



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Tevet/Sh'vat 5777 January 2017

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THIS PAST

August I received a phone call from the new principal at my daughter's school. She was calling to introduce herself, to tell me how happy she was to be working at JCDS and getting to know people. I asked, "Are you calling everyone?" She said, "Yes."

That got me thinking. Maybe I could do something similar at Dorshei Tzedek. I would call everyone and wish them a "*Shana Tova*"—a good and sweet year. A few advisers (names are not mentioned to protect the innocent) said, "Are you crazy?" I replied that perhaps I was, but I wanted to give it a shot. And I did it!—Admittedly not quite within the time frame I had initially hoped, but I made 200 phone calls, one to each household of a Dorshei Tzedek member.

The reactions were wonderful in their diversity. Some people were waiting for me to ask them to do something, while others were waiting for me to get to the "real" reason I called. Several were stunned that I just wanted to wish them a happy new year. In the instances in which I left messages, some sent me "thank you emails" or wished the same to me, and some thanked me in person at shul or at a CDT program or event. Most were very appreciative of my call. A few asked if I would be doing this again!

Sometimes I don't always persevere the way I ought to with projects (or the way we encourage our daughter to), but in this case I was unwilling to stop until I finished the task. It was important to me to bond with people—to see how college kids were doing, to learn about members' families, to wish people well whom I

may not have had the opportunity to see or chat with at high holyday services. I felt connected in a larger way to the entire community.

We have talked a lot about *kehilah*, (community), one of CDT's core values, over the past couple of years. Ultimately, the calls, and the

ensuing conversations were an important expression of this value.

We need community now more than ever with what is happening in our country. We have read about the increase in

by Jen Kaplan, President

Resolving to Keep Community Spirit Strong

GBIO's "Out of Many, One" Event at the ISBCC, attended by 70 CDTers (see page 5). Photo by Cindy Shulak-Rome.



hate crimes and racial and homophobic slurs. Many of us fear what may happen to our rights and those of our neighbors, colleagues, and those of us we don't even know. Many of us are working with groups and organizations to fight for the rights of those most at risk. *Kol ha kavod* to each of you.

That spirit and passion for *tikkun olam* is one of the most significant ways in which our congregation ("seekers of justice") really shines and makes such a difference in the lives of our larger community.

However, others are not yet ready to fight. I have recently spoken to several people who are really down. Let us keep each other close—in thought, in deed, in outreach. Maybe a phone call or an offer to go out for coffee or tea or a walk might be helpful.

continued on next page

INSIDE:

- 3 Shabbat & Holydays
- 4 Chesed
- 5 Tikkun Olam
- 6 Learning
- 8 Community
- 9 Inclusion Task Force
- 9 Nediv Lev
- 10 Calendar
- 11 Events

We don't know the future and cannot predict what will happen in these next several months. But we can offer a hand to hold, arms to hug, a listening ear, and even just a smile. These are some of the gifts we can give to each other in 2017.

PLANS FOR 2017

This year the CDT board and congregation will be delving into four major areas of exploration for short term and long term planning:

1. Diversity and inclusion, with three areas of focus: special needs inclusion, economic diversity, and racial diversity.
2. Growth in Membership
3. Space
4. Infrastructure & Community Engagement

The board met on October 30 and December 18 to discuss questions related to these areas:

- How can we take proactive steps to becoming a racially diverse, anti-racist community, a congregation that is supportive of and attractive to Jews of color and multi-racial Jewish families?
- How do we become more accessible for people of varying abilities and become a truly welcoming community?
- Given that we are an economically diverse community, what opportunities and challenges does this provide?
- What does ideal growth look like for us (result)?
- What are the ways in which our current space is and is not working for us?
- How can we continue to build on our vision of *Kehillah*, (commitment to community)?
- What are the structural ways we can track members' interests and connect people to plug in?

The topic for the November 2016 members meeting revolved around

inclusion related to special needs and economic diversity. For the inclusion component, congregants heard what is being done in the school and in the shul overall to become more sensitive to the needs of others, and we brainstormed together what it might mean to be even more welcoming for all who come through our doors. In the realm of economic diversity, we learned that—based on data from our dues collection—our community is fairly evenly spread across the income spectrum. We heard anecdotal evidence about some of the assumptions and tensions that arise out of people's varying locations on the income scale and began to think together about what it might mean to address those concerns.

We will be continuing to look at ways in which we can raise awareness of assumptions we make about people who are different than ourselves, celebrate helpful practices that we already engage in as a community, and create a shared vocabulary.

WE NEED YOU to join us in our efforts to help build our community. There are exciting opportunities to explore these issues. Connecting with others on matters of importance is one of the ways we can continue to strengthen our *kehillah* (community), and incorporate the values of *Chesed* (acts of loving kindness), *B'tzelem elohim* (inclusion and human dignity) and *Kavannah* (sacred intention)

Some of what we'll be doing is to review data we have (results from the survey we completed last year), research how other congregations and organizations have addressed these issues, and bring in members whose experiences, interests and voices will add to making each of the subgroups stronger.

If you have interest in working on any of these issues, please contact **Jen Kaplan**, jenkap12@gmail.com (Soon please!).

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

Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Lidia Prunte

Inclusion Coordinator: Alison Lobron

Executive Committee

President: Jen Kaplan

First Vice President: Lissy Medvedow

VP Finance: Cliff Cohen

VP Membership: Melanie Adler

VP Education: Lisa Schneier

VP Leadership: Ellen Hemley

Secretary: Doron Gan

Board Members-at-Large

Barry Ehrlich, Nancy Gertz, Jen Levine-Fried,

Ruth Paris, Susan Silberberg

Off-Board Chairs

Chesed: Lisa Hirsh and Judy Hersh

Children's Education: Andy Stefano

Communications: TBA

Nediv Lev: Mark Paley

Newsletter: John Holohan

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Space: Ezra Hausman

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Melanie Adler and Allison Hausman

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.

Usually the deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address.

Volunteer Staff: John Holohan (chair),

Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barry Ingber,

Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer),

Michael Singer, Amy Westebbe.

Shabbat and Holidays

Got Shabbat?

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY SHABBAT

Saturday, January 14, 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 at 9:45am with songs and blessings, highlighting the music of the Civil Rights Movement. At 10:15am, adults and kids are invited to choose from a panoply of activities until we gather again to read Torah and close the morning together. Workshops at this Got Shabbat include:

**Tot Shabbat* for families with kids aged 2-5—Shabbat songs and activities on a freedom theme!

**Beats of Freedom* with Shira Moss—We'll use rhythm and voice to express the connection of tikkun olam to the central values of freedom and justice brought into focus by the Civil Rights movement. Percussion instruments will be provided, but if you have one you like to play, bring it!

**All-ages Yoga* with Alix Zamansky—This child- (and adult!) friendly yoga workshop will explore yoga's ethical guidelines of "*ahimsa*" (non-violence).

Special arts workshop* with **Tessa Goldsmith!

And in the main sanctuary, after a brief morning service, we will welcome **Rev. Mariama White-Hammond**, a pastor at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Boston, climate justice activist, former executive director of Project HIP-HOP, and all-around inspiring activist and preacher.



TUBISHVAT DINNER & SHABBAT SHIRA KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday evening, February 10

6:45pm Candle-lighting and Tubishvat dinner

8:00pm Musical Kabbalat Shabbat



This year, *Tubishvat*, the "new year of the trees," and *Shabbat Shira*, the "Shabbat of Song," fall on the same Shabbat. We will combine our celebration with a catered dairy dinner (vegetarian & fish, featuring the seven species associated with the Biblical land of Israel) and a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Toba and CDT musicians!



If you would like to attend the dinner, pre-registration is required; registration is now open on the CDT website, and will close on January 17. Go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/signups> and click on "Tubishvat dinner."

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Fridays, January 6, February 3, March 3

6:00 pm, candle lighting and potluck dinner;

6:45 pm, service

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We 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; drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45 pm, and we'll end with an Oneg Shabbat at 7:30 pm.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, January 7, February 11

8:45-9:40 am, Library

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

CONTEMPLATIVE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

February 4, 9:45am-noon

All are welcome for this service combining chant, guided and silent meditation, and Torah study. No previous meditation experience necessary. Enter into the peace of Shabbat with this opportunity for song and silence. If possible, please arrive no later than 10:00 am for the service, so as not to disrupt the meditation. Torah study begins at 11:15 am.

TOT SHABBAT

February 11, 10:45am-noon

Families with kids aged 0-5 are invited to this monthly Shabbat morning program, led by CDT members, educators & musicians **Tal Shalom-Kobi** and **Susan Moser**. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts, and more! And invite a friend!!

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).

Chesed

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community.

The January Chesed Coordinators are **Judy Hersh** and **Lisa Hirsh**. Contact them at chesed@dorsheitzedek.org.

We post chesed tasks online on the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) calendar. We encourage emails or phone calls between the volunteers and recipient families to confirm arrangements.

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.

Inspiration and the Chesed Spirit

By Ellie Goldberg

This month's Chesed article offers four inspiring quotes from Rabbi Harold S. Kushner* and one from Aesop.

The purpose in life is not to win. The purpose in life is to grow and to share. (Kushner)

Caring about others, running the risk of feeling, and leaving an impact on others, brings happiness. (Kushner)

Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are. (Kushner)

The happiest people I know are people who don't even think about being happy. They just think about being good neighbors, good people. And then happiness sort of sneaks in the back window while they are busy doing good. (Kushner)

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. (Aesop)

* Harold Samuel Kushner is Rabbi Laureate of Temple Israel of Natick and the author of many books, including "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" (1978) and "When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough: The Search for a Life That Matters" (1986).

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.

REFUAH SH'LEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Dan Karp**, **Ruby Weinberg**, and **Jaime Wurzel**.

CONDOLENCES

To **Alyssa Cohen**, and to **Ari** and **Noah**, on the death of Alyssa's grandmother, Sara Cohen, may her memory be for a blessing.

YAHARZEIT

This month, we remember CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, whose 16th yahrzeit falls on January 26. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services, January 28.



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.

Tikkun Olam

NEXT TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 7:30 pm
Living Room of Second Church

All are welcome to the upcoming Tikkun Olam meeting on January 12 at 7:30 pm as we launch a new initiative in conjunction with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). Come learn about GBIO's current criminal justice reform initiatives, including ending harsh mandatory minimum sentences; ending cash bail that keeps low-income people in jail awaiting trial for minor offenses; ending the torture of solitary confinement; and eliminating criminal justice fees that unfairly burden released prisoners.

As part of our congregation's commitment to supporting the work of GBIO, the meeting will include an introduction to these initiatives and provide details about the opportunity to support this work at the GBIO gathering on February 2. There will also be reflections from those members who have been involved in Criminal Justice work at CDT including the Prison Book Project.

Finally, we will celebrate the successful campaign for Community Preservation Act funding in Boston, and marshal forces to make sure this money is used for public housing. This is a wonderful opportunity for those new to our work with GBIO as well as those already familiar with it.

Save the Date: February 2 when we join with GBIO members to begin our Criminal Justice Reform efforts as a unified force.

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM BOOK DONATION PROJECT

by Barbara Shatkin

In November, the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTf) undertook a book donation project with the Prison Book Program (PBP), a non-profit organization in Quincy, MA, that responds to prisoners' letters requesting particular books of interest to them. As the PBP is sometimes unable to provide books that closely match prisoners' requests, this project was developed to provide books to the PBP that are responsive to a set of unusual book requests. Twenty-five CDT members (and one religious school alum) participated in the project, with half choosing to read a prisoner's letter and order books for that person herself, and the other half choosing to make a financial donation to fund the ordering of requested books by CJTF members Denise Yurkofsky and Alan Epstein. Denise and I received the books and I delivered them to the PBP in late November. Over 60 books purchased through this project were sent to about 30 prisoners, reflecting a wide range of subjects: crafts, chess, learning an instrument, gardening and foraging, financial investing, law, business, health, and language dictionaries.

The PBP was extremely appreciative to have received these books and is interested in replicating this project with other groups. As a wonderful, unintended consequence of this project, a project participant made an invaluable connection between the PBP and a publishing company that has remainder books on craft and building topics.

CDT WELL-REPRESENTED AT GBIO EVENT: "OUT OF MANY, ONE: AN INTERFAITH CALL FOR DIGNITY AND DILIGENCE"

by Ora Gladstone

With 70 members (including some friends of members and a minyan or so of CDT "kids") our congregation could be seen in all corners of the ISBCC (Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center) the evening of 12/11 - site of GBIO's (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's) "Out of Many, One: An interfaith call for Dignity and Diligence". Speakers included Senator Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Martin Walsh, members of the clergy and others.

In addition to being remarkable for its leadership and effectiveness in bringing about progressive change in MA, including Massachusetts Health Care Reform and many other campaigns, GBIO stands out for excellence in the planning and execution of their meetings and events. Having expected, a week before the event, 500 people to attend, it was remarkable to how seamlessly GBIO and the ISBCC managed the 2600 who showed up with everyone seated in time to begin. The evening progressed through a long and well choreographed agenda, including personal stories of four voters talking about their fears and hopes, many Rabbis, Imams, and Christian clergy, including our own centrally involved Rabbi Toba. The content focused on making sure we are vigilant as the new administration takes shape and when it takes office, with Senator Warren's trope - "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us, and we will fight back against discrimination whenever and wherever it occurs."

CDT FOLKS CELEBRATE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT VICTORY



(Standing, l-r) Amy Mazur, Esther Kohn, Lisa Hirsh, Sandy Goodman and (sitting) Carole Slipowitz and Judy Hersh. Also attending, but not pictured, were Ora Gladstone and Lauren Gibbs.

Learning

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT LEARNING

Sunday mornings, 10:20-11:45 am
JCDS (57 Stanley St. Watertown, MA)

An exciting new component of this year’s Sunday morning program is that we are hosting a series of programs open to all adults (and teens too!) in the community. These programs were initiated by parent interest and are led by members of the CDT community. Here’s a list:

- **The Music of Israel: 1917-1947**—March 5 with **Hayim Kobi**
- **Mindful Parenting**—April 2 with **Carla Naumberg**
- **Adoption in the Jewish community**—Please note that this workshop has been rescheduled for May. Date TBD

TELLING OUR STORIES: A SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, January 25, February 1 & 8,
March 15, 22 & 29,
7:30-9:00 pm
(Dorshei Tzedek Members only)

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

Because class size is limited, you must contact **Rabbi Toba** to register at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

NEW CLASS WITH RABBI SHAHAR: HEBREW READING ADVENTURE: 4 WEEKS!

Tuesday evenings, January 31, February 7, 14, & 28
7:30-9:00 pm
Location TBD

This class will provide a thorough introduction to Hebrew reading and text skills. Whether you’ve never studied the letters before or it’s been a while, this will be a fun and interactive way to jump in, become familiar with Hebrew letters, and start to feel more comfortable looking at texts in Hebrew. Hebrew books will be provided. Please RSVP to **Rabbi Shahar** (dcl@dorsheitzedek.org) so we can provide enough books.

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, helping us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, clarity and compassion. Each month, **Karen Arnold** leads a meditation on the first Thursday based on a teaching from the weekly Torah portion, and **Rabbi Toba** leads a meditation on the second Thursday. Experienced CDT members offer teachings and instructions the other weeks. All are welcome, whatever your level of experience (or lack thereof). No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you’re able. For more information, please contact mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org.

TALMUD, CHAMETZ, AND RESPONSIBILITY CLASS WRAPS UP

by Shahar Colt

Teaching Talmud to adults in November and December has been an exciting experience! This was my first time teaching a multi-session adult class at Dorshei. As I planned the Talmud, Chametz and Responsibility class, I knew that I had to center both the content themes (ethical responsibility! chametz!) as well as inviting students into the process of Talmud Study. I kept asking myself: How and why should Dorshei Tzedek adults get access to Talmud learning? Over the course of teaching this mini course, along with tracking dimensions of responsibility as revealed by the concerns in the text about how to keep the prohibition of chametz on passover, we tracked observations and questions about the experience of Talmud learning, while unpacking the question, “What is Talmud?” What are the components of the study process and tools for accessing it? There was lots of energy in the room as students came to the material with fresh eyes and authentic questions. I look forward to more opportunities to explore rabbinic texts with Dorshei Tzedek adults in the future (and I will be offering another introduction to Talmud class for those continuing and for new students--please see below for details). If you didn’t get to this class, but would be interested in Talmud study—or any other area of Jewish learning!—please be in touch with me (dcl@dorsheitzedek.org).

INTRO TO TALMUD: SPRING SESSION

with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Tuesday evenings, March 7, 14, 21, 28, & April 4
7:30-9:00 pm

This fall’s class on “Chametz and Responsibility in the Talmud” was so fun, we have to keep going! In this class we will continue to explore the question of what the Talmud is. What did the rabbis think they were doing? What value can we find in encountering these stories and conversations? Whether or not you took the fall course, all are welcome. No previous Talmud experience necessary. Please RSVP to **Rabbi Shahar** (dcl@dorsheitzedek.org) so she can anticipate materials.

Religious School Notes

by Rabbi Shahar Colt,
Director of Congregational Learning

In the next few months, we will highlight some of the learning happening in various classes in the religious school. This month focuses on our first and second grade classes:

Our first grade class, *kita alef*, is led by Morah Liora (Morah means teacher). Morah Liora, a senior at Brandeis University, is in her first year teaching at CDT. Kita alefs’ main theme is *brachot* (blessings). They spend one or two classes on each bracha, exploring the concept of how Jews pause, and show gratitude for a wide range of life’s moments. In December, the students have been focused on brachot related to food. To reinforce the blessing for certain fruits that grow on trees (*pri ha’etz*), the students “built” trees out of pieces of fruit and toothpicks so they could recite the blessing over the whole thing.

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 [Andy Stefano](mailto:AndyStefano), Chair of the CEC, at CEC@dorsheitzedek.org.

Our second grade class, *kita bet*, is led by Morah Ali. Morah Ali is in her second year of teaching at CDT and in her second year teaching her students as well! The curriculum focuses on Jewish values: exploring various mitzvot and how to be a mensch. During the month of December, the class focused on the Jewish value of *kibud zekanim*, honoring elders. They are exploring two aspects of this value: learning from the stories and memories of elders and taking care of elders in the community. As they explore these themes, they have read stories, considered their own experiences of getting older, met with a CDT member of the Wise Aging group, and will be travelling to Hebrew Senior Life to do fun activities with residents there.

TYPE-SETTING: MAKING A SPECIAL IMPRINT

by Mark Schafer

On Sunday, December 4, six adults from CDT and Carmel Schafer, age 7, joined Rabbi Shahar at the Arbalest Press in Charlestown for an evening of designing and printing our own Chanukah cards. The workshop was led by Ted Ollier and Michael Grossman, two of the press’s owner-educators, and featured CDT’s own rare wooden Hebrew printing press type, discovered in the CDT office by Rabbi Shahar. Given the size of the type, it was probably used in the early part of the 20th century to print posters in Yiddish.

After a brief intro to the history of printing, we began designing, setting the type (upside down, left to right!), and selecting a purplish blue and muted gold for our inks. Ted showed us how to ink the two mid-century, hand-cranked printing presses. Michael’s knowledge of Hebrew came in very handy.

By the end of the 2 ½-hour workshop, we were holding gorgeous hand-set cards and broadsides in both Hebrew and English, ranging from a radical feminist version of the blessing over the

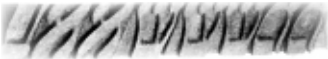


Carmel Schafer (left) and Laya Steinberg (right) show off their work. All photos by Shahar Colt.



Shabbat candles to a Chanukah card featuring a picture of a dreidel hand carved by Rabbi Shahar. We all left thrilled by the

experience, hungry for more, and honored at the chance both to use the ancient and marvelous technology of letterpress printing and to bring back to life CDT’s gorgeous, old wooden Hebrew letter type set.



The entire group. Front: Mark & Carmel Schafer. 2nd row (l-r): Danielle Klainberg, Michael and Ted (press masters), Laya Steinberg, Darya Mattes, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Josette Akresh-Gonzales.



Community

MAZEL TOV

To **Linda** and **Peter Katz**, on the birth of their newest granddaughter, Maya Lina Perwien, born on October 31!

TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to these CDT members for helping with *kiddush* in December: **Ami Gordon, Elizabeth Roll, Jan Gortler-Small, Noam Shore, Debby & John Saltzman, Laura & Joel Katz, Jeff Kichen**—*in memory of Alma & Abraham Kichen*, **Beth & Jeff Green, Jeff Goldman, Roy Edelstein, Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Marjorie Salvodon & Mark**

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.)

Schafer, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Elizabeth (Lisa) Samelson & Paul Hattis, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Lauren Gibbs, and Janice Cole.

NEW MEMBERS

We give a hearty CDT welcome to new members **Ellen Lubell** and **David Nathan!** Thanks to **Lissy Medvedow** for the referral.

IMPORTANT STAFF UPDATE

On December 1, we said goodbye to **Shaena Grossman**, and thanked her for her work in the CDT office over the past 18 months. **Lidia Prunte**, who has been working in our school office with **Rabbi Shahar Colt** since September, has expanded her hours to take on the administrative assistant role at the 60 Highland Street CDT office as well, working with Administrative Director **Marla Lichtman**.

Given the two administrative hats (*kippot*) that Lidia is now wearing, there are two ways to be in contact with her: her main email address is **officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org** but for specific school business, please email **schoolassistant@dorsheitzedek.org**. If you are not sure which type of business it is, don't worry—use either! We welcome Lidia to her full-time role at Dorshei Tzedek and are thrilled to have her on board. You may find her in the 60 Highland Street office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as well as working with the school on Fridays and at JCDS on Sunday mornings.

JOIN CDT FACES NOW!

CDT Faces is CDT's online photo gallery—the place to go to match names with faces, and to finally figure out who that person is who you see everywhere.



If you haven't already done so, please upload your photo to CDT Faces now! It's super easy—any size photo will do. Just go to the Members section of the CDT website, click on CDT Faces, and follow the instructions. You can also contact **Dan Halbert** (**halbert@halwitz.org**) for tech support, or just send him your photo and he'll be happy to upload it for you.

Thanks for your participation! The more people who join, the more useful the resource and the more fun the search.

GESHER INITIATIVE

by **Valerie Graf and Melanie Adler**

As many of you know, earlier this year the CDT Welcoming Committee launched our Geshher Initiative, a buddy program designed to build bridges (*gesherim*) between new member households and the broader CDT community. Geshherim are CDT members who can be point people to answer questions, alert their buddy household to upcoming events, attend a CDT event together, and generally just show new member households the CDT “ropes.” So far, we have paired up twelve new member households with a geshher household.

We would love more volunteers to add to our wonderful pool of geshherim. The time commitment is very small, but the potential for helping a new household feel acclimated and connected to the CDT community is significant!

Interested in becoming a geshher household? Please send Valerie (**valgraf2011@gmail.com**) or Melanie (**MAdler@edc.org**) an email accompanied by a list of the CDT interests and activities you regularly participate in, so we can make the best match possible.

Inclusion Task Force

NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION TASK FORCE

by Susan Nitkin

The Inclusion Task Force made a presentation as part of the November Members' Meeting. **Alison Lobron** began by giving us a beautiful account of her journey as a parent, lifting up the themes of vulnerability and interconnectedness that are an intrinsic part of asking for help. She explained how her journey as a parent and her experience as an educator led to her role as the Inclusion Facilitator of our Religious School.

After that, attendees took turns reading aloud the four underlying principles that were written by the Inclusion Task Force to help create shared language around accessibility and inclusion:

- Inclusion goes deeper than accessibility; it means believing that all our congregants and guests, regardless of ability, should have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way, and as comfortably as possible.
- Welcoming and taking note of each other's presence is deeply important and may have a greater impact than we realize, even beyond the actual time spent at services.
- We all have differing abilities, perceptions, and sensory experiences. When we notice differences, we should refrain from making assumptions about limitations.

- The hope is that everyone, with or without disabilities, will feel not only accepted, but embraced, wanted, and needed, to whatever extent is comfortable and meaningful for each person.

After being asked, "What are our aspirations for CDT around our value of inclusivity, specifically in the context of special needs?" the community brainstormed a vision of an inclusive community. There was a robust response, falling roughly into the following categories:

- Promotion of a warm, welcoming environment
- Concern about the well-being of individuals and families
- Sensitivity to human differences
- Valuing the presence and unique contributions of each person and family
- Requests for information and educational activities to better understand how to help individuals and families with special needs feel more comfortable and part of the fabric of the community

The Inclusion Task Force thanks the community for its openness and ideas. We will use these ideas as we craft our activities during the coming year, and we always welcome more feedback and questions.

We closed this part of the meeting by talking about the paradigm of greeting, an approach to welcoming that considers the variety of obstacles that some of us face and helps us open our hearts to one another regardless of perceived ability.

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Liora Goldensher

Laurie Goldman—*in appreciation of Lisa Schneier, Alissa Leonard and Gina Fried (ז"ל) for the gift of music made possible through the gifts of the community*

Beth and Jeffrey Green—*in memory of Florence Zevin*

Jerry Jacobs

Steffi and Eric Karp

Linette Liebling—*in memory of my father, Joel Liebling*

Fran Malino—*in memory of Eugene Black*

Alice Markowitz—*in memory of Selma Lee Markowitz*

CAMP JRF FUND

Eve and Ken Shulak—*in honor of Cindy Shulak Rome and Dan Rome's birthdays*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Marion Ross and Louise Enoch—*with thanks to Beth Green, Carol Sklar and Muriel Heiberger for their participation in the Wise Aging Panel at Limmud Boston*

Lauren Sacks and Noah Hopton—*in appreciation for Rabbi Toba officiating at our wedding*

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.

CDT Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE DORSHEI TZEDEK PRAYER SPACE: 60 HIGHLAND STREET IN THE SECOND CHURCH OF NEWTON, WEST NEWTON.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Wise Aging Member's Home 7:00pm	Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Library 8:30-9:15am Understanding Racism Meeting 60 Highland St., Room 111 7-9pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45-9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm CDT Film Club: The Kindergarten Teacher Home of Helaine & John Carroll Potluck at 6pm, Movie/Discussion at 7pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 6 JCDS 9:30am-12pm		Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Library 8:30-9:15am Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting 60 Highland Street, Living Room 7:30-9:30pm		Got Shabbat MLK Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Wise Aging 60 Highland Street, Living Room 7:00pm	Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Library 8:30-9:15am		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 6 JCDS 9:30am-12pm CDT Board Meeting 60 Highland St, Living Room 4-6pm 7 th & 8 th Grade Meeting FUSN 5:30-7:30pm		Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm	Telling Our Stories 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9:00pm	Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Library 8:30-9:15am Israel-Palestine Peace Meeting 60 Highland St, Room 111 7:30-9:00pm	Erev Shabbat Community Potlucks 6pm Members' Homes	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm
29	30	31	February 1	2	3	4
Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 6 JCDS 9:30am-12pm 7 th & 8 th Grade Meeting FUSN 5:30-7:30pm	Wise Aging 60 Highland Street, Living Room 7:00pm	Religious School (Gr. 3-6) FUSN 3:45-5:45pm Hebrew Reading Adventure with Rabbi Shahar Colt 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9:00pm	Telling Our Stories 60 Highland Street, Library 7:30-9:00pm	Mindful Mornings 60 Highland Street, Library 8:30-9:15am	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6pm	Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12pm

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

JAN 6 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Denise Yurkofsky / Susan Moser—in honor of *Kayla & Izzie Moser* / Arthur Lent / Jamie Tessler—in honor of *Ted Tessler*

JAN 7 Shabbat Morning Service: Linette Liebling—in memory of *Joel & Zelda Liebling* / Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome / Ora Gladstone

JAN 14 “Got Shabbat” MLK Morning Service: Karen & Reinhard Engels / Phoebe Cushman / Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein / Noah Rumpf / Susana & Jaime Wurzel

JAN 21 Shabbat Morning Service: Becca Gutman / Doug Hersh / Abby Schwartz / Nathan Aronow

JAN 28 Shabbat Morning Service: Elaine Bresnick—in memory of *Martin Bresnick & David Adler* / Vivienne & Norman Shein / Benjamin Newman

FEB 3 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck: Andrew Garnett-Cook / Daniel Reeves / Amy Dain / Karen Leitner

FEB 4 Shabbat Morning Service: Sherry Katz & Mark Farber / Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks

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

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

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

Community Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, January 7

Potluck at 6:00 pm

Movie starts at 7:00 pm, to be followed by a group discussion.

Home of Helaine and John Carroll

The Kindergarten Teacher (2015, 1 hr 59 min, Hebrew)

When one of Nira’s kindergarten students reveals himself to be a gifted poet, she urges the 5-year-old to develop his talent. But as the young bard produces ever-more sublime verse, Nira’s relationship with him grows increasingly obsessive. —Netflix

Feel free to attend 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, 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.

UPCOMING CDT COMMUNITY POTLUCKS: SAVE THE DATES

One of CDT’s wonderful traditions are our Erev Shabbat community potluck dinners. Hosted by CDT members in their homes, these dinners offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new people, eat delicious food, and celebrate the awesomeness of our community!

Mark your calendars for the next three rounds of dinners:

- New Date for Next Potluck: January 27
Since many of us will be out of town the weekend of January 20 for the Women’s March on Washington and other events, we’re moving the next CDT Community Potluck to the following week. Sign-ups will open on January 11.
- March 17
- May 12

If you have questions or would like to host a dinner on one (or several) of these nights, contact **Melanie Adler** at madler@edc.org. And if a Saturday Havdallah potluck works better for the tots, we’re flexible!

CDT ART SHOW!

CDT member Lynda Goldberg is exhibiting oil paintings in our “gallery space” in the CDT sanctuary. All are welcome to come enjoy them on Shabbat mornings (and if you’d like to come by during the week, please notify the CDT office, 617-965-0330, so that we can make sure the sanctuary is open).

All members are welcome. Fun is guaranteed!

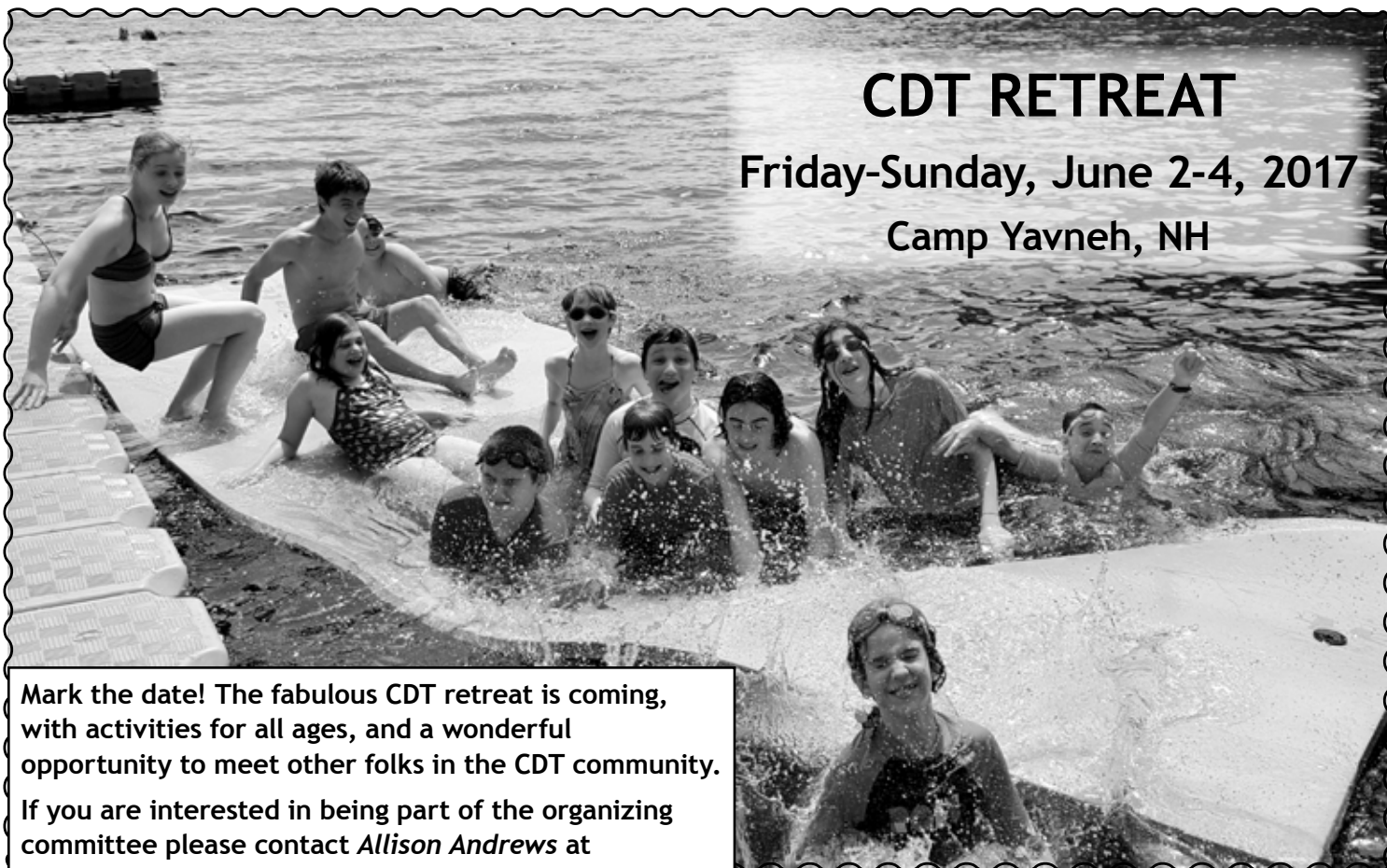


Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

SAVE THE DATE!



CDT RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4, 2017

Camp Yavneh, NH

Mark the date! The fabulous CDT retreat is coming, with activities for all ages, and a wonderful opportunity to meet other folks in the CDT community. If you are interested in being part of the organizing committee please contact *Allison Andrews* at drarandrews@gmail.com.

Photo by Liz Carver