



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tevet/Shevat 5776 January 2016

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

Exodus, Once Again

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



THIS YEAR, the secular month of January coincides with the beginning of our reading of the book of Exodus/*Shemot* in the weekly Torah cycle. It is this book that launches the “master narrative” of Judaism: the mythic story of liberation from slavery and the creation of a free, covenantal community. I am thinking about the Exodus as I reflect on our current historical moment, and what feels like a lot of challenging news from all around the globe—news of violence, intolerance and hate, environmental degradation, growing poverty and desperation. While there is of course good news as well—not least the recent historic new climate change accord achieved in Paris—it is easy to feel like the general human trend these days is decidedly downwards.

Reading the Torah gives me a long-view perspective. The Exodus narrative is a masterful account of the complexities of achieving freedom and human fulfillment. It is a story about the slow, complicated development of all the players in that process—Moses, the Israelite people, even the Source of Life Itself, represented by the letters Yud-Hay-Vav-Hay, that unpronounceable divine Name. All are complex, all are in a process of becoming, all reflect aspects of ourselves and our contemporary world.

Moses is a reluctant leader whose first response to the oppression he sees—an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave—is a

there is no way to get from here to there except by joining together and marching

thoughtless act of violence. Many years later, a contented shepherd, he receives his calling to return to Egypt and free the enslaved



Michael Gonzales, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Sebastian, and Ethan (hiding) were among the CDTers joining together and marching for Climate Justice on December 12. Photo by Sue Weil.

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Israelites. Moses argues mightily that he is not the one for the job—not your typical hero! Yet eventually he goes, and spends the rest of the Torah trying to figure out how to lead a recalcitrant

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people and how to deal with a Godly Power of Liberation that gets impatient at the slow pace of human transformation. Along the way, he makes mistakes, gets angry and frustrated and lashes out—while also teaching, resolving disputes, encouraging the community, developing an intimate relationship with God, and finally schlepping the people to their destination 40 years later.

The Israelites are even more complex—faithful and grateful one moment, complaining and rebellious the next. They resist being freed and refuse going into the promised land, yet also embrace the challenge of entering into covenantal relationship with the Ultimate and with one another. They represent the realities of trying to move beyond our limitations and past experiences, and embody the very real challenges in transforming ourselves both personally and politically.

The Torah presents God in a similar vein—as complex and in process, a cosmic counterpart to the humans in the story. YHVH is the Power of Liberation that is impatient with those who resist being freed; the Power of Justice that demands more than human beings can deliver; and the Power of Compassion that sticks with Moses and the Israelites despite their many flaws and failures. The God of the Torah is not the Unmoved Mover of Aristotle or the Perfect Being of later philosophy; It is rather an unpredictable and often inscrutable Force that is as complex as the quantum reality described by modern physics. Yet, the Torah maintains, It is also Something that asks us to come into relationship with the Godliness in the universe and in one another. Indeed, in this narrative, it is only in relationship with one another that can we make a home for the Divine in this world.

So however much today's headlines might lead me to despair, the Torah lets me know that we've been here before. Violence, intolerance and greed have been with us since the dawn of human history, and can be found in our most ancient texts. Yet also in those texts are some of the antidotes to those tendencies, and the promise that we can do better. We have teachings for transforming our economics, for overcoming our violent tendencies, for learning to live as neighbors with those who are like us and those are "strangers" to us. Ultimately, I learn this lesson, so eloquently put by Michael Walzer in his wonderful book, *Exodus and Revolution* (and found in the back of our Shabbat prayerbook):

"So pharaonic oppression, deliverance, Sinai, and Canaan are still with us, powerful memories shaping our perceptions of the political world. The 'door of hope' is still open; things are not what they might be—even when what they might be isn't totally different from what they are. We still believe, or many of us do, what the Exodus first taught... :

- first, that wherever you live, it is probably Egypt;
- second, that there is a better place, a world more attractive, a promised land;
- and third, that 'the way to the land is through the wilderness.' There is no way to get from here to there except by joining together and marching."

I look forward to entering again into our reading of Exodus, exploring its meanings with you each Shabbat, and in our diverse ways seeking together that better, more whole, more peaceful promised land.

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

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Administrative Assistant: Shaena Grossman

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Space: Noam Shore

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

Rabbinic Liaison Committee

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

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 16, 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. Got Shabbat choices this month include:

**Drumming and Jewish Prayer* with guest teacher Vera Broekhuysen: Bring the the words and melodies of traditional blessings and prayers into conversation with drumbbeats, and explore how hearing and/or playing a beat changes the experience of chanting a b'rakha!

Gentle Yoga* with **Esther Kohn: Come honor Dr. King’s work and vision with yoga that combines mindfulness, building strength and flexibility, and opening our hearts.

Tot Shabbat*: Tot Shabbat is also happening during Got Shabbat, as part of the morning’s program (10:15-11:15am). Families with kids aged 0-5 can join **Tal Shalom-Kobi for music and a celebration of freedom!

In the main sanctuary, after a brief morning service, 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.

Upcoming *Got Shabbat?* dates: March 19, May 21.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Fridays, January 8, February 5, March 4
6:00 pm, candle lighting and 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 6:00 pm, 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!

TOT SHABBAT

January 16, February 20, March 19,
10:45-noon

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

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, January 23, February 13, March 12,
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 necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

SAVE THE DATE: MORE CDT EREV SHABBAT POTLUCKS ON JANUARY 29

Our next round of CDT Erev Shabbat community dinners will be happening Friday, January 29. Sign-ups will open Wednesday, January 13 in the Members section of the CDT website: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members>. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new people, eat delicious food, and celebrate our community! All members are welcome. Questions? Call **Melanie Adler** at 617-527-9319.

SHABBAT SHIRA

Friday, January 22
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.

Got too much Shabbat for one page. Continued on page 5.

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in The Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held weekly, starting at 9:45 am. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 112. For the comfort and health of our members and guests, we ask everyone attending our services to avoid wearing fragrances (perfume, cologne, hair and body sprays).

Community

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Steffi & Eric Karp** and the entire Karp family on the wedding of Joshua Karp and Kiki Johnson Karp last month!

TODAH RABBAH

Todah rabbah to everyone who helped with *kiddush*/holiday programs in November and December:

Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Elaine Landes & David Felson, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn, Sarah Birkeland, Marjorie Salvodan & Mark Schaefer—*in memory of Luce Attignol, Laurie Goldman, Jeff Kichen*—*in memory of Abraham Kichen & in honor of Emmet Kichen, Jo Radner & Sue Lanser, Barry Ingber, Thea Breite*—*in memory of Kayla Moser, Rob Greenly, Debbie Isenberg, Karen Arnold, Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg, Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr, Polly Crozier*—*in memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier, Emily Sper, Jacqui Bloomberg, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan, Emily Shumsky, Janet Boguslaw, Diana & Richard Gomberg, Bonnie Tenneriello, Joe Bayes & Lynda Goldberg, Phyllis Glazerman, Abby Cohen and Barbara Pittel.*

A big todah rabbah to everyone who helped out with our November “Got Shabbat?” program: **James Kaplan, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, Tal Shalom-Kobi** and to **Laurie Goldman and Cindy Rivka Marshall** for the wonderful Torah reading!

A huge todah rabbah to all those who helped plan and run the wonderful Chanukah party: **Vivienne & Norman Schein, Mark Schafer & Marjorie Salvodon, Carla Naumburg, Miranda Phillips, Tal Shalom-Kobi, Terry Traub, Sharon Sevransky, Spencer Goldman** and our fabulous Latke Crew: **Pam Rosenstein, Janice Cole, Jackie Slivko, Stacey Chacker and Kevin Hsu-Weinstein.** And thank you to **Shahar Colt** for pulling it all together!

MEMBERSHIP

We are excited to welcome new members **Rebecca Byard** and **Daniel Reeves** to CDT.

Rebecca and Daniel live in Watertown and have a 2-year-old daughter named **Liora**. They found out about CDT through their friend **Elana Rome** (thanks, Elana!) and were drawn to CDT because they like the services, the community seems friendly and authentic, and they would like Liora to learn about Jewish culture.

Both Rebecca and Daniel grew up attending Reform temples and went to religious school into their teens. Rebecca is currently a kindergarten teacher and has also taught in Jewish schools (pre-K - 2nd grade). Daniel enjoys brewing beer, and Liora is really into the color yellow. As a family, they enjoy the outdoors, eating great food, and spending time with friends. They are looking forward to getting to know more people at CDT, especially families with young kids.

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.)

Jewish Community Events

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF JEWISHGEN.ORG WITH MEREDITH HOFFMAN

Sunday, January 10, 1:30-3:30 pm

Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward St, Newton

Many people use one or two features of JewishGen.org and are not aware of the variety of additional resources and how best to use them. Meredith Hoffman will survey a selection of these valuable and often overlooked resources with abundant real-life examples. Meredith Hoffman is a professional genealogist and popular lecturer who specializes in researching Jewish immigrant ancestors. Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

KISSING COUSINS? DO YOUR ANCESTORS' MARRIAGE PATTERNS COMPLICATE YOUR FAMILY TREE? WITH ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

Sunday, January 31, 1:30-3:30 pm

Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel, 561 Ward St, Newton

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Boston presents Israel Pickholtz, a genealogist with a special interest in endogamy, the practice of marrying “within the tribe.” Pickholtz will describe how he dealt with endogamy in his own family and identify general lessons for DNA research. Pickholtz is a member of the Israel Genealogical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists. The program is free for members. Non members \$5.

Shabbat (continued)

BAR MITZVAH OF SIMON SCHWARTZ

Saturday, January 23

Please join us as our son, **Simon Reece Schwartz**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Simon is in seventh grade at Brown Middle School in Newton. He enjoys solving puzzles and Rubik's cubes, playing Magic the Gathering, computers and programming, and animals of all sorts. Simon also runs cross-country and track for Brown. For his Tikkun Olam project, Simon is volunteering at a cat shelter where he cleans, helps out with chores, and plays with and helps socialize the cats. We hope you'll join us for the service and festive kiddush lunch. —*Jordan and Abby Schwartz*

BAR MITZVAH OF MAX GREENBERG

Saturday, January 30

Please join us as our son, **Maximilian Henry Greenberg**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Max is in seventh grade at Bigelow Middle School. Max enjoys rock climbing, biking, reading and traveling. For his Tikkun Olam project, Max is volunteering at the Second Chance Cat Shelter in Boston, MA. We hope you'll join us for the service and festive kiddush lunch. —*David and Jennifer Greenberg*

Events



TU BISHVAT SEDER

Sunday evening, January 24, 7:30pm
FUSN, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

The holiday of Tu Bishvat, the "new year of the trees," is a time to celebrate the natural world and the diversity and abundance of the earth's resources. The holiday took on new meanings among the mystics of Sefat in the 16th century, who inaugurated a Tu Bishvat seder focusing on the cosmic "tree of life," represented by eating fruits with special intentions and teachings. Adults and teens are invited to our own Tu Bishvat seder as we explore mystical meanings, environmental connections, and more!

For a potluck nosh, you are invited to bring something that includes any one (or more!) of the Biblical "seven species" of the land of Israel that are also associated with this holiday: figs, dates, olives, barley, wheat, pomegranates, and grapes.

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH CDT!

July 7-16, 2016

Rabbi Toba is leading our second congregational trip to Israel (including a visit to the West Bank) this summer, July 7-16, 2016. There will be an informational meeting this month for all who are interested in the trip. For more information about the trip, please visit our website, <http://dorsheitzedek.org/israel-trip-2016>, and watch for an announcement with the date of the meeting!

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, January 16

6:00 pm, potluck; 7:00 pm, movie, followed by group discussion
Home of Linda Schiller and Steve Robins

Yom Yom (2001, 105 mins., Hebrew with English subtitles).

In the second installment of Israeli director Amos Gitai's "City Trilogy" series, he dissects the turmoil of a man whose divided ancestry tests his loyalties. With a Jewish mother and an Arab father, Moshe feels fundamentally rootless. But when a friend turned real estate developer swoops in to buy a prized piece of family land, it stirs emotions Moshe never knew he had. —*Netflix*

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.

Tikkun Olam

CDT Speaks Truth To Power!

RECENT TIKKUN OLAM EVENTS IN WORDS AND PICTURES

A large contingent of CDT Members attended the Jobs, Justice and Climate Action Rally (also called the Rally to Defend New England's Future) on Saturday, December 12, 2015 in Boston. The rally united organized labor, immigrant rights, racial justice and climate justice groups.

Photos by Sue Weil



Over 450 books - a large trunk full - were collected by CDT members and delivered to the Prison Book Program (PBP) in Quincy, MA, on December 12. A volunteer session is being planned for CDT members for an evening in the spring; volunteers will read letters written by prisoners requesting books, locate an appropriate book in the PBP collection, and package up the book.

Photo by Barbara Shatkin



Chesed

Ask the Chesed Coordinators...

Q : DEAR CHESED Coordinators,
I want to provide a meal for someone who is sick but I'm not a big cook, what should I do?

A : NO WORRIES. You don't have to cook to provide a meal. Bringing prepared foods from a market or restaurant is fine. We are lucky to have many options from soup to quiches to salads to other prepared foods. You can also provide part of a meal or help deliver a meal.

Acts of Chesed also include errands such as:

- Picking up medication from a pharmacy
- Shopping for groceries
- Picking up or returning library books
- Driving to a medical appointment.
- Walking a dog or other pet care.
- Transporting kids to or from school, daycare, after school activities.

CHESED (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value. The Chesed Committee is dedicated to creating a caring community coordinating volunteers who provide a meal or other acts of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event such as a new baby, illness or death in the family.

We post Chesed tasks online on the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar.

Sign up for LHH at: <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

Forgot your LHH password? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/GetPsWrdLHH>.

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.

Watch your email inbox in January for a survey about chesed at CDT. Please fill it out so we can learn from you!

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.

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

The Chesed coordinators for January are **Ellie Goldberg** and **Chagit Steiner**. Contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

REFUAH SH'LEYMAH

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

Yahrzeit

This month, we remember CDT Member **Marty Bresnick** whose 15th yahrzeit falls on January 27. We will be remembering Marty at the *Shabbat Shira* service on January 22.

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.



Photo by Ellie Goldberg

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Debbie Waber—*in memory of Helen Waber*

Amy Mazur—*in memory of Rhoda Himmel Mazur*

Steffi and Eric Karp

Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steve Siegel—*in memory of Chuck St. John*

Sandra Sedacca and Sherwood Ives

Hilary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner—*Thanks to everyone who helped make Noah's Bar Mitzvah so special including Rabbi Toba, Marla Lichtman, volunteers and community*

Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato—*in honor of Gina Fried, exceptional educator*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

SCHOOL FUND

RETREAT FUND

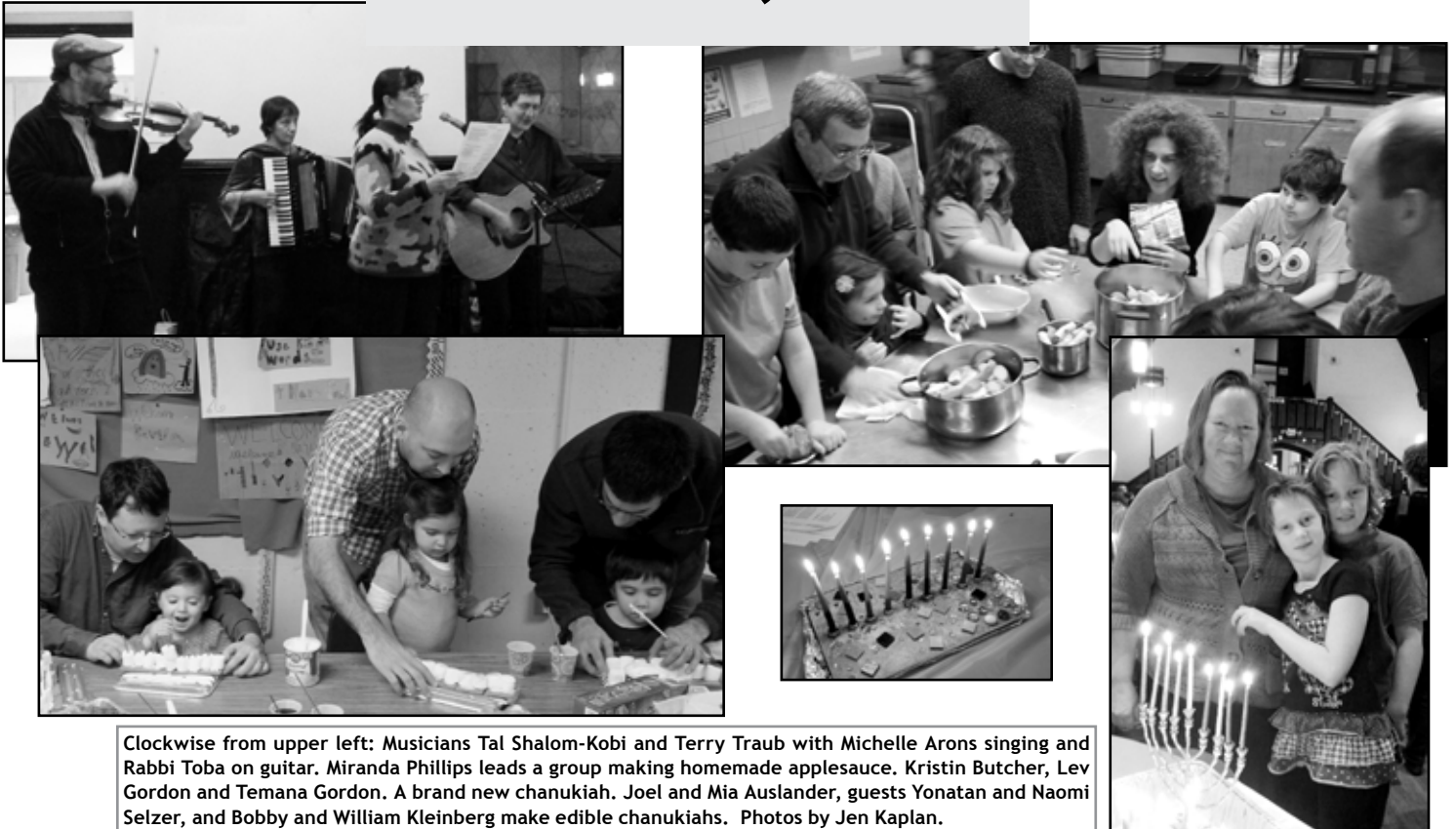
HOLY BOOKS FUND

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.

Chanukah, 5776



Clockwise from upper left: Musicians Tal Shalom-Kobi and Terry Traub with Michelle Arons singing and Rabbi Toba on guitar. Miranda Phillips leads a group making homemade applesauce. Kristin Butcher, Lev Gordon and Temana Gordon. A brand new chanukiah. Joel and Mia Auslander, guests Yonatan and Naomi Selzer, and Bobby and William Kleinberg make edible chanukiah. Photos by Jen Kaplan.

Learning

Religious School Notes

By Shahar Colt, Director of Congregational Learning

As the fall progresses and we begin to develop rhythms in the school, I'm pleased to say that another favorite part of my job has emerged: working with our school's teachers. Alison and I have had our work cut out for us in terms of supporting our staff. Many of our teachers are new to the Dorshei Religious School this year, and the returning teachers are working in different grades—so there's a whole lot of “new-ness.” Sometimes I have felt overwhelmed by all that new-ness, feeling behind the curve of planning, rather than ahead of it.

For example, in the ideal world—and frequently in the real world—our teachers would have a clear and full lesson plan submitted a few days in advance, so questions or concerns about the lesson can be addressed in time for the class. But once it happened that a teacher asked me for help finding a story to teach about a certain theme—at the last minute. Without the time to discuss with the teacher exactly what she was hoping to do with the story, I photocopied a text that might work from a book in the education office, and brought it for her at Sunday school.

Now, that book used small print and old language, including generally difficult words and syntax, as well as male God language. If I were teaching it, I probably would have re-typed the story so that it would be easier to read for the students at this grade level, and so that the gendered God language didn't distract from the story. I handed the story to the teacher with some trepidation. This was feeling “behind the curve,” rather than ahead of it.

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.

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 CEC@dorsheitzedek.org or reach out to any of us individually: Erica Streit-Kaplan (Chair), Andy Stefano, Audra Karp, Becca Gutman, Emily Shumsky & Tania Mireles.

After class I was reminded that this new-ness is an asset to our school as well, if we're able to let it be. Teaching involves a careful balance of preparation of purposeful lessons and improvisation to meet the needs and interests of the real, live students in the class. Sometimes when we are more carefully planned, we can miss the value of other directions that a class conversation can take. The teacher had read the story aloud to the students, and not only did the class explore the themes of the story as the teacher had hoped, they also had a full and fruitful conversation about the “old” language and the gender of God.

As the fall has progressed, I have kept this story in mind as a guide. Planning to teach a class is a lot of work, and there is always more work that could be done. If, in my meetings with teachers, I can start by focusing on what has been planned, noticed, and accomplished, rather than what could or should have been, I come away from these meetings feeling downright amazed. Our teachers are passionate about their subjects, observant of their students, and resourceful in bringing the two together.

When, in supervisory meetings, they are given the space to reflect on what they've done and where they want to go next with their classes, the seeds for growth are planted on at least three levels: the teachers grow in their self-knowledge as teachers, the students will grow from the experience of working with such teachers, and I grow in my understanding of what this school is and can be. It's a privilege to participate in this process. And I hope you all get to meet and appreciate our teachers sometime this year!

... Sometimes when we are more carefully planned, we can miss the value of other directions that a class conversation can take.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

with Dr. Sanford Goldfless

*Meets weekly September through May at participants' homes.
\$15 per session (fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)*

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the 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.

CDT Calendar

January 2016

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
						Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 2-4pm Participants' homes CDT Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm EB Members' homes	Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6pm	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am-12pm CDT Board Meeting 4-6pm Living Room		Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 2-4pm Participants' homes	Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library		Martin Luther King "Got Shabbat" Morning Service 9:45am-12pm Jobs not Jails Task Force Mtg 1:00-2:30pm Living Room CDT Film Club Potluck at 6pm Movie/Discussion at 7pm Participants' homes
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 2-4pm Participants' homes	Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	Erev Shabbat Shira Service 7:30-9pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Simon Schwartz 9:45am-12pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Religious School Classes for Nitzanim-Zayin (Pre-K - Gr.7) JCDS 9:30am-12pm Tu Bishvat Program 7:00-9:30pm FUSN			Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 2-4pm Participants' homes	Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	Erev Shabbat Community Potluck 7pm	Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Max Greenberg 9:45am-12pm
31	February 1	2	3	4	5	6
Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am-12pm		Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 2-4pm Participants' homes	Mindful Mornings 8:30-9:15am Library	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6pm	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm Men's Shabbaton 4-9pm Living Room, Rm 111, Kitchen

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

JAN 2 Shabbat Morning Service: Matilda & Edward Bruckner—*in memory of our parents*

JAN 8 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Liz Reisberg / Karen Wasserman / Willa Kuh / Sharon Sevransky

JAN 9 Shabbat Morning Service: Linette Liebling—*in memory of Zelda & Joel Liebling* / Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx / Jonathan Rosenthal

JAN 16 MLK/"Got Shabbat?" Morning Service: Karen & Reinhard Engels / Tom Brown / Barry Ingber / Rick Glassman & Alice Markowitz / Ora Gladstone

JAN 22 Erev Shabbat Shira Service: Elaine Bresnick / Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola

JAN 23 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Simon Schwartz: Sanctuary Cleanup: Susan Bernstein / Alyssa Cohen; Ushers: Sara Coen Dash & Ben Dash

JAN 24 Tu B'shvat Program: Janelle Winston / Esther Kohn / Sheree Galpert

JAN 30 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of **Max Greenberg**: Sanctuary Cleanup: Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman; Ushers: Stephanie, Nem, & Rita Hackett

FEB 5 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Allison Andrews / Noah Rumpf / Ilana Mainelli

FEB 6 Shabbat Morning Service: Sue Lanser—*in memory of my parents, Mildred & Dave Sniader* / Jo Radner / Lauren Gibbs / Janice Cole

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.



Photo by Vivienne Shein.

Enjoying the newsletter and want to contribute?

The Newsletter Committee seeks a new designer or editor. Experience not required - we'll train you! Learn a great new skill.

Contact Danny at dannyshain@gmail.com if interested.

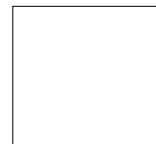


Phoebe Cushman and Sam, Joel, and Mia Auslander (l-r) make edible chanukiah's at the CDT Chanukah Party. Photo by Jen Kaplan.

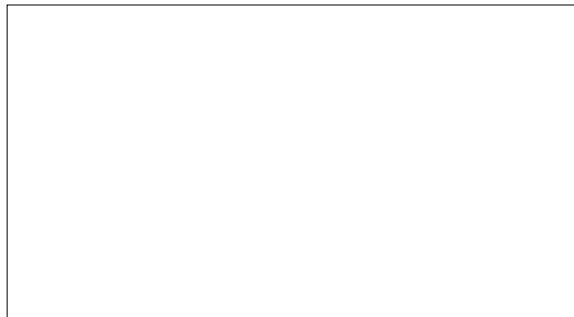


Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



Tu Bishvat Seder

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24, 7:30PM

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS



Photos of 2013 Tu Bishvat Seder by Vivienne Shein.