

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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The Fourth Cup

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

My friend and colleague, Rabbi Avi Winokur, recently shared with me a teaching of his, in which he noted: "We drink four cups of wine at the Pesach Seder for each of the four expressions of liberation/redemption found in Exodus 6:



6-7: *I am the Eternal. I will **free** you from the burdens of the Egyptians and **deliver** you from their bondage. I will **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. And I will **take you** to be My people and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, the Eternal, am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians.*

The Biblical and rabbinic notions of freedom differ significantly from the American notion of freedom. The American idea of freedom stops after three cups. That is, it is much more concerned with freedom 'from.' The American freedom is identified primarily with individual autonomy, rights, choice and conscience. The rabbinic inclusion of the fourth cup indicates our tradition's emphasis on the freedom 'to.' That is, what matters is what we do with our freedom, not simply the fact of our freedom."

Rabbi Winokur's words are with me in these days between Passover—the holiday of redemption—and the holiday of *Shavuot*, when we celebrate the receiving of Torah. In our rabbinic ancestors' understanding, our true freedom was achieved not at the moment of leaving Egypt, but at the moment of entering into covenant with the Source of Life at Sinai. This was achieved via the acceptance of Torah, a kind of blueprint for manifesting the divine in the realm of human relations. Only then was "freedom to" realized.

In contrast to those aspects of American culture that emphasize the primacy of the individual, Judaism argues for the centrality of caring for others, and for the

(Continued on page 2)

Presidents' Message

Linette Liebling and Cheryl Sacks

In the last newsletter we wrote about the importance of developing leadership at Dorshei Tzedek. Current and past leadership met with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling from the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation on March 7. The meeting was extremely enlightening to many of those in attendance, and we would like to share with you some of the lessons we learned.

Dorshei Tzedek has been following a pattern of growth which is typical of new congregations. Until recently, Dorshei Tzedek has been in what is called the "patriarchal/matriarchal stage," where congregational life depends on the tenacity and never-ending energy of a few key people. In this model—which usually pertains to congregations of 50-80 households, with little professional staff—the matriarchs/patriarchs carry the vision and mission and the day-to-day responsibilities of the group. As the congregation grows, and with the hiring of a rabbi, there is a natural progression to the need for more systems, more professional time, and a greater delineation of responsibilities. This is known as the "pastoral model." In the pastoral model the role of the Board changes to become a more formal Board with the lines of authority and accountability more clearly marked. Dorshei Tzedek started the transition from the

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Special Events	3
Contributions	4
Bat Mitzvah, Shabbat Events, New Members' Mtg	5
Education News	6
Book Discussion; JRF News	7
Chemical Sensitivity; Shabbat Dinners	8
Members' Meeting	9
Calendar (removable)	9-10
Joint Reconstructionist Appeal	11

(The Fourth Cup, continued from page 1)

understanding that individual fulfillment can often best be achieved in service to the community. Jewish tradition of course prizes the value and integrity of the individual, going so far as to say that “s/he who saves one life, it is as if s/he has saved an entire world.” But the notion of “freedom to” implies that it is not enough that we simply exist, nor is it enough to imagine the individual imbued with inalienable “rights.” We are here to fulfill ourselves in the context of caring and just community, to achieve holiness, *kedushah*, through right-relation to both the Eternal and the people around us. Otherwise, we might as well still be in Egypt.

In my almost three years as the rabbi of Dorshei Tzedek, I have been continually impressed with how this congregation is very much concerned with “freedom to.” People have taken on the joys and struggles (and shlepping!) that come with membership in a participatory community in order to find a kind of freedom—freedom to learn, to find spiritual sustenance, to build lasting relationships, to make Judaism and Jewish practice their own. The community’s process of learning and discussion that has led to the creation of a new dues structure exemplifies, for me, this commitment to living Torah in a serious way. It is one thing to talk in the abstract about the value of community, but it is a true sign of commitment to live that value. Can the membership provide the financial means necessary to support the congregation in a way consistent with our principles, even when that will mean, for some, paying more money than they might at another shul? Can we trust one another to make honest decisions, and not begrudge anyone their place on the income ladder, whether high or low? Will we be able to achieve, as our Israelite ancestors did, that mix of mandated responsibility and heart-felt generosity that led to the building of the *mishkan*, the dwelling-place for God’s Presence?

These are some of the questions that confront Dorshei Tzedek at this time, and I believe the community will further grow and deepen as we find the answers. It continues to be a privilege to be your rabbi, and I look forward to these next steps on our communal journey to Sinai and beyond!

Rabbi Spitzer does not have regular office hours, but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. Please call her directly to make an appointment, at 617-924-6242.

(President’s Message, continued from page 1)

matriarchal model to the pastoral model with the hiring of our Rabbi, and with our increase to over 100 member households. We are still clearly in the transition phase, and Mordechai was very helpful in pointing out areas to work on and giving us some basic guidelines.

One of the most striking comments made during this meeting was that either a congregation grows or it dies. There is no such thing as staying in one place. The concept of closing off membership, for any reason, has serious consequences for a congregation. It is, however, important to understand how and why you are growing and how to manage the growth. For example, Mordechai said that the school is the biggest engine for growth. We need to deal with the ramifications of the school growing and the impact that it will have on the infrastructure of the congregation.

As the congregation grows, the need for professional staff grows as does the need for volunteers. When a stronger support structure is in place, the volunteer jobs become less overwhelming, and therefore more enticing, which avoids major volunteer burn out. According to Mordechai, with the current level of programming at Dorshei Tzedek, we need more resources, both financial and volunteer.

Mordechai also made clear that Dorshei Tzedek is a strong community that is moving in all the right directions. Transitional times can be anxiety producing, but the anxiety can be used to foster growth (both personally and organizationally). It is important that we continue to share a common vision and a mission of who our congregation is and where we are going. As part of this process the Growth Committee is working hard and will be making a presentation at the Members’ Meeting on May 7. We hope to see many of you at this spring Members’ Meeting.

And while we are on the subject of community... The retreat is coming up on June 9 through 11. For those of you who have participated in the past, you know what a wonderful experience this is. It is an opportunity to really get to know the community and to share in a wide range of activities, from *davening* in beautiful space together to hiking, swimming, softball and dancing. All ages enjoy this weekend in the Berkshires. If you have not yet participated in a retreat, please consider joining us this year! It is not too late to sign up, don’t miss the chance! We will be taking next year off, so your next chance to do this won’t be until 2002.

Next Newsletter Deadline: June 1, 2000!

Yom Hashoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance

Monday, May 1, at 8:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society

Join us for a program to honor the memory of those who died in the Holocaust, and to reflect on the impact of the *Shoa* on our lives as Jews today.

Yom Hashoah: Communal Observance, Sunday, April 30, 1:00 pm at Fanueil Hall (with a procession to the N.E. Holocaust Memorial at 2:00 pm).

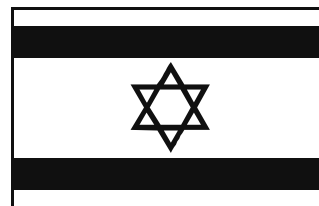
Yom Ha'atzma'ut

Israel Independence Day

SPECIAL GUEST!

Wednesday, May 10, at 8:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society

We are thrilled to welcome Mark Seal, the Treasurer of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, to Dorshei Tzedek for an exciting program in honor of the founding of the State of Israel. Mark will share with us his impressions and observations from a recent trip to Israel and will discuss both the Middle East peace process and ongoing issues around religious pluralism. Don't miss this important opportunity to hear more about what the Reconstructionist movement is doing in Israel and how we can be involved in helping to support peace! In addition to his work for JRF, Mark is the treasurer of Americans for Peace Now, the U.S. arm of the largest Israeli peace organization.



Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 pm at the home of Matilda and Ed Bruckner



On the holiday of *Shavuot* we celebrate receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai in an appropriate way—with Torah study! Please join us at 7:30 pm for a brief service and some noshing, and then beginning at 8:30 we will study of a variety of Jewish texts, from ancient times to the present. (It's traditional to study all night, but we'll go until about 11:00 pm.) If there is something you would like to teach, please call Rabbi Spitzer at 617-924-6242.

Please bring a dessert/after-dinner nosh to share – dairy items especially, or fruit or dessert. Call the Bruckners at 617-244-3345, or e-mail Matilda at bruckner@bc.edu for directions.

Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Stephanie and Ira Krotick

Janice Fine and David Donnelly

Cathy Scheiner and Philip Lippel

Barbara and Milton Kolodkin

Rachel Crystal and Frank Ehrenthal

In Memory of Ruth Fischlowitz-Marget

Robert and Carol Hausman

In honor of Ezra's graduation from the leyning class

The Sacks Family

*In memory of Betty Abromson
who was the most wonderful friend to us*

Tessa and Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's 50th birthday

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

The Sacks Family

*Thank you to Toba for the support and guidance
she provided to our family around Betty's death*

The Karp Family

In honor of Toba's help with Dan's bar mitzvah

Holy Books Fund

Lenore Marx

In honor of Judy Herzig Marx's special birthday

The Sacks Family

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's 50th birthday

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

Mazel Tov to the Karp Family

on the occasion of Dan's Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Elizabeth Holohan on her 10th Birthday

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!

Mazel Tov

To the **Karp** family, on Dan's bar mitzvah—*yasher koach!*

To **Rob and Tati Freundlich**, on the birth and *brit milah* of their son, Ryan.

To **Cindy Marshall, Kathy Pillsbury, and Jeremy**, on the arrival of their new daughter/sister, **Mikayla**.

To the **Leicher-O'Connell** family, on the occasion of **Tira's** *brit bat*/covenant ceremony.

To **Elizabeth Holohan** on her 10th birthday.

Thank You

A heartfelt thanks to **Elizabeth Miller, Leann Simons, Carolyn Fine Friedman, and Amy Berman** on the Mitzvah Committee who cooked, coordinated and delivered a Shabbat meal to our family one week after our daughter arrived. We greatly appreciated the help and the kindness.
—*Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury*

Condolences

Our condolences go to Rand Hutcheson, on the death of his mother.

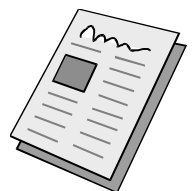
Our condolences also go to Karobi Sachs, on the death of her step-father.

Our Newsletter Needs You

Are you a writer or an editor?

Are you interested in desktop publishing?

*Do you want to know the scoop
before everyone else?*



If you answered "yes" to any of these questions consider joining the editors of the Dorshei Tzedek Newsletter to help us convert our bi-monthly publication into a monthly. We are looking for people to help collect and edit articles and to help with computer layout. The goal is to get enough people so it's not too much work for anyone. Please give us a call or an email if you have any interest or would just like to talk about what you could do. It's a great way to learn about our community and we are a really nice group to get to know! Call Allison Hausman at 617-796-9811 or email us at dtnews@egroups.com.



Maida Ives Bat Mitzvah



We're so grateful to the Dorshei Tzedek community for "taking us in" when we moved here two years ago. Our daughter, Maida, an 8th grader at Brown Middle School, has immersed herself in her new hometown, playing goalie for the Newton Cougars soccer team, pursuing private Hebrew and Torah study with the wonderful Elaine Pollack, and babysitting for family and friends. Her *Tzedakah* projects include volunteering with children at The Second Step, a transitional program for survivors of domestic violence, and participating in the Million Moms March for gun control in Washington, D.C. Please join us at the Unitarian-Universalist Society for Maida's bat mitzvah service and Kiddush on Saturday morning, May 27.

—Sandy Sedacca and Sherwood Ives

Shabbat Programs

Erev Shabbat Family Services. On the first Friday of each month, from **6:00 – 7:00 pm**, we welcome the Shabbat with a musical, all ages-friendly Shabbat service. Upcoming dates are **May 5 and June 2**.

Shabbat Morning Study. On the first Saturday of each month, from **8:45 – 9:40 am**, Rabbi Spitzer leads morning study prior to services. Remaining dates are **May 6 and June 3**. This year we are studying the commentaries of the *Sefat Emet*, a late 19th century Hasidic master, on the weekly Torah portion. The *Sefat Emet* brings a unique perspective to bear on the Biblical texts, and offers a great introduction to Hasidic thought. All study is done in translation; no knowledge of Hebrew necessary. Bring your own coffee and enjoy this early morning prelude to the service! (no fee)

Our **Pre-School/Kindergarten Shabbat program**, for our youngest members and their parents will meet again on **May 6**. We'll have stories, songs and a craft. This is a parent-led program, and is a perfect opportunity to meet other families with young children. Come to the babysitting room from **10:30 to 11:15 am**.

Celebrate Shabbat with students from the Religious School:

- On **Friday evening, May 5, at 6:00 pm**, Kitah Dalet (4th grade) will lead the family service.
- On **Saturday, May 6**, Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) will be sharing the fruits of their learning with us at their Siyyum (summation) presentation during the Shabbat morning service.
- On **Saturday, May 20**, Kitah Hay (5th grade) will lead parts of the morning service and share a *siyyum* of their learning

Please come and celebrate the learning of our community's students!

Please note that the **Kid's Kehillah** previously scheduled for **May 6** has been **cancelled**.

New Member Orientation

Come to the New Members' Orientation on **Thursday, May 25** at the Unitarian Universalist Society, **7:30-9:00 pm**, when new members will have the opportunity to speak with Rabbi Spitzer, representatives of the Membership Committee, and at least one of our Co-Presidents, to learn the ins and outs of being part of the Dorshei Tzedek community. If you've been a member for six months or less and haven't attended an orientation, we need you! Please plan to attend.

All events are held at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 1326 Washington St., West Newton, unless noted.

A Message From Our Education Director

All of our days at the Dorshei Tzedek School are busy, but this last couple of months has been filled with an exceptional number of wonderful learning activities and projects! Many of our classes worked diligently on *Tikkun Olam* Projects, doing their part at mending the world. Our little ones in *Kitah Aleph* worked on a group project with *Kitah Gimel* making vases and flowers for hospitalized children. *Kitah Bet* prepared beautiful Purim *Mishloah Manot* (gifts of food) baskets for Russian immigrants who live in nursing homes in the area. Each basket was tied with a personal note from a student. *Kitah Dalet* worked on an elaborate project where they decorated flowerpots, which were then packaged with soil and parsley seeds for Pesach. They then marketed their wares to the whole DT community, raising money to purchase canned foods for Family Table, Boston's Jewish Food Pantry.

We had a fascinating and successful field trip, which served as a great introduction to this year's Passover season. The entire upper school attended the Model Matzoh Bakery at Young Israel in Brookline. The program was quite elaborate. It included our students making their own matzoh. They started with stalks of wheat, and ended with snacks for the trip home! It was a fun time for the kids and for the parents who volunteered to drive. Thank you.

Our teachers are working quite hard at helping their students to complete this year's class work and to prepare them for success at the next grade level. Rabbi Spitzer and I are collaborating on Dorshei Tzedek's first formal curriculum document, which will illustrate the learning at each grade level and the progression from one grade to the next. We are also very excited by the prospect of having a *Kitah Zayin* (7th grade) next year!

I want to thank many folks for their help and effort. Thanks to Ira Schor, Ilene Spiro, Susan Manheim, and Barbara and Jerry Zolit, our *Kitah Aleph* and *Kitah Bet* Room-Parents for organizing and helping with the Lower School Shabbat Seders. They were wonderful events! Thank you to Barbara Shatkin for the hours she devoted and continues to devote to helping the classes with their *Tikkun Olam* projects. Thanks to our *Kitah Dalet Tikkun Olam* Parent, Geri Blitzman, for her help with *Dalet's* project. Last, but not least, thank you to Carole Slipowitz, Dan Halbert, Janet Boguslaw, Lisa Port-White, and Susan Manheim for their much needed and much appreciated efforts as we organize and grow our library. —Judith Wolfman

Kitah Vav Making An Impact

Ben Weiner, DT Sixth Grade Teacher

Those who attended the Dorshei Tzedek Hanukkah party last December will no doubt recall the enthusiastic efforts of *Kitah Vav* to raise awareness and funds for the "Afghanistan School Project" through the American Jewish World Service (www.ajws.org). By purchasing the beautiful, handmade crafts on sale, the Dorshei Tzedek community helped raise \$176 for this worthy *Tzedakah*. What you may not know is that the repercussions of this event are still ongoing, and the relationship between *Kitah Vav* and the AJWS is bearing new fruit. *Kitah Vav* enclosed a letter with the check that they sent off to the AJWS's New York Headquarters. It was the result of a lot of good thinking about what it meant to work for this particular *Tzedakah* and how this might be expressed to the recipient. Here is an excerpt of what they said:

Every year at Hanukkah, we hold a craft fair, in order to raise money for the *Tzedakah* we have chosen to support. This year, after careful research on the Internet and after a class discussion and unanimous vote, we decided to support the Afghanistan School Project. We think it is unfair that women and girls are not allowed to attend school in Afghanistan. If that were the case in America, then most of our class would have to stay home! We also admired the courage of the women and girls who teach and attend the secret schools. It reminded us of the Jews in the time of the Hanukkah story who continued to study Torah in secret, when it was forbidden by the Greeks... We are very happy to be a part of this cause, and we hope that our money helps you to continue on with the work until the problem is solved. We wish you luck, and especially send our best wishes to the Afghani women and girls who are involved in this dangerous activity and who struggle bravely against oppression every day. We hope that just like the Jews in the Hanukkah story they will soon regain their right to live freely.

The staff of the AJWS were so impressed with the letter that they highlighted it in their latest newsletter! (You can pick up a copy at Shabbat services). The class is taking their new-found fame well and hopes that their example will inspire other young people not just to act, but to consider the purpose of their actions thoughtfully.

Book Discussion

Join us for an evening of scintillating discussion on Wednesday, May 31 at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Society to discuss *Saving Remnants: Feeling Jewish in America* by Sara Bershtel and Allen Braubard,



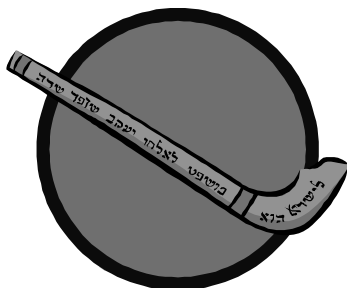
published by the University of California Press. To quote Irving Howe in his comments on the book, "*Saving Remnants* provides a series of honest and clear-minded portraits of American Jews trying to confront what it means to be Jewish. The sentiments, doubts, testaments, confessions, and confusions that appear in this book seem to me faithful to the reality of our life today."

This fascinating book will provide an excellent focal point for a discussion of our own roots and journeys as American Jews of differing backgrounds and perspectives. *Saving Remnants* is available from New England Mobile Book Fair, and can also be ordered from Kolbo (allow 2 weeks for delivery).

At the conclusion of the meeting we will choose a date and a book for the next discussion. If you're interested but can't make the first meeting, please contact Carole Slipowitz (617-964-6572, cwithany@aol.com) or Susannah Zisk (617-332-0977, szisk@concentric.net).

High Holidays? Awesome!

That's right! Plans for Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's 5761 High Holidays will be getting under way soon. We are looking for members to join our committee to help ensure another successful High Holiday season. If you are interested in having a voice and helping to participate, please call John Holohan at 617-244-4773 by May 12.



JRF News

JRF on the Web

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation has its own website (of course!) Go to <http://www.jrf.org> to find information on Reconstructionism, the services JRF provides, Reconstructionist *divrei torah*, news and resources from the JRF education department, Reconstructionist Press publications, and much other information.



Jewish Reconstructionist Radio

Available for listening at www.jrf.org is *Heart, Mind and Spirit*, the first regularly scheduled Reconstructionist radio show in the 65-year history of the movement. The program is produced at radio station WNWR in the Philadelphia area and aired weekly. Over 70 half-hour shows have been produced, and now they can be heard in live-streaming audio format using your web browser. Hosted in interactive dialogue form by Rabbi Shawn Zevit, JRF Director of Outreach and Community Development, each program presents informative and entertaining programming that explores contemporary Jewish issues from a Reconstructionist perspective.

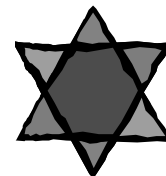


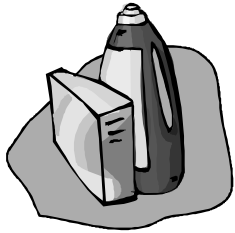
JRF Publications

Due to popular demand, the new Haggadah from The Reconstructionist Press, *A Night of Questions*, has sold out its entire press run. A second printing is currently underway. All JRF members who place their order for the second edition by June 1 will receive them at last year's prices. Call 1-877-JRF-PUBS for more information. Also, JRF diaries will be available this summer, and New Year's cards will also be available for this year's *Yamim Nora'im*. Look for order forms on the website.

JRF Convention

JRF's biennial convention, "Growing in Spirit, Growing in Community," will be held this year on November 2-5 in Philadelphia. Convention brochures will be sent out in September. Check the JRF website for details this summer.





Attention! Be Sensitive to Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

The Board requests that members do their best to refrain from the use of the products described below prior to coming to Saturday morning services. Your cooperation, while invisible to others, makes our congregation more accessible to people with this disability. It's a mitzvah too, so you get points!!! We can all use them!

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) is a hidden disability which affects at least one member of Dorshei Tzedek and 15% of the population in varying degrees. Because MCS is often part of an immune system dysregulation, any system of the body may be affected. Symptoms, which can last for weeks, are provoked by perfumes and fragranced body and hair products, detergents, bleaches and dryer strips, as well as common household cleaners and construction products. MCS people generally react to a degree of chemical fragrance that others don't notice at all or consider mild. MCS can restrict the work, family, and social lives of people who have it, as public places are often inaccessible to them.

The problematic chemicals at Dorshei Tzedek are men's and women's perfumes, after-shaves and colognes, scented hand and body lotions, scented shampoos and hair products, and chemically scented laundry detergents, including fabric softeners, such as Downy or Bounce. (Some of these chemicals are also carcinogens.) Individuals can make the congregation accessible to people with MCS by refraining from wearing perfumes and fragranced products to services. A common assumption is that any product bought at Bread & Circus or other health food store is chemical-free. But most herbal shampoos also contain chemical fragrances, so unless the label says "fragrance-free" it's likely to provoke symptoms. Please read labels. Your help can make a difference. For further info see:



<http://www.diseaseworld.com/mcs.htm>

[http://www.healthlinksusa.com/
Multiple_Chemical_Sensitivity.htm](http://www.healthlinksusa.com/Multiple_Chemical_Sensitivity.htm)



Host a Shabbat Dinner

The Membership Committee received an overwhelming response last fall to its idea of matching up members for Shabbat dinner. In order to accommodate the unexpected number of both new and old members who wish to participate, we have hit on the following plan: We are looking for several households to volunteer to host Shabbat dinners during the months of May/June. These would be potluck meals, for as many people as each home can comfortably accommodate. We would simply publish each host household's name and phone number, along with the date (host's choice), and members would contact the host directly to make arrangements. We will send a letter to all members in late April inviting people to participate, as well as making follow-up calls.

If you are intrigued but are shy about the details of the Shabbat blessings, or want some guidance on *zmirot* (Shabbat songs), there are Shabbat booklets available from DT and, of course, Rabbi Spitzer is available for coaching.

Please contact Susannah Zisk at szisk@concentric.net or 617-332-0977 to volunteer your home. Be prepared to discuss with anyone who calls issues such as children, pet allergies, and vegetarianism or other food concerns.

Thank you in advance to all who are willing to open their homes, and may this be the beginning of an ongoing tradition!





May Calendar



Members' Meeting on May 7

The Spring Members meeting will be held on May 7 at 7:15 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society. **This is an important meeting and we urge every household to attend.** We will be voting on a new dues structure, and will also hear a report from the Growth Committee about where we are and where we might be heading in coming years. In addition, we will vote on a new slate of officers. Your voice and your vote are important – so we'll see you there!

Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
May 1 Mon	8:00 pm	<i>Yom Hashoah</i> Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance	(see page 3)
May 5 Fri	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Family Shabbat Service	Lichtin/Lev, Cohen/Snyder
May 6 Sat	8:45 am 9:45 am 10:00 am – 12:00 10:30 – 11:15 am	Shabbat Morning Study – Adult Ed Shabbat Service: <i>Kitah Gimel Siyyum</i> Aleph & Bet Classes Preschool Shabbat NOTE: KIDS' KEHILLA CANCELLED	Gladstone/Silver, Bruckner
May 7 Sun	7:15 pm	Members' Meeting'	Medvedow/Cohen Brandon/Sher
May 10 Wed	8:00 pm	<i>Yom Ha'atzma'ut</i> Israel Independence Day Program	(see page 3)
May 13 Sat *	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Shapiro/Nadler, Kirshtein
May 19 Fri	6:00 pm	Kitah Gan Shabbat Seder	
May 20 Sat	9:45 am 10:00 am – 12:00	Shabbat Service: <i>Kitah Hay Siyyum</i> Aleph & Bet Classes	Blitzman, Freundlich
May 21 Sun		Sunday's Bread	call Ira Krotick at 617-527-0671
May 25 Thu	7:30 – 9:00 pm	New Members' Orientation	(see page 5)
May 27 Sat	9:45 am	Maida Ives Bat Mitzvah	Gutter, Greenly
May 30 Tue		Last Day of Religious School	
May 31 Wed	7:00 pm	Book Discussion	(see page 7)



June Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
Jun 2 Fri	6:00 pm	Family Shabbat Service: led by Kitah Dalet	Rosenn/Hutcheson,
Jun 3 Sat	8:45 am 9:45 am	Torah Study – Adult Ed Shabbat Service	Volk, Potchinsty/Schwartz
Jun 8 Thu	7:30 pm	<i>Tikkun Leil Shavuot:</i> Service and Study	At the home of Matilda and Ed Bruckner, 617-244-3345
Jun 9 – 11		Dorshei Tzedek Retreat	
Jun 17 Sat *	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Gedanken, Garnick
Jun 24 Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Gordon, Phillips
Jun 25 Sun	7:45 pm	Board Meeting	

All events and services are held at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 1326 Washington St., West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Check the signs when you arrive for the exact location. All K-1 through Grade 5 classes meet in the lower level classrooms, except for special programs. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off.

Shabbat Setup and Cleanup

In order to share the responsibilities for routine tasks, members are assigned on a rotating basis to bring food and to help with setup and cleanup 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 setup and cleanup 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 at 617-244-2499.

Shabbat Child Care

Free child care is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.

Community Notes

The **Walk for Hunger** is **May 7, 2000**. After some discussion, the *Tikkun Olam* Committee decided not to organize a Dorshei Tzedek contingent for the Walk for Hunger this year. However, people interested in going on the Walk may pick up pledge sheets at services or in the Congregation office.

"Friend 2 Friend," a program of the Jewish Big Brother & Big Sister Association, is an opportunity to create a meaningful relationship with an adult with mild disabilities. It's as simple as going out for a couple of hours during the week or on the weekend doing something you enjoy. Call Jan at 617-558-6548 or e-mail jan@jbbbs.org for more information, or see the web site <http://www.jbbbs.org>.

Joint Reconstructionist Appeal

Doubling our Tzedakah Money: A Great Opportunity for Dorshei Tzedek and Reconstructionism

Each spring the three arms of the Reconstructionist movement - the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) join forces in an annual fundraising campaign. Last year we were blessed with two members who generously offered matching funds to Dorshei Tzedek for each \$100 donation to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal (JRA). This was a very successful campaign—we managed to help support the JRA and raise \$2000 for Dorshei Tzedek as well.

As we enter into this season of rebirth and renewal, the Reconstructionist movement is launching their annual appeal entitled the Pesach Match Program. Once again we have the opportunity to help support Reconstructionist Judaism and Dorshei Tzedek with our *tzedakah* dollars. Five member families have joined together and generously pledged matching funds of over \$2000 to our congregation. Again, for every \$100 contributed to the JRA Pesach Match Program, \$100 will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. While the movement recommends a donation of \$100, a donation of any amount is appreciated.

Why contribute to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal?

At Dorshei Tzedek we benefit in many ways from the workings of the 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 Rabbi

Toba Spitzer. In addition to serving as our first High Holy Day Rabbi in 1991, Mordechai has served as an organizational consultant to Dorshei Tzedek since our inception, guiding us and helping us through each step of our development. We have had the benefit of Mordechai's wisdom as recently as this past March, when he spent a day in consultation with us regarding growth and leadership issues.

Our prayer book series, the *siddur* and the High Holy Day *Machzor* are the result of years of creative work by leaders in the movement. This winter the New Reconstructionist Hagaddah, *A Night of Questions* was published. The movement also provides resources to guide us through congregational life with workshops and materials on issues such as the Torah of Money and the Challenge of Growth. Though not always visible, the Reconstructionist movement is the backbone of Dorshei Tzedek.

Our Congregation Can Make a Difference

The Pesach Match Program allows us to do three things with one gift:

- Make our *tzedakah* giving go twice as far
- Provide additional support for our own congregation
- Expand the services and programs needed to nurture existing and developing Reconstructionist communities nationwide

Please watch your mail for this appeal, or complete the form below and send a check directly to: The Joint Reconstructionist Appeal, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095. Dorshei Tzedek will be notified by the central office of all contributions from this community. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call Cindy Shulak-Rome at 617-965-5722. Consider the impact your contribution can have!

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

YES! I want to help grow the Reconstructionist Movement and support Dorshei Tzedek.

Enclosed is my contribution to the **Joint Reconstructionist Appeal** for: \$ _____

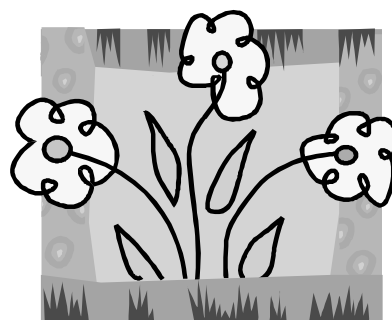
Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

Please make your check payable to *Joint Reconstructionist Appeal* and mail it to :

The Joint Reconstructionist Appeal
1299 Church Road
Wyncote, PA 19095-1898

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

Dorshei Tzedek
Spring
Members' Meeting
Sunday May 7
7:15 pm



At this meeting we will discuss the new dues structure and vote in a
Board of Directors—please plan to be there!