18;
December 2

(free for CDT members; \$36 for non-members)

Is there a pacifist tradition in Judaism? How have Jewish teachers, activists, and thinkers, responded to war in their time? How might Jewish texts and teachings help us navigate the violent world in which we live? Join **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** and guest teacher Larry Rosenwald, Professor of English at Wellesley College, Director of Wellesley's Peace and Justice Studies Program, and longtime pacifist and war tax resister, in an exploration of Jewish texts both ancient and modern on the topics of nonviolence, war and the pursuit of peace.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am

60 Highland Street, Library

NOTE: We will not meet on Thanksgiving,
November 26

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, and to help us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, and compassion. On the first Thursday of each month, **Karen Arnold** will lead a meditation based on the weekly Torah portion. On the second Thursday of each month, **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** will incorporate chant (the singing of simple Hebrew phrases from liturgy and biblical texts) as well as mindfulness meditation. At other sessions, **Carole Slipowitz** and other CDT members will facilitate the meditation. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not.

No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! For more information, please contact mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org. All are welcome.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

with Dr. Sanford Goldfless

Meets Weekly September through May at
Participants' Homes

(Cost: \$15 per session. Fee can be reduced
based on what you feel comfortable with)

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the *Tanach* or Torah, Prophets and Writings) by reading it in English and discussing large parts of it together. We often look at the biblical text from a historical perspective, and we always pay attention to the literary features of the text that are essential for conveying its meaning. We also converse about the course of Jewish history. The class is interactive, low key and open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends. For more information contact **Stan Fleischman** at: stanfma@gmail.com.

Religious School Notes

by Shahar Colt, Director of
Congregational Learning

On the first day of school, I had the opportunity to offer a conversation with parents about the project of Jewish education—specifically, what Dorshei Tzedek parents think their children's Jewish education should convey. I was interested in hearing directly from parents about what they're looking for in the content of the school. Guided by the premise that children learn as much about Judaism from their parents as from their teachers at religious school, we need to work together for the school to succeed. This program was intended to open conversations between myself and the school parents as I get to know the families individually and community collectively.

In response to the prompt about what parents wanted to teach their child themselves, many people resonated with passing on a sense of connection to community, and the feelings of warmth and love that can come with it.

We started with five prompts written on large pieces of paper. The prompts included some traditional texts related to raising Jewish children and some open questions. Parents read the prompts and wrote comments or responses directly on the paper for other parents to read.

The responses to the texts hit on everything I could imagine relating to the questions and challenges of conveying Jewish identity and meaning in the twenty first century. Parents asked big questions: How can we teach our children to pray when we don't relate to Jewish prayer ourselves? How can we convey what we value in Judaism when it's so connected to traditions of sexism and

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Tikkun Olam

The CDT Carbon Challenge has just wrapped up, and it was a wonderful success! 54 CDT members participated, and they blew past the Challenge's goal of earning 350,000 "Carbon Points" by taking different actions to reduce their carbon output. Together, we reached 380,250 points, doing everything from changing light-bulbs, to biking more, to doing "Meatless Mondays," to installing solar panels. See details below!

CARBON CHALLENGE—BY THE NUMBERS

by Alex Sugarman-Brozan

From Shavuot to Sukkot, members of Dorshei Tzedek took part in the Carbon Challenge. They pledged to take new actions to reduce their carbon footprint and fight global warming. These actions ranged from the easy and individual, like changing light bulbs and using clotheslines, to the difficult and more systems-change oriented, like installing solar panels, committing to biking to work, giving up meat one day a week, and attending climate rallies. Each action was assigned a number of "Carbon Points," reflecting the impact of that action. We set a goal of earning 350,000 Carbon Points as a community, to correspond to the level of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere that climate scientists say we must get back down to— 350 parts per million (we are currently at over 400!).

The results are in! Highlights are below: Each of the actions below is a new action, not something the participants were already doing.

Number of CDT Households that took the Carbon Challenge: 54
Percentage of CDT households that participated: 26%
Total Carbon Points earned: 380,250 (8% above our goal!)

Number of Carbon Challengers that took each of the following actions:

Home/Electricity

Buy cloth napkins and use instead of paper napkins: 15

Get and use a clothesline instead of a dryer: 11

Get a "smart" power strip for your "energy zombies": 9

Get a home energy audit by local utility: 10

Get a low-flow showerhead and/or faucet: 8

Replace an appliance (fridge, dishwasher, etc) with an Energy-Star energy efficient model: 10

Install a door sweep to reduce heat loss: 8

Install ceiling fans to reduce A/C use: 6

Insulate exterior walls: 6

Insulate hot water pipes: 5

Get home assessed for solar panels: 9

Install solar panels: 1

Convert lights to energy-efficient LED bulbs: 16

Replace old furnace or hot water heater with new high-efficiency one: 5

Sign up to purchase clean electricity through Mass Energy: 5

Turn down water heater and use vacation setting while away: 10

Shopping/Outside in the World/Food

Bring your own mug when you go out for coffee: 9

Join a CSA or buy your produce at a farmer's market during the season: 12

Get and use a pressure cooker: 3

Participate in Meatless Mondays to reduce meat consumption: 8

Start composting: 10

Transportation

Commit to biking, walking or taking bus or T instead of driving 1 extra day per week: 10

Get rid of 2nd car: 1

If buying new car, get hybrid or electric: 3

Properly inflate car tires to improve MPG: 11

Advocacy

Attend a climate action rally, lobby day, house party or environmental conference: 6

Join and donate to a climate change organization: 7

Read a book about climate change: 7

Write a letter to an elected official or government agency about a climate change policy issue: 3



CDT Paddles - September 2015

Nediv Lev

GENERAL FUND

Matilda and Ed Bruckner

Helaine and John Carroll—*In memory of our parents Louise and Henry Dankner and Estelle and Hy Carroll*

Ora Gladstone—*In honor of and with gratitude to Cindy Shulak-Rome, Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein, Ruth Paris, Marion Ross, and Ellen Hemley for their help making the memorial for my father possible.*

Barbara Kaplan—*In honor of Jen Kaplan's presidency*

Steffi and Eric Karp

Howard Kaufman—*In memory of my father Bernie Kaufman*

Howard Kaufman—*In memory of my mother Elissa Kaufman*

Barbara Magaliff

Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein—*In honor of Rabbi Toba's important message about race, justice, and racial equality on Yom Kippur; with appreciation to the Tik-kun Olam committee for speaking hard truths as well.*

Susan Sirotky

Maurine Welling—*In honor of Jen Kaplan's presidency*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ora Gladstone—*for Rabbi Toba's concern and care.*

SCHOOL FUND

RETREAT 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.

Religious School Notes

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heterosexism that we want to end? How do we support a child's Jewish education as parents who are not Jewish?

Along with these big and important questions, came many thoughtful reflections. In response to a quote from the Talmud about a father's obligation to his son, one parent wrote: "while the words chosen are sexist, the idea behind them holds true—we would consider a parent negligent who didn't set up their child for success. Now we need to decide what 'success' means." In response to the prompt about what parents wanted to teach their child themselves, many people resonated with passing on a sense of connection to community, and the feelings of warmth and love that can come with it.

I left this meeting feeling like together we had opened not just one "can of worms," but many! The parents' comments certainly have helped me think about what will be relevant and exciting for both parent and family programs going forward. The task of Jewish education is both daunting and exciting. I look forward to many more opportunities to return to these important and challenging questions with Dorshei parents and any other interested community members.

To see the prompts and some of the responses, and weigh in with your own commentary, you can visit the CDT webpage in the coming weeks.



Sukkah setup - 2015

Chesed

CHESED INSPIRATION

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value. The Chesed Committee is dedicated to creating a caring community by coordinating volunteers who provide a meal or other expression of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event.

There are three articles on the Chesed webpage (<http://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community>) that describe the feelings that sometimes get in the way of participating in Chesed, as a giver and as a receiver. We encourage you to read these articles as part of our ongoing effort to build connections for a caring community. We hope these articles will inspire you to participate in Chesed.

A Small Pot of Violets “We’ve all felt it; that moment’s hesitation before we ring the bell. Here’s why you need to do it anyway,” writes Dorshei Tzedek member **Nancy Gertz** in “A Small Pot of Violets,” in *LivFun*, page 30 (Autumn, 2015).

How Not to Say the Wrong Thing. One of the barriers to participating in Chesed is the feeling that we don’t know what to say or we fear that we might say the wrong thing. A few years ago we shared “How not to say the wrong thing” by Susan Silk and Barry Goldman, (*LA Times*, April 7, 2013). “It works in all kinds of crises—medical, legal, even existential. It’s the ‘Ring Theory’ of kvetching. The first rule is comfort in, dump out.”

Accepting Meals as Strangers from Caregivers. Linda Matchan describes how a health crisis brings donations of food that teach humility and gratitude—and provides a lesson for those who want to help others in “Accepting meals from strangers as caregivers,” *Boston Globe*, March 25, 2014.

If you have a major life cycle event or illness or injury, contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org and/or call **617-965-0330**.

We use the LotsaHelpingHands calendar to post Chesed tasks for volunteers. If you are not yet signed up for LHH, go to <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/625130/request-to-join> or if you have forgotten your LHH password, go to <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/625130/login/forgot/>.

The Chesed coordinators for November are **Corinne Lofchie** and **Susan Nitkin**. If you have questions about Chesed, contact one of the Coordinators at dorsheitzedek.org.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone who provided an act of Chesed last month. We welcome new volunteers and committee members.

“We’ve all felt it; that moment’s hesitation before we ring the bell. Here’s why you need to do it anyway”

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**. 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.

REFUAH SH’LEYMAH

We send blessings for a complete healing to: **Barry Ingber**, **Ruby Cohen**, and **Allison Hausman**.

CONDOLENCES

To **Ora Gladstone**, on the death of her father, Saul Gladstone; may his memory be for a blessing.

To **Jackie Slivko**, on the death of her father, Saul Slivko; may his memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit

This month we remember **Susannah Zisk**, whose fourth yahrzeit falls on November 27, at Shabbat morning services on November 21. May her memory be for a blessing.

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>.

CDT Calendar

November 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Reading Hebrew (and Liking It!) 2:30pm to 4:00pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>"CDT Exploring the Bible" 3:30pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Jewish Approaches to Peace and War with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Prof. Larry Rosenwald 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am</p> <p>CDT Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck Candle lighting and dinner 6:00pm Service 6:45pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Listening Circle & Mindful Conversation 12:30pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Reading Hebrew (and Liking It!) 2:30pm to 4:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>"CDT Exploring the Bible" 3:30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Jewish Approaches to Peace and War with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Prof. Larry Rosenwald 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin (Gr. 1-7) 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p>Parenting Your Tween Through a Jewish Lens 10:45am to 11:15am</p> <p>Reading Hebrew (and Liking It!) 2:30pm to 4:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>"CDT Exploring the Bible" 3:30pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Jewish Approaches to Peace and War with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Prof. Larry Rosenwald 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Got Shabbat? (Including Tot Shabbat) 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p>CDT Film Club 6:00pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Parenting Your Tween Through a Jewish Lens 10:45am to 11:15am</p> <p>Reading Hebrew (and Liking It!) 2:30pm to 4:00pm</p> <p>CDT Board Meeting 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>"CDT Exploring the Bible" 3:30pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>"CDT Exploring the Bible" 3:30pm</p>	<p>December 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

**UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE DORSHEI TZEDEK PRAYER SPACE:
60 HIGHLAND STREET IN THE SECOND CHURCH OF NEWTON, WEST NEWTON.**

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

Erev Shabbat, November 6: Noam Shore / Andrew Garnett-Cook / Susan Moser, *in memory of Izzie Moser* / Alyssa Cohen

Shabbat, November 7: Jonathan Weisberg, *in memory of Isabelle Rosen* / Corinne Lofchie, *in memory of Gerda Schwarz* / Beth & Jeff Green

Shabbat, November 14: Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller / Susanna & Jaime Wurzel

Got Shabbat?, November 21: Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon / Elaine Landes & David Felson / Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn / Sarah Birkeland

Shabbat, November 28: Marjorie Salvodon, *in memory of Luce Attignol* / Mark Schafer / Amy Westebbe

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

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

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

Membership

We extend a hearty CDT welcome to the following new members:

Rebecca Byard and **Daniel Reeves** and their daughter, **Liora** (2)

Emily Mathis and **Hali Diecidue** and their daughters, **Joita** (16) and **Nina** (6)

Lori Freed Garg and **Pushkal Garg** and their children, **Jay** (14) and **Maya** (11)

Jewish Community Events

INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY IN JUDAISM

Friday and Saturday, December 4-5

A pluralistic Shabbaton in partnership with the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts and Temple Ohabei Shalom with support from CJP. To view schedule and to register, please visit <https://www.synagoguecouncil.org/>.

LIMMUD BOSTON—SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 6

by Steffi Aaronson Karp

The sixth annual volunteer-driven LimmudBoston celebration of all things Jewish will be held all day on Sunday, December 6 at Cong. Mishkan Tefila, 300 Hammond Pond Pkwy. There will be more than 60 presentations, panel discussions, hands-on artist opportunities and food demos, along with concerts and play readings. The day will wrap up with a Chanukah community sing-along. Hold the date! Volunticipate! Register now: www.LimmudBoston.org.

Sukkah setup - 2015





Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

Scenes from the Bike Maintenance Workshop Held on Sukkot 2015

