



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Kislev/Tevet 5776

December 2015

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

From the President

by Jen Kaplan



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MY FAMILY and I recently returned from a trip to Israel, and we saw many wonderful things, including the secret bullet factory in Rehovot and the tunnels below the Western Wall in Jerusalem. One of the highlights was actually visiting many family members whom we don't get to see too often. It occurred to me that there is family we are born into and the family we create.

The strength of the CDT community is one of the main reasons I joined this synagogue many years ago, and it remains active, robust and strong. A contributing factor is our Board, who are comprised of people who devote many hours giving to our community in key ways that are not always visible to the community at large. As some of you may know, the CDT Board Retreat took place in mid-October. A heartfelt thank you to Ora Grodsky (VP Leadership) and DB Reiff (a new member) for facilitating the program. I was a bit nervous about how it was going to go. As a new President, I felt there was a lot at stake. Would the Board members leave feeling inspired, motivated, and empowered to help lead CDT in this new year? Would we be able to build on all our community has accomplished in the preceding years? I am proud to share with you that the retreat was a rewarding

and productive experience, as we explored themes crucial to strengthening our community. We talked together about leadership and what it means to grow as a leader. We explored the notion of economic diversity and the importance and challenges of discussing this sensitive topic. In addition, we discussed some of the key issues we'll be examining in the coming months: chesed, the infrastructure of CDT, and the spirituality of welcoming. How can we care for our community more fully? How can we diminish barriers for our members to create more and sustained participation? How can we integrate new members into our community? How can we create or enhance the

Chesed, Inclusion/Human Dignity, Kavanah, Mitzvah and Tikkun Olam. Within our community, we have different backgrounds, experiences, levels of ritual observance, political affiliation, and more, but we have each chosen to "cast our lot" with our brothers and sisters at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek to build a better, more compassionate world, and to be a part of creating a sacred place in which we can bring all we are to our community.

I look forward to a year of exploration and a year of continued kehillah with all of you.

May the glow of the Chanukah candles shine brightly in our homes and in our souls.

PS. If you have not been to Israel ever, or

If you have not been to Israel ever, or in the past 10, 20, or 30 years, think about going on the CDT Israel trip this summer. What an incredible opportunity to visit the holy land with your community and share what promises to be a very special experience.

connection we feel to one another and to our community?

This is a big agenda with significant goals, and with many hands and voices, the work will be manageable. Much of this year's subcategories of exploration fall within the larger overarching theme of kehillah (commitment to community), which is one of CDT's core values. Moreover, I believe that the value of kehillah encompasses many of our other important values, including

in the past 10, 20, or 30 years, think about going on the CDT Israel trip this summer. What an incredible opportunity to visit the holy land with your community and share what promises to be a very special experience.

Rabbinic Liaison

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 csrome@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.

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: Chagit Steiner and Ellie Goldberg

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

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

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT

Fridays, December 4, January 8, February 5

*6:00 pm candle-lighting & potluck dinner,
6:45 pm service*

Join us each month for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people; drinks and dessert provided). A musical service begins at 6:45 pm, followed by dessert at 7:30 pm. Services geared towards kids aged 3-8, but all are welcome!

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES WITH SPECIAL GUEST!

Saturday, December 26

During the Torah service, we will welcome Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz, a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College who lives in France and serves congregations as a visiting rabbi in Strasbourg, Barcelona, and Madrid. Rabbi Berkowitz will speak about “the challenges facing Progressive Judaism in France today,” as well as current events and their effect on the Jews of France.

TOT SHABBAT

Shabbat morning, December 19, 10:45-noon

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



Photo: Sharon Gorberg, John Holohan, Andy Cohen, Melanie Adler, Ezra Hausman, Allison Hausman, Amy Brodesky, Ellen Hemley, and Mark Bronstein at the Hausman house for a Shabbat dinner potluck.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, December 19, January 23, February 13, March 12

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!

CHANTING & 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. Beginning at 11:15am, there will be Torah study. The service will be co-led by **Rabbi Toba** and **Linda Kramer**, and dedicated to the memory of Alex Fried.

BAT MITZVAH OF RITA HACKETT

Saturday, December 12

Please join us as our daughter, **Rita Queenie Hackett**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Rita is in seventh grade at Watertown Middle School. She enjoys acting, singing and dancing in plays and musicals at her school and Watertown

Childrens' Theatre. She can also be seen (and heard!) playing her saxophone in her school's jazz and concert bands. And this year she joined the cross country team, and to her surprise found she could run 2.2 miles! For her Tikkun Olam project, Rita is putting together baskets filled with toys, books, games, etc. for children receiving support at the organization Reach Beyond Domestic Violence. We hope you'll join us for the service and festive kiddush lunch. — **Nem and Stephanie Hackett**

GOT SHABBAT?

Saturday, January 16, March 19, May 21

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. In January, we will be celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and exploring his legacy. We'll begin with songs and blessings, highlighting the music of the Civil Rights Movement. 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. On this “Got Shabbat” we will welcome Andrea James, founder and Executive Director of Families for Justice as Healing, an organization working with formerly incarcerated women towards a transformation of our criminal justice system.

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).

Learning

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am

60 Highland Street, Library

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.

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 Alison Lobron,
Interim Education Director

One of my favorite parts of being the Interim Education Director at CDT's Religious School happens on Sunday mornings.

We begin our morning together as a community (parents, children, and staff). At the end of *Z'man Rishon* (our community time), teachers bring their students to their classrooms, and parents head to the café for coffee and schmoozing. That's when I start my laps around the building.

My Sunday morning laps are my favorite part of the week. I check in on all the classrooms. It's fun to see Jewish learning take place across the ages—from preschoolers greeting their little friends in a chorus of "Shalom Chaverim" all the way through our seventh graders grappling with deeper issues of Jewish identity and how it forms.

As I do my laps, I see another important component of our school in action—and that is an incredibly high level of parent engagement. Every week, there are many ways that I see parents engaging in the school community. Right now, we are fortunate to be hosting a Parenting Through A Jewish Lens class from Hebrew College (see next page). This class provides a great opportunity to learn with an outstanding Jewish educator alongside fellow CDT parents. In addition

structured—like the parent feedback session that took place last Sunday that was facilitated by members of the Children's Education Committee. Other times, it is unstructured. One Sunday, a large group of parents set out on an impromptu nature walk led by **Deb Albenberg**. On the same day, a group of Kitah Gan/Alef parents had been meeting with their children's teacher as part of the Open House schedule. When the teacher had to return to her students, the parents remained in place, and continued the conversation for another hour. CDT Religious School is a vibrant place on Sunday mornings. There is an energy in the air that is hard to miss. The energy is in part due to fun things happening in the kids' classrooms. But a large part of the energy is due to what is happening among the parents. Study sessions, coffee and schmoozing, conversations ranging from intimate one-on-ones to large groups....The connections among parents are forming and strengthening from week to week.

Not all the conversations among parents are easy. Sometimes we disagree with each

If you have questions, concerns or feedback about the CDT Religious School and would like to connect with the parent-run Children's Education Committee, feel free to email childed@dorsheitzedek.org or reach out to any of us individually: Erica Streit-Kaplan (Chair), Andy Stefano, Audra Karp, Becca Gutman, Emily Shumsky, and Tania Mireles.

tion to the PJJ class, our "in house" adult educators—Rabbi Toba and Shahar—have put together an amazing parent-learning schedule. Every week, a different class of parents is invited to join Toba or Shahar for learning session that parallels what their children are discussing in class.

As I walk through the building, I see parents studying together—either in PJJ class or as part of their parent learning with Rabbi Toba or Shahar. I also see parents engaged in conversation. Sometimes it is

other. To me, whether we agree or disagree is not the important part. As adults, we hold a variety of opinions about challenging Jewish topics like diversity in ritual observance, how to enact our Jewish values in a modern world, or how to relate to the state of Israel. What's important to me is the message it sends to our kids when they see their parents engaged in discussion about these topics. The message is that these topics are important to their parents, and might just become important to them as well.

Holiday

It lights me up when I see these conversations happening. Our community is strengthened when adults discover and foster connections. Our kids' sense of belonging to a Jewish community is enhanced when they observe the strong community of adults surrounding them. Our kids' learning has a context when their parents' study and discussion topics mirror their own.

I want to thank all of you for contributing to the vibrancy of our school community, and I can't wait to see more connections flourish during the year.

PARENTING YOUR TWEEN THROUGH A JEWISH LENS AT CDT: A TESTIMONIAL

by David Lobron

This fall, a group of CDT parents and friends are taking a course offered by Hebrew College called Parenting Your Tween through a Jewish Lens. The course is being offered across the Boston area, and we are lucky that CDT's **Erica Streit-Kaplan** brought it to our religious school, with Judy Elkin as facilitator. We are meeting on six Sundays this fall. So far, our class has brought a Jewish perspective to questions of how to parent in times of great personal change, how to allow new freedoms as kids grow, and being mindful of speech and the power of words.

Our class has read a wonderful variety of texts together, everything from "Maimonides on Anger Management" (who knew he had a chapter on that?) to "How to Hug a Porcupine" (the title speaks for itself). It is fascinating to delve into ancient and modern texts as a group, and to hear other parents' insights. It feels very special to be learning together in the same time and place as our kids: I hope we are showing by example that Jewish learning is a lifelong adventure.

In the coming weeks, we will explore ways to cultivate our tweens' growth, and how to foster an ethic of caring. We'll finish with a group discussion with **Rabbi Toba** and **Shahar Colt**. We are all looking forward to it, and we hope to have an update for you in the next issue of the newsletter!

CDT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 13, 4:30-7 pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington St.

Come celebrate the final evening of the Festival of Lights! We will begin together with candle-lighting and Chanukah songs at 4:30 pm — bring your own menorah and 9 candles for lighting!

Then at 5 pm we will have workshops of all sorts — including make your own menorah, an applesauce-making workshop, Klezmer jam, adult text study, young children's activities, and more — followed by a potluck plus latkes dinner at 6 pm. 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.



Photo: Ziv Dain lighting his menorah at the CDT Chanukah party last year. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

Tikkun Olam

Join the Tikkun Olam Committee as we further the “conspiracy” for world justice. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 7:30 pm at the Second Church.

CDT SPEAKS TRUTH TO POWER!

by Bonnie Tenneriello

CDT members were among the throng that packed a Judiciary Committee hearing to help spur change in the criminal justice system. With momentum building for a shift from overly punitive policies towards more humane practices that will reduce recidivism, **Rabbi Toba, Alan Epstein, Lauren Gibbs, Ilana Manelli, Barbara Shatkin, and Bonnie Tenneriello** joined hundreds of formerly incarcerated women and men and others seizing the moment for change. Rabbi Toba and Bonnie testified in support of legislation that would greatly reduce the use of solitary confinement in Massachusetts. Alan and **Miriam Bronstein** have led congregational efforts to support legislation targeted by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, namely measures to lighten drug sentences, reform bail practices, and end automatic driver's license revocation for the formerly incarcerated. Check out CDT's Jobs Not Jails web page, <http://dorsheitzedek.org/jobs-not-jails>, for Toba and Bonnie's testimony and to find out how to get involved in CDT's Jobs Not Jails work.

NEW JIM CROW BOOK DISCUSSION: AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

by Esther Kohn

On October 24, over thirty CDT members and guests met after kiddush to discuss *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. **Alan Epstein**, representing CDT's Understanding Race group, kicked off the discussion by inviting each participant to share a response to the book, a chilling and detailed account of how biases in the criminal justice system have created a new racial caste system in the United States.

Participants expressed a deep appreciation for the book, and the opportunity

to learn why so many young men of color have been imprisoned, unable to extricate themselves from the criminal justice system. Some congregants were struck by the economic rewards of mass incarceration—how big profits have motivated local police forces, private industry, and others to reap the benefits of imprisoning more and more young men of color. For many, reading *The New Jim Crow* was an eye-opening experience.

One participant explained that the book so clearly described history she had lived through; it was as if she had been “wearing foggy glasses” and suddenly her vision was clear.

Several participants compared their experiences with the criminal justice system as white middle-class citizens to the severe accounts described in the book. They remarked how they were able to extract themselves, or their teen-aged children, from any lasting legal consequences. They acknowledged how their benign brushes with the law were in stark contrast to the long prison

I am fearful of what lies ahead, but I want to try hard to be part of the solution, not to perpetuate the problem.

terms systematically given to young men of color, many of whom then face a lifetime of discrimination in voting rights, housing, jobs, and education.

Many CDT members expressed keen interest in finding ways to effectively address racial injustice in the criminal justice system. There are several opportunities for involvement. CDT members may join the Jobs Not Jails campaign to end mass incarceration and fund job creation. Also, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) has initiated a one month campaign to lobby legislators in support of three bills before them: Pre-Trial Bail reform, Ending Mandatory Minimum Sentencing, and Ending Collateral RMV sanctions. For more information, contact the Tikkun Olam committee.

Stay tuned for further programming sponsored by the Understanding Race group.

JOBS NOT JAILS: REPORT FROM THEODORE PARKER LECTURE

by Amy Mazur

I attended the second annual Theodore Parker Lecture presented by Reverend Paul Robeson Ford on Sunday, November 1, at the Theodore Parker Unitarian Universalist Church in West Roxbury, entitled *Turning the World Upside Down: Strategies for Lasting Criminal Justice Reform*.

I found the lecture to be both provocative and uplifting, as Reverend Ford spoke specifically of how “upside down” criminal justice practices are, and how there are ways that these practices can change. One of the practices he mentioned was restorative justice, and he called upon those of us there to rethink and to undo the current practices leading to mass incarceration. He shared personal stories of his own transformation, and was very inspirational regarding the questions he asked and the stories he told.

Reverend Ford challenged the mostly white audience to take bold steps to counter white supremacy and its institutionalization in all of its forms. It is white supremacy that we must name, speak out about, and work to “turn upside down” before any real lasting criminal justice reform can occur.

I was most moved by Reverend Ford's question toward the end of his lecture, “What are you willing to die for?” I know we have all heard that question posed before, just as we have heard many of the messages Reverend Ford conveyed on Sunday. But in the context of the pressing problems we see in the criminal justice system, and understanding that they stem from very entrenched and misdirected practices and beliefs about how things should be done, I heard the question differently last Sunday. I am fearful of what lies ahead, but I want to try hard to be part of the solution, not to perpetuate the problem. Reverend Ford's

words reminded me of that with his very powerful message, and I am buoyed by the work that is going on at CDT to keep moving forward.

JOBS NOT JAILS: PRISON BOOK PROJECT

Please donate to CDT's book drive for the Prison Book Project!

The CDT Jobs Not Jails committee will be collecting books for folks in prison even as we work on legislative initiatives to reform the criminal justice system. Good reading material can make a real difference in quality of life for prisoners. You are invited to pass along your used PAPERBACK books, in GOOD CONDITION to our book drive; limit 10 per household please. No hardcovers, magazines, or kids' books can be accepted, and please do not bring ripped, yellowing, or "written in" books to share.

Bring your books to 60 Highland Street through 12/11/15. There is a collection box across from Marla's office, under the coat rack, when you come in the main door off the Highland Street parking lot. For more info on the Prison Book Program and specific guidelines about accepted donations, see <http://prisonbookprogram.org/donatesection/donate-books/>.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS ON A REGULAR BASIS

by Josette Akresh-Gonzales and Alan Epstein

The GBIO Criminal Justice Lobbying Campaign last month was a huge success. The overall GBIO goal of 200 calls to Senators and Representatives in support of our legislative agenda was far exceeded by the close of Nov. 20. Thirteen CDT members participated in the calls.

One more step in the process to gain real criminal justice in Massachusetts!

How can you participate? No one here is trying to turn you into a lobbyist. But our causes are just and when politicians hear from many people on an issue, they vote that way — this is proven. So how can we make contacting our senators and representatives easy?

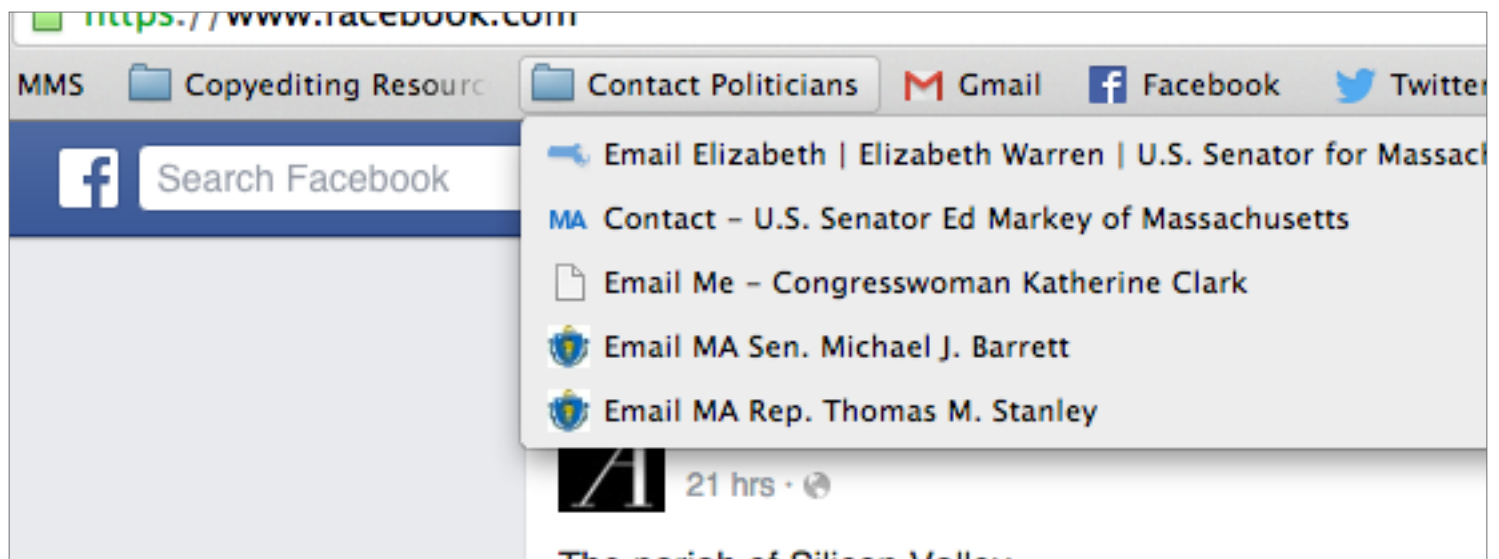
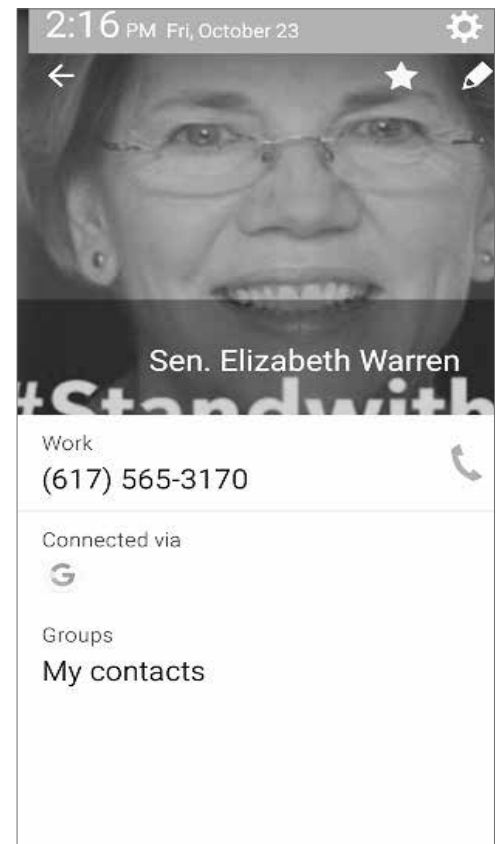
Here's how I do it: I basically treat contacting politicians like I do calling or emailing people in my family — I put them in my phone contacts (see example at right) and I put their "contact us" forms in my bookmarks. That way, I don't need to follow steps to find them before I send them a message. I have my five politicians' contact info ready to go at a moment's notice (say, when I hear about another school shooting and want to remind them to support common sense gun laws).

Here's a screen shot (below) showing the five bookmarks I have *right in my book-*

marks toolbar to contact my senators and representatives.

To find your U.S. senators and representative, go here and type in your zip code: <https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>

To find your Massachusetts state senator and representative, go here and type in your zip code: <https://malegislature.gov/People/Search>



Chesed

CHESED INSPIRATION

by Corinne Lofchie

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

The Chesed coordinators are **Ellie Goldberg** and **Chagit Steiner** — you can use chesed@dorsheitzedek.org to contact them. We use the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) 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>. If you have forgotten your LHH password, go to www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/625130/login/forgot/.

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

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

CHESED CREATES A CARING COMMUNITY

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed, the expression of loving kindness, strengthens our ties to one another and to

our Dorshei Tzedek community as we share each other's joys and sorrows.

In her d'var Torah on November 7, Rabbi Toba pointed out the eagerness that both Abraham and Rebecca show in performing acts of chesed. Abraham rushes to offer hospitality to his angel visitors and Rebecca shows not only kindness but unsolicited generosity. She goes beyond the servant Eliezer's request for water to provide water for all the camels. Later she not only arranges his lodging but makes it extremely comfortable.

The Chesed Committee offers Dorshei Tzedek members the opportunity to experience the joys and blessings of chesed. Members can participate by being both receivers and givers of chesed and by joining the Chesed Committee to facilitate acts of chesed in our community.

VOICES OF CHESED

Chagit Steiner — "Being a Chesed coordinator has proven to me how much you get back when you give a little, what a caring and loving community CDT is, and how much kindness can make a difference during a difficult time, not to mention the great people I've gotten to know through quarterly meetings."

Eileen F. Morrison — "Being a member of the Chesed Committee is a great way to connect to other members of the Congregation you may not have had an opportunity to meet while fortifying relationships within the CDT community. There is no better feeling than delivering a nice meal to a family overwhelmed with the responsibilities to caring for a new child or an ill family member, particularly if you've been in that situation yourself. You know what a blessing it is to create an opportunity for that family to have a home-cooked dinner together and to receive the caring of the greater community."

JOIN US

The Chesed Committee gets together four times a year, usually for a great potluck dinner. We discuss our mission (to promote a caring community) and orient new committee members. We evaluate how things are

going and how we can improve the experience of chesed for both givers and receivers.

REFUAH SH'LEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to: **Barry Ingber, Ruby Cohen, Allison Hausman, Gina Fried, Lissy Medvedow, and Phyllis Kantor.**

CONDOLENCES

To **Kate deBethune**, on the death of her mother, Margaret DeBethune, may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Meryl Epstein**, on the death of her mother, Lillian Esther Epstein, may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Carol Sklar**, on the death of her uncle, Harry Bach, may his memory be for a blessing.

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT member **Alex Fried**, whose 8th yahrzeit falls on December 4. We will be remembering Alex at Shabbat morning services on December 5. May his 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>.

Community

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Carla Naumburg** on the publication of her second book, *Ready, Set, Breathe: Practicing Mindfulness With Your Children for Fewer Meltdowns and a More Peaceful Family*, available from New Harbinger Publications on December 1, 2015.

TODAH RABBAH

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

Noam Shore, Andrew & Stacie Garnett-Cook, Jeff Goldman, Alyssa Cohen, Jonathan Weisberg—*in memory of Isabelle*

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.)

Rosen, Corinne Lofchie—*in memory of Gerda Schwarz*, **Beth & Jeff Green, Louise Enoch, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Beth Brooks—*in memory of Leon Brooks*, **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**—*in memory of Mickey Schoenberg*, **Joel Reider**—*in memory of Raphael Reider*, **Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Janet Boguslaw, Jaime & Susana Wurzel, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller****

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members **Candy and David Gould**.

Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, December 19

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

Home of Helaine and John Carroll

Woman in Gold (2015)

Six decades after World War II, Jewish octogenarian Maria Altmann begins a quest to reclaim the artwork confiscated from her family by the Nazis — including a famed Gustav Klimt masterpiece. —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 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, ie. 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.

JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

GERMAN-JEWISH GENEALOGY

Karen Franklin, Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

December 13 @ 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Temple Emanuel

385 Ward Street

Newton Centre MA

Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members. Refreshments will be served. More information at jgsgb.org

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 the schedule and to register, please visit <https://www.synagoguecouncil.org/>.

LIMMUD BOSTON

Sunday, December 6

by **Steffi Aronson Karp**

The sixth annual volunteer-driven LimmudBoston celebration of all things Jewish will be held all day on Sunday, December 6 at Congregation 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.

CDT Calendar

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>		1 Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet, Hay/Vav (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 1326 Washing-ton St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm	2 Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Jewish Approaches to Peace and War with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Prof. Larry Rosenwald 60 Highland St. West Newton: Room 111 7:30pm to 9:00pm	3 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am Tikkun Olam Committee Meet-ing 60 Highland St.-Living Room 7:30pm	4	5 Chanting and Meditation Service 60 Highland St.: Sanctuary, Kitchen, Rm 212 (?) 9:45am to 12:00pm
	6 “CDT Exploring the Bible” CDT members’ homes 3:30pm	7 Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet, Hay/Vav (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 1326 Washing-ton St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm	8 CDT Executive Board Meeting meets in Exec. Board members’ homes 7:30pm	9 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	10 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck 60 Highland Street: Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary 6:00pm	11 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Rita Hackett 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary, kitchen, Fel-lowship Hall, Rooms 109, 110, 111 9:45am to 12:00pm
	12					
	13 Parenting Your Tween Through a Jewish Lens JCDS, 57 Stanley Av-enue, Watertown 10:45am to 11:15am Chanukah Party FUSN: Parish Hall, down-stairs kitchen, Alliance Rm, Head Start Rm, Children’s Chapel, 2 classrooms 4:30pm to 7:30pm	14 “CDT Exploring the Bible” CDT members’ homes 3:30pm	15 Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet, Hay/Vav (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 1326 Washing-ton St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm	16 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am Ritual Committee Meeting Home of Matilda & Ed Bruckner 7:30pm to 9:00pm	17	18 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 60 Highland St.: Sanctuary, Kitchen, FH, Rms 109, 110, 111 9:45am to 12:00pm Tot Shabbat 60 Highland St., Room 111 10:45am to 12:00pm
	19					
20 Religious School Classes for Nitzanim-Zayin (Pre-school-Gr. 7) Meets @ Jewish Commu-nity Day School (JCDS), 57 Stanley Ave., Water-town, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm	21 “CDT Exploring the Bible” CDT members’ homes 3:30pm	22	23	24 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	25	26 Shabbat Morning Service & Spe-cial Guest! 60 Highland St.: Sanctuary, Kitchen, FH, Rms 109, 110, 111 9:45am to 12:00pm
27	28 “CDT Exploring the Bible” CDT members’ homes 3:30pm	29	30	31 Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	Jan 1	2 Shabbat Morning Service 60 Highland St.: Sanctuary, Kitchen, FH, Rms 109, 110, 111 9:45am to 12:00pm

Kiddish Assignments

Dec 5 Shabbat: Jeff Kichen — *In memory of Abraham Kichen and in honor of Emmet Kichen* / Jo Radner / Sue Lanser / Barry Ingber

Dec 11 Erev Shabbat: Thea Breite — *in memory of Kayla Moser*/Rob Greenly/Debbie Isenberg/Karen Arnold

Dec 12 Shabbat: Sanctuary Cleanup: Linda Hsu/Marc Steinberg
Ushers: Tania Mireles/Bill Shorr/Amalia Mireles-Shorr

Dec 13 Chanukah Party:

Setup: Polly Crozier — *in memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*/Emily Sper/Jacqui Bloomberg/Valerie Graf/Doron Gan/Emily Shumsky/Howard Kaufman/Jackie Slivko
Cleanup: Diana Fisher Gomberg/Richard Fisher Gomberg/Bonnie Tenneriello/Joe

Bayes/Lynda Goldberg/Phyllis Glazerman/ Abby Cohen/Barbara Pittel

Dec 19 Shabbat: Jackie Slivko — *in honor of her 65th birthday*/Paul Hattis/ Lisa Samelson/Bryn Austin — *in memory of John Austin*

Dec 26 Shabbat: Liz Reisberg/Shirley Milgrom — *in memory of her parents Louis & Esther Milgrom*/Vivienne & Norman Shein

Jan 2 Shabbat: Matilda & Edward Bruckner — *in memory of our parents*/Eva Sartori

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 and 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.

Nediv Lev

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Howard Kaufman—*In memory of my father Bernie Kaufman and my mother Elissa Kaufman*

Kate deBethune—*In memory of André Jacques deBethune*

Steffi and Eric Karp

Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman—*In honor of Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb for giving us something their kids outgrew*

Ora Grodsky and Jonathan Rosenthal
Cheryl and Jeff Sacks—*In memory of Ora Gladstone's father*

Marion Ross—*In memory of Leslie David Levenson*

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

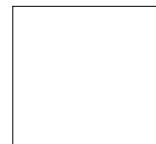
BUILDING FUND

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



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 13, 4:30-7 pm ...see page 5 for details!

