

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

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Tammuz-Av 5760

July-August 2000



In the Moment

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Despite Rav Tiffany's allusion to my going on a silent retreat in her Purim newsletter column, in reality I went on such a retreat more recently. Whenever I mention that I do these retreats to folks for whom this is an unfamiliar experience, the first reaction is always "What?! You don't talk for three (or five or eight) days?!!" Actually, not speaking is the easiest aspect of being on retreat. While talking fills so much of our lives, it's not such a hard thing to part with for a few days. It can feel quite blissful to enjoy the quiet. Not total quiet, to be sure – the teachers on retreat do speak, and there are many sounds to experience, from bird calls to thunder to passing cars to clattering dishes. Not talking is just one aspect of creating a setting in which the mind can begin to focus and settle down. *That* is the hard part. Our minds are like inquisitive two year-olds, always moving around and poking into new things, with little interest in sitting still. Even focusing on the in-breath and out-breath two or three times in a row can feel like a Herculean effort. So why do it?

My own experience is that calming the mind is the first step towards mindfulness, towards being able to be fully present in the moment, whatever that moment may bring. This in turn has brought with it an ability to return to a place of calm and peace that is somewhere at my core – something that I believe is at the center of each of us, once we learn to access it. Mindfulness can bring wonderful appreciation of the physical senses – the sight of a flower, the sound of a bird, the taste of food. It can also bring a greater capacity to listen fully to another person, and a greater sense of compassion for oneself and for others.

But as you learn fairly quickly on retreat, being present to oneself and to the moment can be hard, even painful. There's a reason we've created a culture which offers constant distractions. Life can be very difficult, and it is

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Co-Presidents' Message

Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx

As we start our term as co-presidents, we first want to thank the nominating committee and the membership of Dorshei Tzedek for entrusting this important leadership position to us. We will do our best to fulfill your expectations!

Chayim recently had the good fortune to attend assembly on the last day of Hebrew school and was amazed to see so many faces he didn't know! Both of us, in reading through the membership list, are gratified – and slightly dismayed – to realize there are many of you we do not yet know. We are gratified because that means Dorshei Tzedek is vibrant and growing; we are slightly dismayed because ... well, because we think we should know you all! And if we don't know you, that means that many of you don't really know us, either. In this, our first co-presidents' message, we thought we'd tell you about ourselves and our Reconstructionist journey.

Like many of you, we were shul-shopping in our early years, when we lived in Evanston, Illinois. Like many of you, we joined the congregation that made us feel most at home and welcome, even though they had never seen us before. It turned out that it was a Reconstructionist congregation, although we didn't know it at the time and,

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often tempting to cover it over, to pay less attention, not more. But great learning comes with the ability to sit with one's experience in the moment, whatever that experience may be. First, I've learned that more often than not the experience is tolerable, and second, that it inevitably passes, and something new arises to take its place. I've also discovered that very often it's not the experience of this moment that is so difficult, but the projections and stories that my mind weaves around the experience that cause so much pain. Once I sit and am able to see this, once the *sturm und drang* of my mind settles, much of the struggle dissipates, or becomes manageable, or just is.

As I reflected on my retreat experience and began thinking about writing this column, my thoughts turned to where we are in the Jewish year cycle. In mid-summer we experience a three-week period of mourning that begins on the 17th of Tammuz (July 20) and culminates on the 9th of Av (called "Tisha b'Av" in Hebrew, August 10 this year). Both of these fast days are connected to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Tisha b'Av commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple in 586 BCE by the Babylonians, and the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE by the Romans; the 17th of Tammuz is the day, according to the rabbis, when the Romans breached Jerusalem's walls. These three weeks are traditionally marked by a cessation of joyous activities like weddings and musical celebrations, and by refraining from cutting hair and buying new clothes. The mourning practices become more intense on the first of Av and culminate with the observance of Tisha b'Av, which includes a reading of the Book of Lamentations ("*Eicha*" in Hebrew), a recounting of the destruction of the first Temple.

Tisha b'Av is rather strange, on the face of it: 2,500 years after the fact we sit on the floor in a darkened room, chanting the painful verses of *Eicha* to a mournful melody. Why relive this pain? Why keep telling this story of destruction and exile?

There is something powerful in a practice of consciously re-experiencing a moment of historical trauma, sitting fully with that experience, and then moving on from it. Six days after Tisha b'Av, the 15th of the month (Tu b'Av) is described in the Talmud as a festive day when young men and women would dance in the fields together, and has become a minor holiday. The seven weeks following Tisha b'Av that lead up to Rosh Hashanah are distinguished by

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(Co-Presidents' Message, continued from page 1)

frankly, Reconstructionist philosophy meant little to us. But "warm," "open," and "welcoming" meant a great deal. Only later did we come to understand that those attributes follow naturally from the Reconstructionist approach to Judaism.

When we moved to the Boston area, in 1979, Judy's cousin, David Teutsch, was the executive director of the Reconstructionist movement. He immediately sent Judy a complete list of all the people in the Boston area who had ever made a contribution to our movement. Judy and another woman, Malka Young, pulled together a meeting of a dozen or so people and began talking about starting a Reconstructionist group. The group, first called the Greater Boston Reconstructionist Havurah, grew into what we know today as Shir Hadash, the Reconstructionist havurah in Newton. Eventually, we along with several other households left Shir Hadash to found Dorshei Tzedek.

In founding Dorshei Tzedek, our goal was to create a Jewish Reconstructionist congregation that provided the full range of Jewish experience and growth. We wanted an active lay leadership, we wanted to celebrate all the holidays and life cycle events, we wanted to create a caring, values-based community. We also wanted our community to benefit from a rabbinic presence and to support a religious school for our children. We are convinced how important it is to articulate and inculcate a vision for an organization and to be sure that members share that vision. This is why we have spent, and will continue to spend, so much time talking about a shared vision.

In the meantime, please help us get to know you! Don't hesitate to introduce yourself if we don't come up to you first. We'll all feel more connected to our synagogue and happier to belong to Dorshei Tzedek. Here's to an exciting and fulfilling year!



Tisha b'Av

The Ninth of Av is the date of the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, and is a fast day commemorating these events and more generally the Jewish experience of exile. We will mark the day with the chanting of a portion of the Book of Lamentations, and with readings and reflection and special songs. Please join us **Wednesday, August 9, 8:00 pm**, at the home of Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx (call 617-964-2791 for directions).



Softball and Pot-Luck Picnic with Rabbi Spitzer

A mini Retreat! Mark your calendars! Hold the date! We'll have afternoon softball and an evening potluck picnic, **Sunday, August 20**. Location, time and other details will be sent to members in late July/early August; for non-members who are interested, please call the office in August (617-965-0330 x1).

If you would like to help and/or can bring softball equipment please contact Ilana Mainelli.



Summer Shabbat Services

Please note: Due to construction at the Unitarian Society, all services and programs in the months of July and August will be held off-site (see below for details).

Saturday, July 15, 9:45 am. Shabbat morning services at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein in Auburndale. Please call 617-332-8424 for directions.

Saturday, July 29, 9:45 am. Shabbat morning services at the Hemley-Bronstein home.

Saturday, August 5, 9:45 am. Shabbat morning services at the home of Dan Rome and Cindy Shulak-Rome in West Newton. Call 617-965-5722 for directions.

Friday, August 11, 6:00 pm. All ages erev Shabbat service, followed by a potluck dinner at **7:00 pm**. After a musical service with story-telling we'll enjoy good food and schmoozing – so join us for this special summer erev Shabbat service!

Please bring a vegetarian or fish dish to share (bring enough for 6-8 people).

At the home of Mark Bronstein and Ellen Hemley (see above). **Please note: in case of inclement weather, call the office at 617-965-0330 x1 for an update.**



Weekly Shabbat morning services will resume in September. Enjoy your summer!

(In the Moment, continued from page 2)

the reading, each Shabbat, of special haftarat (prophetic texts) that speak words of comfort to the exiled Israelites. Just as we fully sit in the pain of destruction and exile, so do we turn fully into a season of preparation for the joyous celebration of the New Year. The teaching I get from these practices is the same as that which I have learned on retreat. Each moment brings its experience, and we can neither avoid nor deny that experience: we can either be present to it or struggle against it. Struggle inevitably brings in its wake additional suffering, while being present to the moment can reveal depths of resourcefulness and strengths that we might not even be aware that we have. The cycle of holidays is as natural as the cycle of our moods and the cycles of our lives, inevitably up and down and then up and down again, with one moment passing into another.

For those who are interested in experiencing Tisha b'Av this year, we will have a program the evening of August 9 (see page 3 for details). **Whether or not I see you then, I want to wish everyone a relaxing and renewing summer. Whether you're by the ocean or in the woods or in your office or at home, I hope your summer is filled with many precious moments.**

Rabbi Spitzer is on vacation during most of the month of July. If there is an emergency and you need rabbinic assistance, please call Rabbi Spitzer's office voice-mail (617-965-0330 x2) – there is information there about whom to call. Rabbi Spitzer will be available again in August for appointments and to return calls and e-mails.



News from Our School

We brought a wonderful school year to a close with a family assembly including several raucous rounds of "Stump the Parents," in which our students got to show off some of the knowledge they gleaned this year. It was also a time to recognize our teachers for their skills and dedication throughout the year. Our new Co-President, Chayim Herzig-Marx, was on hand to honor Morah Chava (Miranda Phillips), who received a Master's Degree in Jewish Education, and Morah Elana (Elaine Pollack), who received a Certificate in Family Education from Hebrew College.

We are already in high gear planning for next year. We will be adding a Kitah Zayin (7th grade class), which will be our first group of students to study with us from Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) through the B'nai Mitzvah year. Our student population is growing and we expect to have over eighty students in 5761.

Next year for the first time, the families of Dorshei Tzedek will have the opportunity to participate in the Passport to Israel Program. A joint savings program between families and the CJP (Combined Jewish Philanthropies), this program makes trips to Israel a reality for our students. We are thankful to Barbara Isaacs and Elaine Landes who have volunteered to administer this program for our congregation. Watch for more information in early September.

Todah Rabah to all the members that helped make this a wonderful year at our school. Our gratitude to our Rabbi, our teachers, the members of the Education Committee, and the many, many volunteers who helped whenever and where ever help was needed.

Wishing all of you a fun and restful summer!

B'Shalom,

Judith Wolfman, Education Director, and

Cindy Shulak-Rome, Education Committee Chair





Jeffrey Huenemoerder Bar Mitzvah



Please join us as we celebrate our son Jeffrey's Bar Mitzvah on **August 19**. Jeffrey has been diligently working with Ben Weiner on his portion and continues with his volunteer work at the Dedham Animal Rescue. Services will begin at **9.30 am** at Temple *Hillel B'nai Torah*, 120 Corey Street in W. Roxbury, MA. Follow Centre Street from Newton Centre to Parker Street. Turn left and follow Baker Street until the VFW Parkway. Turn north on VFW parkway for a few blocks, and turn right onto Corey Street. The Synagogue will be on your right.—Leeann Simons and David Huenemoerder



July-August Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Location
Jul 12 Wed	7-9 pm	Book Discussion	At the home of Susannah Zisk (see page 9)
Jul 15 Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein (see page 3)
Jul 29 Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein (see page 3)
Aug 5 Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	at the home of Dan Rome and Cindy Shulak-Rome (see page 3)
Aug 9 Wed	8:00 pm	Tisha B'Av Program	at the home of Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx (see page 3)
Aug 11 Fri	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	All Ages erev Shabbat Service Potluck Dinner	at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein (see page 3)
Aug 19 Sat	9:45 am	Jeffrey Huenemoerder Bat Mitzvah	at Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, West Roxbury (see above)
Aug 20 Sun	<i>to be announced</i>	Softball and Potluck Picnic	<i>to be announced</i> (see page 3)



Contributions



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Gertz-Cohen Family

In memory of Edward Katz, Sherry Katz' Father

*In honor of our new co-presidents,
Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx*

*In honor of our outgoing co-presidents,
Cheryl Sacks and Linette Liebling, who provided us with
excellent leadership, dedication and good humor*

*In honor of Judith Wolfman,
on the occasion of completing her first year as Education
Director of our wonderful school*

*In honor of Andrew Schiff and his new role as Chair of the
Outreach Membership Committee and position on the
Board of Directors*

Sherry Katz

*Thank you to the congregation for the support and meals
after my father's death*

Ellie and Efrem Goldberg

With gratitude for the blessings of community

Debbie Waber and Stephen Leonard

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's Birthday

In memory of Edward Katz

Jill Volk and Steven Lewis

In honor of the 50th birthday of Judy Herzig-Marx

In honor of our 10th Wedding Anniversary

Ken, Delores, Shelby and Deena Kimmel

In memory of Betty

In memory of Sherry Katz' father

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sherry Katz

*Thank you to Toba for the support and guidance she
provided after my father's death*

Michael White

In memory of Irene Balk Rivchin

Religious School Fund

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

*In honor of all the Hebrew School Teachers
and Education Director*

Debra Rattet

*In honor of Miranda Phillips graduating
from Hebrew College*

The Gan Class

In honor of Elaine Pollack teaching the Gan class this year

Rome Family

*In honor of Miranda Phillips' completing her Masters
in Jewish Education from Hebrew College*

*In honor of Elaine Pollack's completion of a
Family Education Certificate from Hebrew College*

Elaine Pollack:

A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People

In honor of Maida Ives' Bat Mitzvah

Elaine Pollack:

The Book of Legends

In honor of Julian Fader's Bar Mitzvah

William and Nessa Spitzer:

Computer CD Rom, Encyclopedia Judaica

Holy Book Fund

Katz Farber Family

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's special birthday

Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth

In honor of Cheryl and Jeff Sacks and Family

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

Wendy Gedanken and Joaquim Branco

in honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's 50th Birthday

In honor of my teacher, Chayim Herzig-Marx

In honor of Irv Gedanken's 80th Birthday



Retreat Scholarship Fund

Amy Berman
 Debbie Blicher
 Marty Bresnick and Paula Kaplan
 Marvin and Charlene Brotman
 Ellie and Efrem Goldberg
 Francis Greenberg
 Judy Hersh and Timothy Rosa
 Laurie and Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
 Ellen Pashall
 Lisa Port White and Malcolm White
 Peter and Brenda Roberts
 Elizabeth Ross and Caren Smith
 Cheryl and Jeff Sacks
 Carole Slipowitz and Dan Halbert
 Marcia Wasserman
 Susannah and Stephen Zisk

Prayer Books

Many of these prayer book donations were given in honor or memory of special people or events. Space does not permit us to include the dedications, but all are recorded on the bookplate of each donated book.

Thank you all!

Amy Berman and Alex Donnini
 Amy Mazur
 Beth Brooks
 Betsy Hinden and Karen Wasserman
 Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jeremiah Friedman
 Cindy Shulak-Rome
 Deborah Waber and Stephen Leonard
 Debra Rattet, Leslie Rubin, Zachary and Alexander
 Elizabeth Miller
 Ezra Hausman
 Francis Greenberg
 Geri Blitzman
 Gertz-Cohen Family
 Gladstone Silver Family

Gutter Family
 Hemley-Bronstein Family
 Ilana Mainelli and Dan Seidman
 Isaacs Family
 Jonathan, Ami, Max and Zachary Gordon
 Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx
 Kahn-Leavitts Family
 Karobi Sachs
 Kelli Kirshtein
 Leeann Simons / David Huenemoerder
 Linette Liebling and Cheryl Sacks
 Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth
 Lisa Port White
 Marcia Wasserman
 Martin Bresnick
 Rome Family
 Sacks Family
 Samelson-Hattis Family
 Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan
 Shatkin Littman Family
 Steven Gordon
 Susannah and Stephen Zisk
 Wendy Gedanken and Joaquim Branco

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!





News from JRF



Reconstructionism is Now 100 Strong!

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is delighted to welcome FIVE new Reconstructionist communities, bringing the total number of member communities to exactly 100! Our newest family members are: B'nai Vail in Vail, Colorado; Havurat Lev Shalem in Atlanta, Georgia; The Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit in Detroit, Michigan; String of Pearls in Princeton, New Jersey; and Chapel Hill Kehillah in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. They were each voted in unanimously at the semi-annual JRF board meeting on May 7-8, 2000.

The Zeigelman Challenge: A Great Opportunity for Dorshei Tzedek and Reconstructionism

In our last newsletter (May-June) we told you about an opportunity for Dorshei Tzedek to earn matching funds for every \$100 donation that was made to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal. The Joint Appeal raises money to support the three arms of the movement: the JRF, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

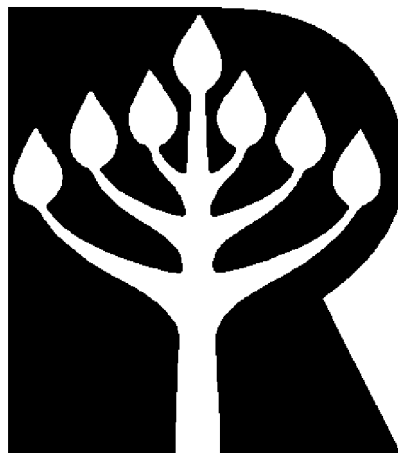
At this time, another dimension has been added to this fundraising appeal that will directly benefit the growth and

development of the JRF: Aaron Zeigelman, committed Reconstructionist and longtime supporter of the institutions that serve the movement, has offered to give \$100,000 to the JRF if JRF can raise \$100,000 for the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal by August 2000.

Again this year, we have a "triple match" opportunity. Contributions made to the Joint Reconstructionist Appeal will be matched to JRF by Aaron Zeigelman, and to our own community by a small group of members who have together pledged over \$2000 in matching funds. This translates into even better congregational, educational, and developmental resources and services for member communities, and a stronger and brighter future for the Reconstructionist movement as a whole. To learn more about how to you can help us meet this challenge, please call Cindy Shulak-Rome (617-965-5722) or contact Lani Moss at the JRF central office at 215-782-8500 or lmoss@jrf.org.

JRF Convention

It's not too soon to think about planning a fall trip to Philadelphia! The JRF biennial convention will be held this year on November 2-5 in Philadelphia. The convention theme will be "Growing in Spirit, Growing in Community." Convention is always a wonderful opportunity to get a sense of "the big picture" of our movement, to share in study, worship and sharing of ideas and experiences with other Reconstructionist Jews from around the country. Convention brochures will be sent out in September, or check the JRF website for details this summer (www.jrf.org).



Dear Rav Tiffany...

I am a member at Dorshei Tzedek. I am not on the Exec, the Board or any other committees. I feel like I would like to get more involved, get to know other members better, contribute to the organization and enhance my spiritual experience. But I am not ready to make the year-long commitment that committees require. What do you suggest?

I.B. Part

Dear I.B.: Watch your box for a holiday program mailing! It will be coming soon asking you to sign up to participate on a holiday program team. That is exactly what you are looking for – a fun, spiritual and involving experience that is time-limited.

Let me know how things work out.

Love,
Rav Tiffany



Todah Rabah...

Efrem and I would like to thank everyone in the Congregation for the wonderful sense of community and caring after I broke my hip. We are especially grateful for your wonderful company and phone calls as I was healing at home as well as the delicious soups, stews, breads, brownies, ice cream, complete dinners, a Passover Seder, and shopping. You all made a difficult time much easier. Thanks to Naomi Lev, Pete and Brenda Roberts, Marvin and Charlene Brotman, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Ellen Pashall, Cliff and Tessa Goldsmith, Wendy Gedanken, Jill Volk, Sara Kuhn, Judy Herzig-Marx, and David Felson. A special thank you to Karen Wasserman who was a source of information and support and to Elaine Landes who did everything from moving furniture and shopping to cooking. Elaine has a gift for making everything more fun.

Ellie Goldberg



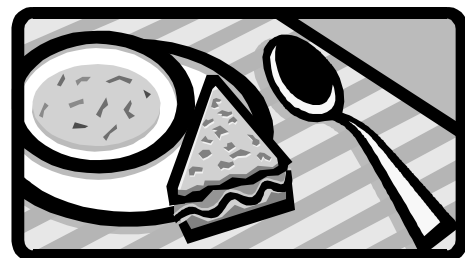
Book Discussion



At the first meeting of the Dorshei Tzedek book discussion group, we had a small but dedicated crew, and generated some lively discussion on *Saving Remnants*. We are hoping that more people will join us for the next meeting, which will be on **Wednesday, July 12 from 7-9 pm** at the home of Susannah Zisk, 4 Rose Drive, Newton.

We will be reading Judith Plaskow's *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective* published by HarperSanFrancisco). Of all the books suggested by interested parties at the beginning of this venture, this one was mentioned the most, and certainly has tremendous relevance (even beyond any feminist concerns) to all of us interested in the examination and rejuvenation of contemporary Judaism.

Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Carole Slipowitz (617-964-6572, cwithany@aol.com) or Susannah Zisk (617-332-0977, szisk@concentric.net).



Sunday's Bread

We need volunteers for the following Sundays: July 23, August 20, and September 24. It is important that we meet our commitment over the summer months. Hunger doesn't take a vacation. If you would like more information about Sunday's Bread or wish to volunteer, call Ira Krotick at 617-527-0671.



And a Good Time Was Had by All....

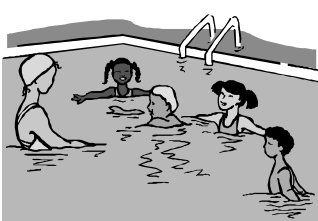
On the holiday of Shavuot, our unseasonably cool spring turned into summer as 47 Dorshei Tzedek member households and five of our beloved staff members headed west to Camp Isabella Freedman for our Third Annual Dorshei Tzedek Retreat Weekend. The weekend was a blissful mix of now established traditions – Friday night and Saturday morning services in the beautiful camp *shul* with its great



acoustics and view of the lake, Havdalah at lakeside followed by a campfire (with s'mores of course!) with hours of singing, the Friday night sing-down (although this year Toba and Efreim had the challenge of battling Hankus!), a community art



project designed by Marcia Wasserman, a glorious Shabbat afternoon at poolside, mountain hikes, our now famous intergenerational softball game, capture the flag, fishing and boating at the lake on



Sunday and of course the camp food, which once again left a little to be desired.... Sunday afternoon, as everyone packed up their cars, the heavens opened up, the torrential rains came down, and by the

time we were all safely back home it was 54 degrees once again!

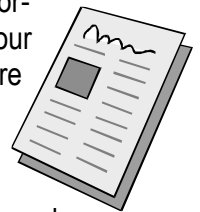
We are most grateful to Judy Hersh and the Retreat Committee for all the time and energy they devoted to organizing this great weekend. (We're also very grateful for some divine connection they obviously have to order up such great weather so that all of us could enjoy Camp Isabella Freedman in all its glory!)

WANTED: Committee Volunteers

The Membership Committee is in need of additional help with our outreach efforts and also our in-membership activities. If you enjoy talking with and getting to know new people, this is an excellent opportunity to do so. New members are encouraged to participate as a way of getting more comfortable in the community. We can also benefit from skills in the areas of marketing, public relations, advertising and interviewing. Please call Nancy Gertz at 781-444-2478 if you have an interest and would like to explore it further.

The Newsletter Still Needs Help... Could it be YOU?

Please 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 to keep any one person's responsibilities bi-monthly and minimal. 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.

At-Large Board Position

The Executive Committee proposes to add an At-Large position to the Board. This proposal will be discussed at upcoming Board meetings. "At-Large" means that, initially, the Board member would not have an assigned portfolio. The intent of this position, though, is both to develop leadership for our congregation and to have a Board member available for immediate assignment to a large project; projects can be expected to arise from the work of the Growth Committee, for example. Please call or email Judy or Chayim Herzig-Marx if you wish to nominate a member, including yourself.

Welcome to New Members

Perhaps you didn't hear the drums roll over the past month, when Dorshei welcomed our 100th member household (we're actually now up to 101)! Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to schmooze the new members until you find #100. They know who they are – maybe they're still waiting for their toaster to arrive!!

To all of our new members, we welcome you and look forward to learning more about you and from you. We hope that our congregation is a community that you will cherish as much as we do!

Erica Streit and James Kaplan met in Haifa, Israel on a study abroad program and now live in Brookline. Erica was raised Reconstructionist at Congregation B'nai Keshet in Montclair, NJ. She is finishing up her second of a three year dual-masters program in Social Work and Public Health at Boston University. James was raised Reform in Newton, Mass. and went to Temple Israel. James will graduate with a JD in May and will start work at a law firm in Boston. They will marry this summer.

Bill Shorr and Tania Mireles live with 7 housemates at the Franklin Street Co-op in Allston. They've been in the Boston area since 1995; they're currently both in doctoral programs and working part-time. Tania studies mental health policy at Brandeis, and Bill studies learning and teaching at the Harvard Ed. school. Tania is not Jewish. "We joined because we both enjoy Saturday morning services so much, we like being part of community organizations with progressive politics, and because Rabbi Spitzer was willing to let the kids in the congregation blast her with high-power water guns while she stood outside with an umbrella chanting a Sephardic prayer to 'Singing In the Rain'."

Elaine Bresnick and Martin Bresnick are the parents of

Anna, a 6th grader at Day Middle School and enthusiastic soccer and basketball player. Elaine, an executive and partner in a small specialty printer company, loves music, especially singing and playing piano. Marty consults on affordable housing; photography and ocean kayaking are his hobbies. Marty's wife, Paula Kaplan, a counselor and educator, was in Israel during the Yom Kippur War and still enjoys visits and many connections to Israel.

Barbara Ayres is a Sign Language Interpreter. Andy (short for Andrea) Diamond is an administrator in the Education Department at the AIDS Action Committee. "We just emigrated from J.P. to our own home in Maynard with our 2 katz." Andy loves to "bird," and Barbara is an extraordinary baker. They both like to go camping.

Lisa Susswein and Amy Entwistle recently moved to Wayland and are learning about the joys and frustrations (like temperature control) of living in an old farmhouse. They are looking forward to becoming a more active part of the Dorshei Tzedek community. Lisa recently began a graduate program at Brandeis in genetic counseling. Her interests include art, decorating, and knitting.

Ann Spanel has two god-daughters, has written about environmental issues, is a community gardener and aspiring artist, and is curious about the ways of the spirit.

In the next issue of the newsletter, look for self-introductions from the St. John-Siegel family, Esther Kohn, Laurie Gould and Stephen Ansolabehere, Judith Wine and Aileen Cronin, and Sally Kolodkin.

Welcome to all!



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