CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465. (617) 965-0330 http://www.townonline.koz.com/visit/dorsheitzedek

Iyar-Sivan 5759 May 1999



President's Message

Greetings!

Spring is my favorite time of year. Being out-doors and seeing the rebirth of the trees and flowers is a thrill. I relish every opportunity to be out-doors and so it is with great enthusiasm that I anticipate our members' retreat. Hopefully the weather will be as cooperative as last year allowing for the range of activities available at Camp Isabella Freidman. It is a wonderful chance to get to know fellow congregants better, share in the beauty of Shabbat, climb a mountain, play softball and maybe even swim! There is still time to register. If you went last year you know how great it can be. It this is your first time, consider participating in a memorable weekend.

As our fiscal year comes to a close, Dorshei Tzedek will soon have a new slate of officers. Most notably, Cindy Shulak Rome will be stepping down from her role as President of the congregation. On June 5 we will mark this event by cele-

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Events to Remember

Second Annual DORSHEI TZEDEK MEMBERS' RETREAT at Camp Isabella Friedman May 21 - 23

This promises to be a wonderful, community-building experience and it's still not too late to register! If you would like to join us, please get your registration forms in immediately.

Celebration for CINDY SHULAK-ROME Saturday Evening, June 5th

Come and honor Cindy's many contributions to Dorshei Tzedek!

Shavuot:

A "Peak" Experience

By Rabbi Toba Spitzer

According to rabbinic tradition, every Jewish soul-past, present, and future-was present at Mt. Sinai for the receiving of the Torah. In commenting on this tradition, Rabbi Mendele of Kotzk said: "Each person should try to imagine the Sinai event." And Rabbi Elimelekh of Lyszhank said: "Not only do I remember the Sinai event, I remember who was standing next to me!" Every year, on the holiday of Shavuot, we celebrate the moment of standing at Sinai. In rabbinic Judaism, this moment is akin to the cosmic "Big Bang," the moment at which the universe of Torah begins to expand, extending from the written words of the Five Books of Moses out through all of the Jewish teachings and commentaries down through the past 3,000 years.

Shavuot comes 50 days after the celebration of Pesach, after a seven-week trek through the wilderness, through the adjustments of learning to live with freedom. Just as at the Passover seder we are each to imagine ourselves as having personally experienced the redemption from slavery, so too—according to Rabbe Mendele and Rabbi Elimelekh—are we to experience the moment of revelation. And how do we do this? By studying Torah together!

Join Dorshei Tzedek on erev Shavuot, Thursday, May 20th, for a *tikkun leil Shavuot*, a night of Torah study and discussion. Beginning at 8:00 p.m. with a brief service, we will study together a variety of Biblical, rabbinic, Hassidic, and modern texts relating to the Sinai experience and the meaning of "revelation." While tradition-

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President's Message (Continued from page 1)

brating Cindy's many accomplishments. Cindy's effort and dedication helped conceive and grow our congregation to where it is today. Her strong organizational skills linked with vision and creativity have been a galvanizing force for many of us who have worked with her to create our beloved congregation. Working with Cindy this year has been both instructive and inspiring to me.

Come celebrate and honor Cindy with music, dairy dessert, and champagne. There is a cover charge of \$18 per person and the opportunity to make a further donation to the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School. This is our first official fundraiser, and I cannot think of a better reason. The event will be held at the Unitarian Society on Saturday night June 5th. Watch the mail for your invitation and join us!

B'shalom,

Cheryl

Shavuot: A "Peak" Experience

(Continued from page 1)

ally the *tikkun* goes all night, we will continue to approximately 11:00 p.m. Feel free to come to all or part of the evening, and bring a snack to share (dairy dishes and desserts are especially associated with Shavuot). The *tikkun* will be held at the home of Matilda and Ed Bruckner in Newton Centre (call 617-244-3345 for directions, or e-mail Matilda at bruckner@bc.edu).

Adult Education At Dorshei Tzedek

All programs are free of charge, and meet at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington St., West Newton.

Shabbat Morning Study Rabbi Toba Spitzer PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

Remaining dates: May 15 and **June 5** Saturday Morning 8:45 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

During these once-a-month sessions we enter into the world of *rabbinic midrash* on the weekly Torah portion, learning how the rabbis filled in the "empty spaces" in the text and added their own imaginative interpretations. Bring your own coffee!

Death and Mourning in Jewish Tradition Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings: May 5, 12, 19, & 26, 8-9:30 p.m.

While Jews are encouraged to "choose life," Jewish tradition is rich in its response to the end of life. In this class we will explore traditional Jewish practices around death, burial, and mourning, choices made by the terminally ill, and Jewish views on the afterlife.

Volunteer Thanks!

Does anybody know how the telephone at Dorshei Tzedek is handled in the absence of full-time administrative staff? Amy Mazur and Andrew Schiff of the Membership Committee work on a daily basis to retrieve all the general messages that come in by phone. They respond to every caller who needs information about services, membership, special events, etc. They also call to welcome new members who join the congregation, and conduct our "intake discussion" with each new household. They are wonderful people who make a contribution every day, in very important ways. Thank you Andrew and Amy!

Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members!

It is our pleasure to welcome the following new members of the Dorshei Tzedek congregation:

Gail Leicher, Brian O'Connell and son Alexander O'Connell This is a musical family! Both Gail and Brian are teachers. Gail specializes in children's vocalise. Brian is also a choral director. Alexander is in sixth grade, and the family lives in Lexington.

And some information about some other members who joined within the last few months:

Karobi Sachs lives in Watertown and is interested in Jewish meditation and Kaballah study. She is a nurse by profession. Karobi has been a familiar face around Dorshei Tzedek for about a year, so while she is a new member, she is already an old friend.

Deborah (Deb) Feldheim joined the congregation in the Fall and has helped extensively with the creation of our new website. She describes herself as a "tech weenie" and she is currently looking for a new job in the tech weenie field. Raised Reconstructionist, she recently moved to the area and resides in Somerville.

Karen Wasserman and Betsy Hinden are planning to move in together and they're looking for a 2-bedroom apartment to rent in Jamica Plain, Newton, Watertown or Natick. If you know of any possibilities, let them know! Karen is a social worker who lived in Israel in 1980 and feels a strong connection to her Jewish heritage. Betsy is a psychologist with a special interest in political action as it relates to Israel. Karen and Betsy live in Somerville.

To all of you, we look forward to sharing worship, study, friendship, and celebration with you. Welcome!

New Member Orientation

A new member orientation is scheduled for May 13, 8:00pm at the home of Willa and Tom Kuh. If you joined anytime after September 1, 1998, you should have received an invitation to attend. At this meeting we will go over membership services, responsibilities, opportunities, and general procedures. It is important that one member (at least) from each household attend. For further info and to RSVP, please call Nancy Gertz, 781-444-2478 or e-mail ngertz@mediaone.net.

Represent Us For a Day

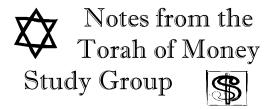
We have one volunteer who is willing to staff the Dorshei Tzedek table at the Synagogue Fair on May 23. We need more help! If you are not attending the retreat and are able to give some time, please call Nancy Gertz at 781-444-2478. It's outside, very festive, a great way to meet new people, and lots of fun to be part of the Brookline Israel Independence Day Street Fair.

Share-A-Shabbat

The Share-A-Shabbat evening was held on April 30 and approximately 25 households participated. Thank you to all the hosts who opened their homes and to the guests who joined them in the celebration of Shabbat. If anyone would like to write something up for the newsletter that is inspired by this experience, please do so! Contact Carolyn Fine-Friedman for deadline information. Special thanks to Lisa Port-White, volunteer extraordinaire, who gracefully coordinated this event on our behalf.

Updated Member Directory

Watch your mail for an updated member list. This list will replace the old one in your blue membership binder. If there are any corrections, please let Gianna know in the office. New members will be getting new binders in May.



First of all, thank you to everyone for taking the time to fill out our questionnaire. And an extra thanks to those of you who took the time and effort to share your thoughts with us. In the future, we expect that the whole congregation will engage in some study and discussion of money issues as they affect the congregation. In anticipation of that, we will use this space to share information we have gathered as well as questions with which we are grappling. We are currently looking at those values that we feel should provide the foundation for our financial policies. One question we are asking is, if we want Dorshei Tzedek to model positive Jewish values, how can our financial policies reflect such values as responsibility, fairness and compassion? What does it mean to have a dues structure that embodies a commitment to kedushah, to bringing holiness into our lives as individuals and as a community?

In an article entitled The Tent Peg Business, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner of Sudbury writes: "The way a congregation gets its money may finally be more important than how much it gets. Consider the religious impact, for instance, between congregations getting, say, half their operating budgets from (a) bingo (b) a few wealthy members (c) dues. There is a widespread misconception that because the congregation is non-profit and tax-exempt, it is therefore a charity. Actually, even though the analogy makes us uncomfortable, a congregation is (with the possible exception of offering membership to anyone with a financial hardship) precisely like a country club. And like all such clubs, you get what you pay for. . . . Serious, quality, well-run organizations, with rare exceptions, do not solicit advertisements, sell cupcakes, or run raffles in order to meet their operating budgets. They may, of course, do such things for people other

than themselves, that is, or charity."

Do you agree that a congregation is like a country club? What other types of organizations or groups might serve as a model of how we think about building a congregation, a home, a school, a labor union or community-based organization?

As always, if you have any thoughts you would like to share with us, please communicate with any member of the committee or e-mail Wendy Gedanken at Wgedanken@aol.com.

B'shalom,

Cliff Cohen, Wendy Gedanken, Clifford Goldsmith, Paul Hattis, Ilana Mainelli, Lisa Port White, Cheryl Sacks, Jeff Sacks, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbi Toba Spitzer

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Hope Kellman and Jim Fennell
In honor of Isaac Carlen's Bar Mitzvah
Jonathan and Ami Gordon
Union Church in Waban

General Fund

Hope Kellman and Jim Fennell
In honor of Grace Fennell's birth
Efrem and Ellie Goldberg
In appreciation of Cindy Shulak-Rome's years of
leadership and for her dedication to the growth of
the Dorshei Tzedek community.

Honor someone or an event with a contribution to support our community. Contributions are welcome in any amount at any time. Please make checks payable to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and mail them to 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Thank you!

Shabbat

Friday Night Shabbat Family Services Special Kitah Dalet Siyyum

Kitah Dalet, our fourth grade class, will join Rabbi Spitzer in leading the Family Shabbat Service on Friday, May 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This service will mark the completion of this year's study of tefilot and shirim (prayers and songs) from the Friday night service. Please join Kitah Dalet in welcoming Shabbat on May 14!

The next *erev* Shabbat Family Service will be on **June 11th at 6:00.**

Family Shabbat Morning Service

Join us for our final family-oriented Shabbat morning service of the year, on **May 15th**, **at 9:45 a.m.** The service will be co-led by *Kitah Hay* (the 5th grade class), and will feature a presentation by *Kitah Gimel* (the 3rd grade) highlighting their learning from the past year. This promises to be a very special service, for adults as well as kids. See you there!

Preschool Shabbat

The next meeting of our preschoolers will be held on **Saturday, May 8 from 10:30-11:15am** in the childcare room. Please bring your preschoolers for 45 minutes of Shabbat fun, songs, stories and crafts. Questions, please call Jill at 527-2456 or Tessa at 965-7323.

Youth Shabbat Program

Third to sixth graders, come and join us for a morning of games, crafts, singing, dramatics, and a short youth-led service. We'll meet from 10:30 to 12:00 at the Unitarian Church on Saturday, May 8th. Parent helpers are needed. To volunteer, please call Judy Hersh (332-2487) or Tessa Goldsmith (965-7323).

Dorshei Tzedek Shabbat Tapes Available!

Special Guest For Shabbat Morning Meditation and Creative Torah Study! June 12th at 9:45 a.m.

Dorshei Tzedek is thrilled to welcome Marthajoy Aft, a local teacher of Jewish meditation and spirituality, to our final alternative Shabbat morning service of the year. Following singing and chanting led by Rabbi Spitzer, Marthajoy will teach a traditional Hassidic meditation technique, and lead us through a creative *midrash* on the Torah portion. This is a wonderful opportunity--don't miss it! The service will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m.

As always, childcare will be available.

If you'd like to sing along with the Friday evening family service, or learn the tunes for the Shabbat morning service, we now have tapes available of Rabbi Toba Spitzer singing the songs and prayers of each service. Each tape costs \$6.00. Please send a check made out to "Dorshei Tzedek" to the office, indicate which tape(s) you would like, and include your address. The tapes will be sent to you within a week. Enjoy!

Tripling our Tzedakah Money: A Great Opportunity for Dorshei Tzedek and JRF

We have a very unique opportunity to raise up to \$1500 for Dorshei Tzedek while simultaneously supporting the Reconstructionist movement. Aaron Siegelman, General Chairman of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), has pledged to match every gift of \$100 or more to the 1999 Joint Reconstructionist Appeal with an equivalent gift to the College. We are very fortunate at Dorshei Tzedek to have two member families who have offered to anonymously match every contribution to the movement with a contribution to Dorshei Tzedek! These two challenge grants couldn't have come at a better time for our movement and for our congregation.

Here is an example of how a "double match" campaign will work. A Dorshei Tzedek member gives \$100 to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal. (Monies from the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal are divided between the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA), the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) and the RRC.) That \$100 is matched to our congregation by our member donors, and matched to the College by Aaron Ziegelman. In this way, an initial gift of \$100 by a member becomes a \$300 gift, with Dorshei Tzedek, the College and the Joint Appeal each receiving \$100.

Why Contribute to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal?

The fact is that Reconstructionism is growing faster than the organizations on which it depends for rabbinical leadership, congregational programs and services, and professional development for lay and rabbinical leaders. At 15% a year, current membership growth will soon exceed the service capacity of Reconstructionism's three central institutions-the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

(RRC) and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA).

At Dorshei Tzedek we benefit in many, many ways from the workings of these three arms of our movement. Each of the Rabbi's who have served us so wonderfully and in so many capacities were graduates of the RRC-Mordechai Liebling, Linda Potemken and of course, our own Toba Spitzer. In addition, Mordechai Liebling has served as an organizational consultant to Dorshei Tzedek since our inception, guiding us and helping us through each step of our development. Our prayer book series, the siddur and the new High Holy Day Mahzor are the result of years of creative work by leaders in the movement. Though not always visible, the Reconstructionist movement is the backbone of Dorshei Tzedek!

Our Congregation Can Help Make a Difference Reconstructionism's national organizations are working hard to raise the movement's visibility and impact, but they need our help to continue this important work. Please make your checks payable to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal and mail to: The Joint Reconstructionist Appeal, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095. Dorshei Tzedek will be notified by the central office of all contributions from this community, and they will then be matched by our own gen-If you have any questions or erous donors. need further information, please call Cindy Shulak-Rome at 965-5722 or call the college and speak to Joyce Norden or Sally Leifer at 215-576-0800, ext. 51. Please give as generously as your circumstances allow. Our movement is depending on all of us.

MAY

| Saturday 1 | 9:45 AM | , | Sachar Center | Ira Krotick |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Shabbat Services | Brandeis University | Alan Shapiro |
| Wednesday 5 | 8:00-9:30 PM | Adult Education: Death And Mourning | AR | |
| Saturday 8 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Aleph & Bet Classes | Classrooms | |
| Saturday 8 | 9:45 AM | Shabbat Services | HS | Arnold, Bruckner |
| Saturday 8 | 10:30AM - 12:00PM | Youth Shabbat Program - Grades 3-6 | Classroom | |
| Saturday 8 | 10:30 - 11:15 AM | Preschool Shabbat Program | Turtle Room | |
| Wednesday 12 | 8:00-9:30 PM | Adult Education: Death And Mourning | Classroom | |
| Thursday 13 | 8:00 | | Home of Willa and Tom Kuh | |
| Friday 14 | | Family Shabbat Service Kitah Dalet Siyyum | HS | Bermar-Donnini Enoch-Epstein Bloomberg-Gittelman |
| Saturday 15 | 8:45 AM 9:45 AM | Rabbi's Study Session Shabbat Morning Family Service | Tower Room HS | Brotman, Forman |
| Saturday 15 | 10:00 AM | Kitah Bet Class | Classroom | |
| Sunday 16 | | Volunteers needed for Sunday's Bread | Call Ira Krotick (617) 527-0671 | |
| Sunday 16** | 7:30 PM | | Home of Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein | |
| Wednesday 19 | 8:00-9:30 PM | Adult Education: Death And Mourning | AR | |
| Thursday 20 | 8:00 PM | | Home of Ed and Matilda Bruckner | |
| Friday 21 | | Shavuot | | |
| Friday21- Sunday 23 | | Annual Members' Retreat Weekend at Camp Isabella Freedman | | |
| Wednesday 26 | 8:00-9:30 PM | Adult Education: Death And Mourning | Classroom 4 | |
| *Saturday 29 | 9:45 AM | Shabbat Morning Services | HS | Gorberg-Holohan, Isaacs |

^{*}Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off
**Note date change

IUNE

| Date | Time | Program | Location | Shabbat Set Up |
|--------------|------------------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Thursday 3 | | Last day of Hebrew School Grades 3-5 | | |
| Saturday 5 | 8:45AM 9:45 AM | Rabbi's Study Session Shabbat Services | HS | Kahn, Katz-Farber |
| Saturday 5 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Aleph & Bet Classes-Final Class | Classrooms | |
| Saturday 5 | 8:00 PM | School Fundraiser honoring Cindy Shulak-Rome | Parish Hall | |
| Sunday 6 | 7:15 PM | Members Meeting | HS | |
| Friday 11 | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Family Shabbat Service | HS | Kuh, Kuhn, Landes-Felson |
| Saturday 12 | 9:45 Am | Meditation/Chanting Service With Marthajoy Aft | HS | Kronman, Kirshtein |
| *Saturday 19 | 9:45 AM | Shabbat Services | HS | Manheim-Schiff, Volk |
| Saturday 26 | 9:45 AM | Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Lichtin | Parish Hall | Waber-Leonard, Moeller |

^{*}Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off

Calendar

All events and services take place at the **Unitarian Universalist Society, 1326 Washington St., West Newton** unless otherwise noted. Most of our services are held in the Headstart room (**HS**) on the second floor. The Alliance Room (**AR**) is the first floor parlor near the kitchen. All K-1 through Grade 5 classes meet in the lower level classrooms. (**TR**) is the room adacent to the Headstart Room on the second floor.

Shabbat Setup and Clean Up

In order to share the responsibilities for routine tasks, members are assigned on a rotating basis to bring food and to help with set up and clean up of the Kiddush on Shabbat morning and other congregational events. If you are unable to attend on your assigned date please find a substitute and alert Alan Shapiro. All families assigned should be present for both set up and clean up since there is lots to do including schlepping heavy boxes of books and tables. Detailed instructions are in member packets. Please call Alan Shapiro for an updated version and for any other questions @244-2499.

Rabbi's Hours

Although she does not have regular office hours, Rabbi Spitzer is available to talk about any spiritual, religious or personal issues that are on your mind. Please feel free to call her at (617) 924-6242 to make an appointment.

^{*}Childcare is available for Shabbat morning services in the Turtle room.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to **Abby Cohen**, **Stuart Snyder** and daughter **Isabel** on the birth of their new daughter and sister **Celia**!

Mazel Tov as well to **Janet Boguslaw** who successfully defended her dissertation and is now an official Ph.D!

At Shabbat morning services on May 8th, we will be officially welcoming **Grace Anna**, daughter of **Hope Kellman** and **Jim Fennell**, into the Jewish community, and giving her her Hebrew name. Join us for this special simcha!

Yasher Koach and mazel tov to Alex Kay and her family on Alex's becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

TODAH RABAH

The Mitzvah Committee thanks **Amy Mazur**, **Cheryl Sacks**, **Lissy Medvedow**, and **Karen Arnold** for making and delivering a meal to the Cohen and Snyder family.

The Mitzvah Committee thanks **Ora Gladstone** for her delicious soup for the Gordon family.



Mitzvah Committee Needs You!

Like to cook? The Mitzvah Committee is looking to put together a list of people who can be called upon to help make an occasional meal. Please call Dinah Moeller at (617)924-6745 for more information.

Build with Us! Habitat for Humanity Day is on Sunday, June 13th

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 Dorshei Tzedek is participating in Habitat for Humanity Boston's ongoing campaign of Building Hope by Building Homes. The people who did this in '97 had a great time, and we hope even more people will get involved this time.

Come and help Build a House on Sunday, June 13, from noon to 6:00 p.m. We will be working at one of three housing sites in Dorchester. We are hoping to send at least 20 volunteers for a day of fresh air, exercise, and *tikkun olam*. If you want to join us, please contact Ilana Mainelli at 923-0789 or imainelli@mediaone.net, for more details. You can also choose to sponsor our volunteer builders by sending a contribution to Dorshei Tzedek, earmarked for Habitat for Humanity.

For more information about Habitat Boston, check out their web site at habitatboston.org.

Check out Dorshei Tzedek's New Web Site!

http://www.townonline.koz.com/visit/ dorsheitzedek



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 02465

Tikkun Leil Shavout Shavout Torah Study

Thursday, May 20th 8:00-11:00 P.M. Home of Matilda and Ed Bruckner (See **Shavuot: A "Peak" Experience**, page 2 for details)

SUNDAY'S BREAD

Shalom Chaverim- We are responsible for providing volunteers for Sunday's Bread for the following dates: May 16, and May 30. If you are available for any of these dates call Ira Krotick at (617) 527-0671 or send in a Sunday's Bread post card.

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 21, 1999

Adult Education Committee Says Thanks!

We had a great response to the call for helpers for the Adult Education Committee. We are now in good shape. There are still other committees that need support, so consult your directory for names of committee chairs, or call Nancy Gertz, @ 781-444-2478 and get involved!

EDUCATION DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The search for a half-time Education Director for the religious school is in full swing and we thank our committee members, Toba Spitzer, Carole Slipowitz, Jacqui Bloomberg, Tim Rosa, Ezra Hausman and Lesley Chapman for their thoughtfulness and dedication to this important process. Our committee has written a job description, brainstormed about contacts for advertising the position and is trying to spread the word. We have formulated a list of characteristics we feel are important for the candidate to demonstrate and we are in the process of interviewing a few applicants. We welcome your input at any time in the process and when we have narrowed the field we will invite you to meet the candidates. In the interim please feel free to call any of us with questions or concerns and if you have any ideas about contacts or interested candidates please let us know. Tessa Goldsmith and Jill Volk, Co-Chairs

by Louise Enoch. The function of the committee is to support the rabbi's success by making sure that constructive communication exists between the rabbi and the congregation. If you would like to share any positive feedback or confidential concerns that would be helpful for the rabbi to know about, please contact Louise (617) 926-0836. All such matters will be handled in a responsible manner.

RABBINIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

egational committee structure we have a Rabbinic Liaison Committee, chaired