

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5761

May-June 2001

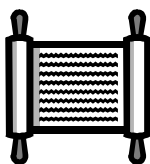


Receiving Torah

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

As the month of May begins, we are in the midst of a seven-week 'count-down' from Passover to Shavuot, a time period during which the ancient Israelites left the bondage of Egypt and made their way to the foot of Mount Sinai. The spring festival of Shavuot celebrates that moment at Sinai, when the Israelite community entered into a covenant with their God and received the Torah. (See page 3 for information on our Shavuot program.)

As Reconstructionists, we embrace this mythical narrative of the origins of our people's relationship to Torah as a significant moment in our 'master story,' but we are also able to recognize a more historical – and no less exciting – version of events. A more modern understanding is of Torah as the accumulated human wisdom of our ancestors over many centuries, a record of their encounter with the divine and their attempts to describe that encounter. In either version Torah, broadly understood, is at the center of Jewish communal identity: the record of an ongoing wrestle with what it means to be a human being attempting to live in sacred community and in relationship to the world around us.



As we count down the days to Shavuot, I am thinking about how Dorshei Tzedek has grown in its own relationship to Torah. This has always been a community that has put education at its center, and it is truly a pleasure to see that commitment grow and take concrete form with the creation of a comprehensive religious school program and, now in the planning stages, a program for our post-b'nei mitzvah youth. On the level of adult education, we have consistently offered high quality programs on a wide range of topics, and a variety of groups of congregants have initiated their own educational projects, from adult bat mitzvah groups to Hebrew classes. The recent decision the community has made to hire a full-

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Co-Presidents' Message

by Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

Spring ... here comes Leviticus ... all that dry material about sacrifices ... and all those details ... and there were lots of details about the *Mishkan*, too ... but hardly any in Genesis ... and really very few in Exodus either ... so why all the details now? ... why make us read all those details? ...

Attending to the details – what's the purpose? Here's one thought: paying attention to details helps us be present to the moment, present to the experience. Not unlike a good writer, who infuses enough detail into a novel to enable us to participate in the story line, the Torah puts detail into descriptions of the rituals so that we, too, can experience setting apart the sacred from the every day. The detailed description of the construction of the *Mishkan*, then, might help us experience the creation of holy space, just as following the rituals of Shabbat and the holidays can help us create holy time. How can one really be mindful without a focus for the mind?

It's interesting, isn't it, that where the Torah contains few details – as in the stories of Genesis – the rabbis created many, many more, by writing *midrashim*. Think, for example, of how many *midrashim* you've heard concerning the sacrifice of Isaac, a story told in Torah about as plainly as

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time education director for the coming year is yet another important step on this journey. The Education Committee has been having some wonderful discussions over the past year on what it means to create a community of learners, to become a congregation where people of all ages and all levels of background are engaged in meaningful and transformative study. By bringing on a full-time professional educator who can partner with me and with all the members of the congregation, we are taking a significant step towards this ultimate goal, and I am very excited about the possibilities that lie before us in the year to come.

In the meantime, I invite you to reflect a bit on your own interests and needs in relation to Jewish education. This is often an area that is fraught with mixed emotions for many people – feelings of inadequacy, of anxiety over what I ‘should’ know but don’t, over what I wished I had learned but never did, over what I was forced to learn and wished I hadn’t. The truth is, the Jewish tradition is so rich and deep that everyone at every level feels that they don’t know enough (I know I certainly feel that way!). There is always more to learn, and there are many ways to learn it. My hope is that everyone in our community will feel invited and empowered to actively engage in their own path of Jewish learning, and to give serious consideration to what that might mean. This may entail overcoming certain fears, or trying something new, or making some space in a busy schedule for a bit of Torah study. It might mean committing to learning Hebrew along with one’s children, or deciding to learn more about how to make Shabbat a meaningful experience. We each have our own path to Torah, but together we will discover what it means to truly be a community of learners. May our receiving of Torah be an ongoing process that doesn’t end with Shavuot!

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.

New Leyning Class Forming

Are you interested in learning to leyn (chant from the Torah)? Elaine Pollack will be leading an intensive class over the summer. If interested, contact Elizabeth Ross at 617-630-1739 or eross@hnrc.tufts.edu.

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

possible. Or think about the Passover. The *haggadah* states clearly, ‘In every generation, each person must regard himself as if he personally made the exodus from *mitzrayim*.’ And the corollary is, ‘The more one tells of the Passover story, the more praiseworthy the telling.’ In order to understand becoming free from idolatry and servitude, we must attend to the details of enslavement and to the details of the liberation process.

To be in the moment, attend to the details. Perhaps that’s why Jewish ritual practice requires a significant number of adults to be present for prayer, so that we’ll have enough ‘details,’ enough individuals, on whom to focus our attention and be present to the community. Perhaps that’s why Jewish ritual practice calls for us to recite even the ‘silent’ *Amidah* by vocalizing the words, even if just loud enough that only we ourselves can hear.

Last thing: maybe spirituality is really about attending to the details of life. Maybe paying attention to details is the way we feel an intimate connection with ... our community, the Cosmos, the infinite source, whatever we most want to connect with. Maybe trying to focus on the ‘big picture’ only takes us away from that sense of connectedness. And maybe those of you congregants who have not yet immersed yourselves in the details of congregational life are missing the most intimate connection!

March 2001 Members' Meeting

by Lisa Port White

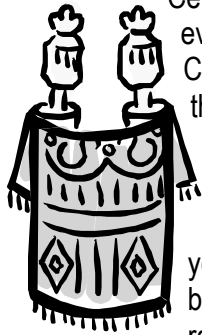
Thirty-seven people from twenty-eight households came to the March 11 Members' Meeting. After brief reports from the Finance, School, Fundraising, and Space Committees, the meeting focused on the values discussion begun at the fall Members' Meeting. Looking at the mission statement in groups of two, we began looking at the values reflected in the statement. Then, in larger groups, we fleshed out what those values, in action, really mean. This was done in hopes to come up with a companion document to the mission statement which would help to articulate how the mission of our congregation is thought about and acted upon.

Next Members' Meeting is June 10
(see page 10)

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Sunday, May 27, 8 pm – midnight

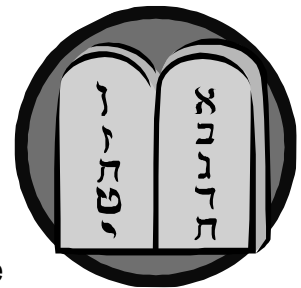
Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, West Roxbury



Celebrate the holiday of Shavuot—the night that we rejoice in receiving the Torah—with an evening of study and sweets! We will be celebrating jointly with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah and Congregation B'nai Or, and studying with the three Reconstructionist rabbis affiliated with these congregations—our own Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Rabbi Barbara Penzner, and Rabbi Daniel Siegel. We will begin at 8 pm with a brief service, and then learn into the night—please feel free to drop by at any time!

If you'd like, you can bring a drink or fruit or veggies to share. If you'd like to bring a dessert, it must have a *hechsher*/kosher symbol—no homemade treats, please, out of respect to Hillel B'nai Torah's kashrut guidelines.

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah is located at 120 Corey Street, off of VFW Parkway in West Roxbury. If you turn left onto VFW Parkway off of Dedham Street, you will make a right at a light onto Corey. The temple will be on your right. If you hit Centre Street, you have gone too far.



Dorshei Tzedek Mini-Retreat

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 am – 6 pm

Start your summer sharing a fun day with the Dorshei Tzedek community on beautiful Georges Island in Boston Harbor. We'll be catching a ferry from Boston Harbor (seven miles from downtown Boston). The Boston Harbor Cruises ferry leaves from Long Wharf at 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm and 4 pm. The trip takes 50 minutes. We'll begin our activities at **11:30 am**, with fun for everyone, including:



- Hiking and walking (including the fort on the island)
- Capture the Flag and Ultimate Frisbee (*sorry, no softball allowed!*)
- Swimming (*if the weather permits*)
- Art project
- Children's activities
- Games
- Relaxing
- Schmoozing

Bring your own food: snacks and picnic lunch. Grills are available, and charcoal will be provided. The event will be canceled in case of rain. See www.bostonislands.org/islands.html and www.fbhi.org for more information about Georges Island. If you're interested in helping to plan any activities, please be in touch with Clifford Goldsmith, 617-965-7323, or e-mail clifford@linkmed.com.



News from Our School

Last Shabbat, shortly before classes began I went downstairs to the Kitah Bet (2nd grade) classroom to say hello to Morah Rachel. I entered the room to find that all of the furniture was missing and had been replaced with a Candy Land-like game board made of large pieces of construction paper on the floor. On top of many of the colored rectangles were some of the Jewish values and concepts that the children had been learning throughout the year. Oh, there was *one* piece of furniture, the spinning office chair with numbers 1-4 taped to the bottom of the four legs. "Shabbat Shalom Morah Rachel, what's going on?" Without missing a beat, Rachel informed me that she was about to assess her students to see how they were retaining the material they had been learning throughout the year. The kids would need to work in teams as they took turns moving around the board. When the students entered the room to find the new arrangement they were thrilled to become "human game pieces." Once the game got underway with students taking turns at being the spinner (sitting cross-legged on the chair while the teacher whipped them around), I was taken by what the children were able to recall and articulate in a thoughtful and meaningful way. I left the classroom as half of the students hummed the theme song to "Jeopardy", and as the other half worked together to develop a working definition for *emunah*/faith—they did. As you can see, our staff works at giving the students a religious education with a level of depth, breadth, and fun!

There are many programs and activities coming up before the end of the school year. On **May 1 from 7:30-8:30** there will be an informational meeting about the Kitah Gimel year for **Kitah Bet** parents. **Kitah Dalet** will be participating in Shabbat services and having Shabbat dinner on **May 4 from 6-8**. On **May 6**, **Kitah Bet** has a Family Education program from **2-4 pm**. There is **no school on May 10**; it is a Staff In-Service day. On **May 11** **Kitah Alef** has a Shabbat Seder from **6-8**, and **Kitah Gimel** has a Family Education program on **May 13 from 2-4**. **May 19** is the last day for **Kitot Alef-Bet**, **May 29** is the last day of **Kitah Zayin**, and **May 31** is the last day for **Kitot Gimel-Vav**. All these dates are noted on the DT newsletter calendar.

As always, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

B'Shalom,

Judith, Education Director

News from the Education Committee

by Cindy Shulak-Rome

It is with very mixed emotions that we announce the upcoming departure of our Education Director, Judith Wolfman. While we are thrilled that Judith is moving on to pursue some wonderful developments in her personal life, we will certainly miss her and all that she has brought to our school. Over the past two years Judith has contributed immensely to building our school community and to helping develop our curriculum and overall school culture. While her leaving saddens us, her work over the past two years will enable us to bring on a new educator who will inherit a strong and thriving religious school.

We are working to ensure as much continuity as possible for our school during this transition. We have formed a Search Committee to hire a new Education Director. This committee will be chaired by two members of our Education Committee, Tessa Goldsmith and Abby Cohen. Tessa served as a co-chair on the committee that hired Judith.

Also, this past January the Board approved our application for a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education to fund a full-time education director (Judith is currently slightly over half time). We are confident that we will receive this grant, which means we will be advertising for a full-time position, putting us in a very good position to attract interested and qualified candidates for the job.

We are planning to honor Judith at our end of the school year celebration on **May 31**. We will be sending details your way as the day approaches!

Havurah Summer Institute

Have a Fabulous Jewish Experience This Summer!

The National Havurah Committee Summer Institute is happening **August 13-19** at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH. This is a wonderful week of learning and fun for adults and kids, including a wide range of workshops on topics from Jewish music to social action to Talmud study, a variety of prayer experiences, and a culminating Shabbat experience. There is a children's, teen, and family program as well. For more information and to register, call 215-248-1335, e-mail Institute@Havurah.org, or go to www.havurah.org.



Shabbat Programs



Tot Shabbat

Please join us for drop-in Tot Shabbat one Saturday a month from **10:30 to 11:15 am**. Remaining dates this spring are **April 28 and May 19**. It's a lively 45 minutes of song, story, and activity geared for the under-5 set with at least one of their parents. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and introduce your preschooler to the joy of Jewish song and community. No advance sign up is required. For further information contact Sheree Galpert at 617-558-8697. Kitah Aleph and Bet parents with younger children please take note: Tot Shabbat is scheduled to begin right after the Aleph/Bet "family time" segment of your child's class, so come on by!



Erev Shabbat Family Services



Once a month, we welcome Shabbat with a musical, all-ages Erev Shabbat family service, from **6-7 pm** at the Unitarian Society. The remaining dates for the year 5761 are **May 4 and June 1**.

Chanting and Meditation Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, June 15, at 8 pm, welcome Shabbat with a musical, contemplative service that combines silent meditation and chants of Hebrew prayers. No meditation experience necessary—just a desire to bring in Shabbat in a peaceful and meaningful way!

Friday Night Potluck

All members are invited to our next Shabbat potluck, **Friday, May 18**, the fourth and final of the year. We're looking for both guest and host households. ***If you haven't been to one this year, please try to sign up.*** We guarantee a great time for everyone in your household! Contact Judy Hersh at 617-332-2487 or hershj@juno.com.



Adult Education

These events are at the Unitarian Society.

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40 am
Remaining Spring dates: May 12, June 23

We continue to explore the weekly Torah portion, *parashat hashavua*, with the help of the great Israeli scholar, Nehama Leibowitz. We will do close reading of selected verses through the lens of the rabbinic texts and incisive questions provided by Leibowitz in her study guides to each book of the Torah. All texts will be provided in English translation; no previous experience in text study necessary. Bring your own coffee and join us for this early morning prelude to the Shabbat service! (no fee)

From Passover to Shavuot: Studies in the Book of Ruth and Song of Songs

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:45 – 9:15
April 25, May 2, 16, and 23

Traditionally associated with the spring holidays of Passover and Shavuot, the books of Ruth and Song of Songs are among the most beautiful Biblical writings, exploring themes of human love and commitment, the relationship of non-Jews to the Jewish community, and an allegory of God's relationship to the people of Israel, among others. Utilizing exciting new curricula produced by the Reconstructionist movement, we will be doing close readings of these texts and relating their teachings to issues in our own lives and communities. (free for members; \$25 for non-members)



B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations



*Please note that the Bar Mitzvah celebration on June 2
will **not** be held at the Unitarian Society. See directions below.
All others will be at the Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton.*

Aaron Littman

Our son, Aaron, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on **Saturday, May 5**. Aaron is a 7th grader at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School. He enjoys reading, watching movies, listening to music, biking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, working with computers, and playing Dungeons and Dragons. For his *tikkun olam* project, Aaron learned about criminal justice issues related to the Innocence Protection Act, proposed legislation designed to lower the likelihood of unjust convictions. He has developed a presentation about this legislation. In order to garner support for this bill, Aaron plans to speak to a community group in a Massachusetts district whose congressperson does not currently support the bill. We hope you can join us in celebrating this joyous event.—*Barbara Shatkin and Andy Littman*

Lauren Sacks

We hope you will join us on **Saturday, May 12**, as our daughter Lauren is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Lauren is a 7th grader at Bigelow Middle School. Her favorite activities include: basketball, softball, skiing, swimming, writing poetry, and hanging out with friends. Lauren has been visiting and entertaining elderly Newton residents at the Scandinavian Living Center with her friends and classmates, Rose Friedman and Zach Demuth, as part of her *tikkun olam* activities. She also volunteered at the Family Nurturing Program of the Second Step, a shelter for domestic violence victims. Lauren continues to be involved with the Family Table food pantry program. We look forward to this *simcha* and to sharing it with family, friends, and the Dorshei Tzedek community.—*Cheryl and Jeff Sacks*

Rose Friedman

Rose Friedman, a life-long Hebrew school student at Dorshei Tzedek and a member of the first Dorshei Tzedek Hebrew school class, and her family invite you to celebrate the fruits of her study and training as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, May 19**. Rose is in 7th grade at Shady Hill School in Cambridge. She has been delighted to discover an interest in sports in the last two years, particularly basketball and tennis, and plays them both with gusto. Rose is a voracious reader and according to her grandmother a talented craftsperson. Rose has participated in two *tikkun olam* projects. She has assisted in the toddler room at the Newton Community Service Center, discovering an affinity for any youngsters who are not her sisters. Rose also, along with a few of her comrades in the Hebrew school class, regularly visits the Swedish Home for Scandinavians in Newton, schmoozing and being entertained by the residents. We hope you will join us for the service and kiddush.—*Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jerry Friedman*

Ben Rome

We invite the entire Dorshei Tzedek community to join us at the Rashi School when Ben is called to the Torah to mark his Bar Mitzvah, on Shabbat *Naso*, **Saturday, June 2**. Both a passionate athlete and devoted sports fan, Ben will be completing seventh grade at Day Middle School this spring, before heading to Maine for his second summer at Camp Modin, where his grandfather was also a camper, some 75 years ago! For his *tikkun olam* activities, Ben has joined a few of his Dorshei Tzedek classmates in working with children at the McGloughlin Center in Dorchester and has established a Youth Endowment Fund to provide continuing financial support to organizations assisting this country's disadvantaged youth.

—Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

Directions: The Rashi School is just off of Washington Street, 1.8 miles east of our usual location at the Unitarian Society. From West Newton Square/Unitarian Society, proceed east (inbound toward Boston) 1.8 miles along Washington Street. You will see a set of lights: a yellow flashing light followed quickly by two consecutive traffic lights, a short block apart from each other. The second of the two close-together traffic lights is at Jackson Road (just before the Jackson Homestead). Turn left at this light, onto Jackson Road. Proceed 0.1 miles and the Rashi School is on your right, well marked by a sign at the entrance to their parking lot.

Zachariah Demuth

Zach Demuth will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat *Behalotechah*, **Saturday, June 9**. Zach is growing up to be a real mensch! He is currently a seventh grader at the Park School in Brookline where he especially enjoys studying Latin, Math and Science. He is also a member of Dorshei Tzedek's Kitzah Zayin. Zach is proud to be part of Dorshei Tzedek's first formal class where he started his studies in kindergarten. Dorshei Tzedek is truly Zach's community. Zach has been volunteering at the Scandinavian Home with senior citizens. He has also volunteered with Family Table in the food distribution program and hopes to continue his volunteer work with them. Zach's true passion is fishing; he is happiest on the water with a fishing rod in his hand. His favorite fishing spots are on the waters surrounding Nantucket Island. He also enjoys basketball; both as a participant and spectator. We are immensely proud of Zach and delighted to share this *simcha* with our wonderful Dorshei Tzedek community. We hope you will join us for the Shabbat morning service followed by kiddush.—Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth

Hannah Epstein

On **Saturday, June 16**, Hannah will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with all of you in the Dorshei Tzedek community. What would we like you to know about Hannah? She loves Monty Python, Tin Tin, drawing, doodling, and playing the drums. She likes ice skating, snowboarding, swimming, and is a whiz on the computer. Hannah writes great spy stories and has held such illustrious roles as Jiminy Cricket, Smee, The Lord High Executioner, and most recently Bert Healey, radio talk show host, in productions of the Watertown Children's Theatre. Her favorite activity is making videos with her friends. Who knows? Maybe she'll be a movie director. Hannah will soon be finishing the seventh grade at the Watertown Middle School. Her *tikkun olam* project involves making crafts and selling them to raise money to protect the world's rainforests.—Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein



Contributions



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Melanie Forman

In commemoration of Bella Abzug's yahrzeit

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

*In honor of Toba Spitzer for her support, guidance,
and teaching for Rebecca's bat mitzvah*

In honor of the B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies of:

*Amy Goldsmith, Olivia Medvedow,
Rebecca Holohan, Zachary Rubin Rattet*

In honor of the 11th birthday of Elizabeth Holohan

*In honor of Chayim Herzig Marx for his years of
leadership, beautiful singing voice, and for making our
simcha even more special*

Kelli Kirshtein

In honor of Rebecca Holohan's Bat Mitzvah

Amy Mazur

In honor of Judy Hersch for her natural gift of giving

In honor of Rebecca Holohan's Bat Mitzvah

Ellen Pashall

*In honor of Zack Rubin Rattet, Zack Carson,
Becky Fortgang, Rebecca Holohan*

Lawrence Peers

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

In memory of Marvin Mazur, Amy Mazur's dad

In memory of Sara Blitzman, Geri Blitzman's mom

Holy Book Fund

Paula Kaplan

*In gratitude to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
or their support when Marty died*

Leon Adler and Lauren Kaufman

In memory of Marty Bresnick

Cantor Donn, Ruth, Matthew and Daniel Rosensweig

In memory of Marty Bresnick

School Fund

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

*In honor of Elaine Pollack for her patience, encouragement
and excellent tutoring of Rebecca for her bat mitzvah*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx

In memory of Mary Tomaryn, mother of Matilda Bruckner

In memory of Arthur Kellman, father of Hope Kellman

In memory of Marty Bresnick

*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah ceremonies of
Karen Arnold, Sherry Katz, Linette Liebling,
Dinah Moeller, and Cheryl Sacks*

Paula Kaplan

In gratitude for Rabbi Spitzer's support

Amy Mazur

In memory of Marty Bresnick

The Sedacca-Ives Family

*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer, with gratitude for the gift
of her chanting and meditation service*

*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!*

Condolences



We extend heartfelt condolences to Geri and Michelle Blitzman on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sara Blitzman, and to Amy Mazur and her family at the passing of Amy's father Marvin Mazur. May their memories be for a blessing, and may you find healing and comfort among family, friends, and community.



May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
May 1, Tue	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Kitah Gimel informational meeting for Kitah Bet parents	
May 2, Wed	7:15 – 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Ruth and Song of Songs (2)	(see page 5)
May 4, Fri	6 – 7 pm	Family Shabbat Service & Kitah Dalet Shabbat dinner	Cindy Marshall, Stacey Chacker
May 5, Sat	9:45 am	Aaron Littman Bar Mitzvah	Stephen Zisk, Lewis Fanwick
May 5, Sat	10 am – 12 pm	Alef and Bet Classes	
May 6, Sun	2 – 4 pm	Kitah Bet Family Education	
May 8, Tue	8 pm	Men's Group	
May 10, Thu		<i>NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service</i>	
May 11, Fri	6 – 8 pm	Kitah Alef Shabbat Seder	
May 12, Sat	8:45 am	Adult Education: Shabbat Morning Study	(see page 5)
May 12, Sat	9:45 am	Lauren Sacks Bat Mitzvah	Laurie Gould, Susan Nitkin
May 13, Sun	2 – 4 pm	Kitah Gimel Family Education	
May 13, Sun	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	
May 16, Wed	7:15 – 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Ruth and Song of Songs (3)	(see page 5)
May 19, Sat	9:45 am	Rose Friedman Bat Mitzvah	Steffi & Eric Karp
May 19, Sat	10 am – 12 pm	<i>Alef and Bet Classes (last day)</i>	
May 19, Sat	10:30 – 11:15 am	Tot Shabbat	
May 20, Sun	3:00 – 4:30 pm	Prospective Member Open House	
May 20, Sun	2 – 4 pm	Gan Program	
May 23, Wed	7:15 – 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Ruth and Song of Songs (4)	(see page 5)
May 26, Sat *	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Lisa Levine, Joel Katz
May 27, Sun	8:00 pm – midnight	Erev Shavuot Service & Text Study <i>Temple Hillel B'nai Torah (see page 3)</i>	
May 29, Tue		<i>Kitah Zayin (last day)</i>	
May 31, Thu	3:45 pm	<i>Kitah Gimel, Dalet, Vav (last day)</i> Celebration for Judith	(see page 4)

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June Calendar



Members' Meeting

Sunday, June 10
7:15 pm

Note: The meeting will be held at the Second Church, 60 Highland Street, one block up from the Unitarian Society (across the bridge and across the street). We'd love to have every household represented!

Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
Jun 1, Fri	6 – 7 pm	Family Shabbat Service	Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Karla Hailer-Fidelman
Jun 2, Sat	9:45 am	Ben Rome Bar Mitzvah <i>Rashi School (see page 7)</i>	Susan Hart, Jerry Friedman
Jun 3, Sun	12 pm – 6 pm	Mini-Retreat	
Jun 9, Sat	9:45 am	Zach Demuth Bar Mitzvah	Theresa St. John-Siegel, Jeffrey Marcus
Jun 10, Sun	7:15 pm	Members' Meeting <i>(see above)</i>	Barbara Zolit, Debbie Sher
Jun 12, Tue	8 pm	Men's Group	
Jun 15, Fri	8 pm	Chanting & Meditation Service <i>(see page 5)</i>	Stan Fleischman, Jacqueline Fleischman
Jun 16, Sat	9:45 am	Hannah Epstein Bat Mitzvah	Jodi Sugarman-Brozan, Dede Ordin
Jun 23, Sat	8:45 am	Adult Education: Shabbat Morning Study	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Jun 23, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Zvi Ruder, Leslie Ament-Ruder
Jun 30, Sat *	9:45 am	Shabbat Service	Audrey Roth, Jane Schwartz

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 Child Care

Free child care is provided for all Shabbat morning services at Dorshei Tzedek, led by post-b'nai mitzvah teens from our congregation. This is a great opportunity for younger kids and their parents to get to know the wonderful teens in our congregation and each other. No prearrangements are necessary.

שלום

Membership

שלום

The Membership Committee will hold an open house for prospective members on **Sunday May 20** from **3 to 4:30 pm** at The Unitarian Society. In addition to meeting Rabbi Spitzer, participants will have an opportunity to learn about the school curriculum from Judith and several of our teachers. Parents can bring their children (age six and over) and we will have some fun activities for the kids!

**Please join us in welcoming
these new members**

Carol and Julia Faith Sklar come to Dorshei Tzedek after 14 years (5 for Julia) in a Jewish Renewal community. They claim to have met more people in a short time at Dorshei Tzedek than in 14 years of Jewish Renewal. After graduating from college in 1974, Carol moved to Boston, not knowing why she came. But 27 years later, she is still here. Carol loves her garden, cooking for friends, being a mom, and playing Mah Jongg. Julia is in the third grade and loves school, reading, jazz, hip-hop and Irish step dancing. She is also an excellent cook and a wonderful gardener.

Soon after joining Dorshei Tzedek, **Cynthia Piltch and Jamie Katz** held a naming ceremony for their daughter **Lee**. Lee arrived from Wuhan China in November 1997 and she is now four years old. At her naming ceremony, she received the Hebrew name Liora to reflect the light and love (along with exhaustion) she brings her parents. Jamie is the chief of the Public Charities Division of the Attorney General's office. He is also a writer. Cynthia is the director of research and evaluation at a small nonprofit associated with Northeastern. She is also a trained massage therapist and Reiki Master Teacher.

Originally from Florida, **Michael White** now lives in Newton with his partner, Craig Sorenson. He heard about the congregation from Elizabeth Ross and Caren Smith. Michael, Elizabeth, and Caren participate in the same running club. Can we anticipate the formation of the first Dorshei Tzedek marathon team?

Elaine and Lewis Fanwick recently moved to the area from Connecticut. They were members of a havurah in Stamford and hope to find a similar fellowship here at Dorshei Tzedek.

Jane Schwartz and Tracey Rogers have joined with their two sons Isaac (age 6) and Jacob (age 4). Jane is a psychiatrist at BI Deaconess Medical Center, and Tracey is a psychologist at the Fenway Community Health Center.

Audrey Roth and Robin Einzig recently moved from New York with their daughter Phoebe who turned one in December. They were looking for a small, Reconstructionist congregation – with good music – and luckily they found us.

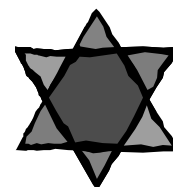
Jeffrey Marcus and Susan Nitkin saw a sign in JP Licks advertising Dorshei Tzedek and decided to pay us a visit. Ice cream also brought us Caleb (age 9), Noah (age 4) and Joanna who just turned one.

Stacey Chacker lives in Jamaica Plain with her husband, Jean-Claude Bourrut Lacouture and daughter, Ariane Chava. Stacey directs a community-organizing program in East Boston focused mostly on environmental justice issues. Jean-Claude is an organic farmer, running a rehab program with homeless people, at the Long Island Shelter (that is in the Boston Harbor – much closer than NY). Ariane is just a baby and is mostly busy entertaining herself and charming the world. Stacey is happy to be part of the welcoming Dorshei Tzedek community and looks forward to getting more involved.

Mitzvah Committee Transformation

The committee formerly known as the Mitzvah Committee met recently and has taken on a new name, the Chesed Committee. The Hebrew word *chesed* is usually translated as “grace” but sometimes also as “mercy” or “love.” An act of *chesed* is an act of kindness done neither to repay a debt nor for the sake of gain, but freely and purely out of love. Doing acts of *chesed*—*gemilut hasadim*—is considered to be one of the most important things by which the world is sustained.

Over the next year we plan to explore what *chesed* means to the Dorshei Tzedek community. If you are interested in joining us, please call Karen Wasserman at 617-325-9775.



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

If there's a *simcha* (happy occasion) in your life that you'd like acknowledged in the newsletter—a life cycle event, new job, book published, new house, or other accomplishment—please let us know! You can e-mail the Newsletter Committee at dtnews@yahoogroups.com.



Community Opportunities

Housing Affordability in Newton: Yes, it *is* an Issue

Monday, May 7, 7 – 9 pm

Druker Auditorium, Newton Public Library

Join Congressman Barney Frank, our own **Jeffrey Sacks**, and other speakers for an important discussion on the challenges to creating more affordable housing in Newton. For further information, call 617-964-3527.



Thank You

Dear Dorshei Tzedek: Thank you so much for the lovely tzedakah box. It's beautiful! It is a wonderful gift that I will treasure. Thank you also to all the people who came to the service to support me and to Nancy Gertz, who presented the gift on behalf of the congregation.—*Rebecca Holohan*

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to all those members of Dorshei Tzedek who became bar and bat mitzvah in recent months, and to their families: Olivia Medvedow, Rebecca Holohan, Zachary Carson, Zachary Rubin-Rattet, and Alex O'Connell!

Thank You

Melanie Northrop Forman and daughters send a belated *todah rabah* to all the gracious and generous families who provided us with dinners during the fall throughout Rachel's extended illness. We have been blessed in being held by the community, and her full recovery. Thank you!

