

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Beyond Despair

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

There are historical moments when we realize that we will always remember precisely where we were, the moment seared into our memories. So it was for me five and half years ago, on a Saturday evening in the fall of 1995, as I stood on Ben Yehuda street in Jerusalem and heard that Yitzhak Rabin had been mortally wounded. In that moment, the momentum towards peace that Rabin had begun a few years earlier began to unravel, and that unraveling continues today. There has perhaps never been a lower point in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians since the founding of the state of Israel. In the words of the prominent Israeli writer, David Grossman:

"Unlike during other, similarly difficult periods in the past, Israelis today have no hope... Since there is no hope, Israelis and Palestinians go back to doing what they know how to do – shed the blood of the other side. Each day more people join the ranks of the dead and wounded, of the haters and the despondent. Each day the appetite for revenge grows. The Palestinians say, before camera and microphone, that they no longer care if there is never an agreement: 'The main thing is for the Israelis to suffer as we have suffered.' Israelis demand that Sharon 'rub out a few Palestinian villages' and believe, so it seems, that this will make the Palestinians surrender and agree to an Israeli compromise."

And yet there remain in the midst of this situation voices of nonviolence and reconciliation on both sides. As long-time Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery has noted, "For me, the front-line does not pass between Israelis and Palestinians, but between the Israeli and Palestinian peace lovers on one side and the war-mongers of both peoples on the other." I recently had the privilege of meeting with one such Palestinian peace lover. Rev. Naim Atik, an Episcopal priest, runs an organization called Sabeel that is based in East Jerusalem. Committed to nonviolence, Sabeel is one of a number of Israeli and Palestinian organizations working for a just peace in Israel/Palestine, a

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From the Co-Presidents

by Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

A remarkable year in Dorshei Tzedek history is winding down towards summer. As a community, we've made great progress and celebrated important milestones. This year, the first class of our children to have been educated in our school from kindergarten onward have taken upon themselves the obligations of mitzvot and have shown us what a close-knit, caring, and supportive community looks like. We have committed ourselves more strongly than ever to lifelong Jewish study, under the aegis of the Community of Learners program, and have reinforced our religious school by committing to a full-time education director. Through member meetings and committee work, we have reminded ourselves of the vision we share. We continue to be blessed by an active and involved membership and by strong leadership through our Board. We truly have much for which to be thankful.

It's true that we have many fewer congregational activities during the summer, but, rather than think of summer as a "vacation" from Dorshei Tzedek, we prefer to view ourselves as entering a brief meditative period. We'd like to suggest that you undertake one or two activities this summer to keep Dorshei Tzedek in mind and to prepare yourselves for the resumption of our full-scale program this coming fall. Here are some ideas for your consideration:

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peace that recognizes Israeli security concerns as well as Palestinian demands for independence and a return of the occupied territories.

Such groups are small, but they are vital. Grossman writes, "Only a miracle or a catastrophe will change the situation. If you don't believe in the first and fear the latter, you realize that the only practical hope for saving Israel and the Palestinians from mutual slaughter is heavy international pressure on both of them... In order to restart negotiations, both sides must end their uncompromising rhetoric and reduce their violent actions to the bare minimum. Another, smaller hope is the willingness of individuals, Israelis and Palestinians, to renew dialogue. This is not easy to do, and apparently outside help is also necessary here. But such contacts would be of huge and not just symbolic importance. They will remind both nations of what they miss but do not dare to long for. They will create today's only alternative to hatred and despair."

I believe that we as American Jews need to heed Grossman's call for outside help in this situation. The Dorshei Tzedek Tikkun Olam Committee has begun to explore what it might mean for our congregation to play a role in fostering support within the greater Boston Jewish community for the forces of peace. The response of the local organized Jewish community to date has been, to my mind, narrow and unvisionary, and I am very excited at the prospect of our congregation taking a role in widening the discourse and creating some real momentum for peace.

There is also a wonderful opportunity for Dorshei Tzedek members to learn more about the situation first-hand this upcoming fall (see page 5 for details). The cost of the Mission, including airfare, is projected to be \$1600 (attempts are being made to lower this price). My hope is that any Dorshei Tzedek congregant who wants to go on this trip will be able to, regardless of cost. Please contact me if you are interested and the cost is a barrier. I am also hoping that congregants who are unable to go would be willing to contribute towards the expenses of others who do take the trip (please contact me if you are able to make a donation).

With wishes for peace and a relaxing and renewing summer—*Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

Rabbi Spitzer is on vacation for the last three weeks 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. If you need assistance from the congregation's Chesed (formerly Mitzvah) Committee, please call Karen Wasserman at 617-325-9775. Rabbi Spitzer will be available again in August for appointments and to return calls (617-924-6242) and e-mails.

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

- Erev Shabbat pot-luck dinners have been one of the most successful programs ever devised at our schul! You know who your neighbors and friends are – invite them over for Shabbat!
- Get to know at least one additional member household. You could have dinner together, paddle the Charles River, visit a museum, walk in the woods, or set up a sprinkler for the kids to run through.
- Get up early one Saturday morning each month and read a few pages from our siddur. You could focus on the interpretations and *kavanot* "below the line," or you could peruse the supplemental readings in the back. You can read the weekly Torah portion and follow the commentaries. If you're more ambitious, it's easy to find web sites with commentary on the weekly portion.
- Decide how you'd like to contribute five more hours' time to Dorshei Tzedek programming next year and build the time into one month's budget. Pick a holiday to help plan, or choose a high holiday task you'll undertake.
- Keep your eyes open, as you drive through our metropolitan area, and be on the look-out for a suitable space for the congregation! We are truly bursting at the seams of the Unitarian Society.
- Look ahead at our summer calendar of events and plan your own activities to enable you to attend at least one congregational event.
- Think about unaffiliated Jewish friends or acquaintances (or maybe even affiliated friends who aren't excited about their schul) and start now to interest them in Dorshei Tzedek. We'd love to add around 30 households next year. Take them to a summertime Shabbat morning service.
- Make a list of the three areas of your life where you'd most like to deepen the Jewish content. Compare your list with another member household and talk about the role Dorshei Tzedek can play.

Those are a few ideas, and we're sure you can think of more. Don't overdo it, though – we don't want you to burn yourselves out before the fall holidays! And have a refreshing and safe summer!

Summer Shabbat Services



Shabbat morning services on **Saturday, July 14, at 9:45 am**, will be at the home of Deborah Waber and Steve Leonard, 70 Helene Street, Waban. Please call 617-965-0295 for directions.

Shabbat morning services on **Saturday, July 28, at 9:45 am**, will be at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein, 350 Auburndale Avenue, Auburndale. Please call 617-332-8424 for directions.

In August, Shabbat morning services will be held at The Unitarian Society on **August 11, 18, and 25, at 9:45 am**.

All Ages Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner

On **Friday, August 10 at 6 pm**, we'll have an all-ages Erev Shabbat service, followed by a potluck dinner at **7 pm**, at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein, 350 Auburndale Avenue, Auburndale. Please call 617-332-8424 for



directions. After a musical service with story-telling we'll enjoy good food and schmoozing – so join us for this special summer Friday evening service! Please bring a vegetarian or fish dish to share, enough for 8-10 people. Please note: in case of inclement weather, call the office at 617-965-0330 x1 for an update.



Softball and Picnic Supper

This year, we will again have our traditional softball and picnic get-together for all ages, on **Sunday August 26**. Softball is **4-6 pm**, followed by a picnic from **6-8 pm**. Again this year, we will be at Arsenal Park in Watertown. Enter the park on Arsenal Street, between the Arsenal Mall and the Harvard Vanguard Medical building.

Note that this is not a potluck. Please bring whatever you'd like to eat and any utensils you'll need to prepare it, though of course you're welcome to arrange something with others in advance. We have reserved tables and grills at the park. This event will take place even if it is cloudy. Please come unless it is pouring rain, as we have no rain date. If you can bring softball equipment, please contact Ilana Mainelli at 617-923-0789 or mainelli@mediaone.net.



Members' Meetings

by Lisa Port White

April 29, 2001

The April 29 meeting of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek covered a full agenda, including the following: having CDT representation at the Synagogue Fair on June 10 in Brookline; the good news about receiving a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Educators and the beginnings of a search for a full-time education director; Debbie Waber has become the chair of the Space Committee. The Mitzvah Committee is currently undergoing renovations and will be known as the Chesed Committee. A group gathered to discuss what it means to become a Community of Learners, and the learning needs of the entire congregation. The Social Action Committee has determined that the one-to-one relational meetings will now be under the domain of the Membership Committee, and Membership reports that we have 112 households and are on target with our growth. The Fundraising Committee announced that a letter which will be going out to the members asking for year-end contributions.

June 10, 2001

Paul Hattis presented the budget and the members unanimously adopted it. Dan Rome reported that at least 23 households responded favorably to the recent fundraising letter. Cindy Shulak Rome reported that the search for a full-time education director has been re-opened after our first offer was turned down. Caren Smith reported that the Personnel Committee has received some resumes for the half-time administration position and that they will begin holding interviews. Cheryl Sacks reported that the Space Committee has been meeting and also has begun actively looking for office space. The meeting continued on the theme of reflecting on what has happened within our community. The committee chairs shared the concrete results that have come about through our communal work together, including updates from the Tikkun Olam (Social Action) Committee about pursuing possible involvement in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and/or activity related to promoting peace in the Middle East, and a report from the Chesed Committee and the Education Committee about a new initiative in the coming year to involve the en-

tire congregation in a process of learning about the Jewish value of chesed, loving-kindness, and what it means to be a caring community.

The Board slate for next year's Executive Board and Board of Directors was presented by Elizabeth Ross, Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Board slate was approved unanimously. The new Board and committee chair list is as follows:

Executive Committee

<i>Co-presidents</i>	Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx
<i>Past President</i>	Cheryl Sacks
<i>VP Education</i>	Cindy Shulak Rome
<i>VP Kehillah</i>	Nancy Gertz
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lynne Brandon
<i>Secretary</i>	Elizabeth Ross
	Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Board of Directors

<i>Operations</i>	Ellen Pashall
<i>Ritual</i>	Elaine Pollack
<i>Social Action</i>	Betsy Hinden
<i>Space</i>	Debbie Waber
<i>Outreach</i>	Andrew Schiff
<i>Publicity</i>	Roberta Carson
<i>Nadiv Lev</i>	Dan Rome
<i>Newsletter</i>	Dan Halbert
<i>Inreach</i>	Judy Hersh

Off Board

<i>Rabbinic Liaison</i>	Louise Enoch
<i>Personnel</i>	Caren Smith
<i>Ritual co-chair</i>	Kelli Kirshtein
<i>Education co-chair</i>	Tessa Goldsmith
<i>Nadiv Lev co-chair</i>	Michael Cohen
<i>Holiday Programming</i>	Sally Kolodkin & Clifford Goldsmith
<i>Chesed</i>	Karen Wasserman & Susan Manheim
<i>Website</i>	Clifford Goldsmith
<i>E-mail list</i>	Paul Carson
<i>Adult Education</i>	Ira Schor

It will be an exciting year. We have several new members chairing committees this year and some coming back after taking some time off. We also said goodbye and thanks to people leaving the board this year: Clifford Goldsmith, Paul Hattis, Kelli Kirshtein, Linette Liebling, and Lisa Port White.



Bat Mitzvah Celebration



Stella Rose Isaacs

We hope you will join us on **Saturday, September 1**, when our daughter Stella Rose is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Stella has completed 7th grade at Brown Middle School and is a voracious reader, a lover of fine literature and an aspiring poet and writer. Drawn to a variety of music, Stella is currently studying piano. In the coming year she will begin to study voice and as she loves to sing, and she is extremely excited about this. Stella is also a visual and dramatic person, with a good eye for color, design, and fashion. During the summer months, she will attend The Creative Arts at Park School program, where she will be concentrating on singing, taking part in the musical, writing, and learning the art of applying stage make-up. For her *tikkun olam* project, Stella has been volunteering at the Newton Community Day Care Center with a fellow classmate. She has enjoyed the opportunity to work with young children. Stella has a wonderful sense of humor and is prone to fits of laughter. Now, after years of Hebrew school and many months of serious preparation, she is looking forward to celebrating with her family, friends, and community.

—Barbara and Shelly Isaacs



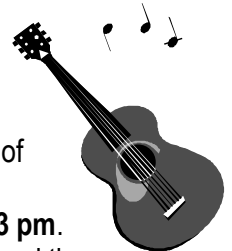
JRF Mission to Israel

JRF is planning a Reconstructionist mission to Israel in support of and in solidarity with the peace camp and other progressive forces in Israel. A Reconstructionist mission would provide a unique opportunity to show support for Israel while demonstrating a commitment to a progressive Judaism.

Participants will meet with key members of the opposition within the Knesset, as well as with leaders of Peace Now, Women in Black, Oz ve'Shalom, and other peace groups. We will meet with organizations supported by the New Israel Fund that address social, civil rights and gender issues in Israel. In addition, we will arrange sessions with liberal religious groups, organizations like Rabbis for Human Rights and B'Tzelem, and Palestinian and Israeli Arab advocacy organizations. The dates for the JRF mission to Israel are **October 22-28, 2001**. The cost is approximately \$1600. If you are interested in going on the trip, contact the JRF office directly (after July 1) for registration materials at Israelmission@JRF.org or 215-782-8500.

Music with Debbie Friedman

Debbie Friedman, composer and singer of new Jewish music, will be in concert at Temple Beth Avodah on **October 14 at 3 pm**. The concert will benefit AIDS education and the annual Peter Daniel Clark Seder of Hope and Healing. For ticket info call 617-969-7743.



Shabbat Retreat

Sylvia Boorstein, a noted teacher of mindfulness meditation, will be leading a contemplative Shabbat retreat on **October 19-21** at the Elat Chayyim retreat center in New York (about a 4-hour drive from Boston). If ten Dorshei Tzedek members attend, they will receive a 10% discount on the cost of the retreat. Let Rabbi Spitzer know if you are interested in the retreat, and she will put interested members in touch with one another. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Elat Chayyim at info@elatchayyim.org, or call 800-398-2630 x26 (remember to mention that you are with Dorshei Tzedek).

News from Our School

By Cindy Shulak-Rome

We're proud to have completed another successful year at the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School. We celebrated this occasion at the end of May with our year-end assembly for students and their parents. Each grade presented a brief *siyyum* to provide just a taste of what they have worked on this past year, and of course we had a lively rendition of the now famous "*Stump the Parents*" game created by all of our students! The afternoon concluded with a tribute and dinner (highlighted by a cake decorated by the students of Kitah Gimel) in honor of our Education Director, Judith Wolfman, who will be leaving her position to move to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Judith has been a wonderful presence in our school for the past two years. Greatly admired by students, teachers and parents, she has brought a level of professionalism to the Dorshei Tzedek school, always with a smile on her face and a keen sense of humor. She has been creative and resourceful, both in her support of teachers, and in instituting new routines such as Shabbat morning "*Torah Talk*" with Morah Chavah and *Community Time* each Tuesday and Thursday. She will be missed! We wish her the very best of luck in her new home and job!

We have also said good bye to Kitah Bet teacher Rachel Gutter, to Mark Rosenberg (Kitot Vav and Zayin) and to our Kitah Hay teacher, Nicole Wilson who is entering the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College this coming year. We are delighted that Miranda Phillips and Leslie Chapman are returning next year. Our thanks and appreciation to all of our staff for their dedication, creative energy and hard work throughout the school year.

At this time we are working hard behind the scenes to get everything ready for next September. We are in the process of hiring new teachers, and planning the school calendar. Tessa Goldsmith and Abby Cohen, and members of our Education Committee continue to interview candidates for our Education Director position. In the meantime, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Vice President for Education, will be temporarily assuming the responsibilities of the Education Director, together with the help and support of Rabbi Spitzer and the Education Committee.

Registration materials for next year have been mailed out. Please remember—**school registration materials must be returned by July 31 in order to be assured a space in the school for the coming year.** If you have questions

or need a registration form, please call the office and leave a message - 617 965-0330 ext. 4. In the meantime, have a fun and relaxing summer!

Kitah Hay Walk for Hunger a Smashing Success!

Yasher koach to Kitah Hay (5th grade) for raising over \$450 in the Project Bread Walk for Hunger this past May!

Yom Ha'Atzmaut at Our School

In honor of *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) this year, the students at our school assembly discussed the current situation in Israel with Rabbi Spitzer and our staff. The classes sent letters suggesting their own ideas for resolving the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians to the Consul General of Israel, Itzhak Levanon.

The students had many wonderful, thoughtful ideas about how two peoples could live together in peace or partition the land between them, or even keep fighting and/or negotiating until the conflict is resolved. They asked Mr. Levanon how young people in America could help with this situation. Even students who had no specific ideas of how to resolve the conflict took the opportunity to express their concern.

Here is the response our congregation received from Mr. Levanon on May 30. Please be sure to share it with your children, so they know that their ideas have been heard.

Dear Rabbi:

Thank you for forwarding to me the students' letters regarding the actual situation in Israel.

Please tell them that personally I am thrilled by the fact that they have expressed themselves in a candid and friendly way on issues of the greatest importance to Israel and to the Jewish people. The mere fact of doing so means that they do care: "Echpat lahem."

Rest assured that Israel is sincerely seeking a durable solution to the conflict, where security and the Jewish values will be the pillars on which peace will rest.

Please extend my thanks to all the students who wrote me these letters, and my hope that they will become the future leaders of the community. Shalom.

Sincerely,

Itzhak Levanon

Consul General of Israel to New England

Ritual Committee Report

By Michael White

Earlier this year, a few Dorshei Tzedek members had asked the Ritual Committee to consider changing the process for inviting members to stand for the Mourner's Kaddish. The Congregation's current custom is for the service leader to invite "those who are in mourning and those whose custom is to stand during the Mourner's Kaddish to stand." The members requesting a change suggested asking the entire congregation to stand for the Mourner's Kaddish. The reason the members made this request is that having the entire congregation stand for the Mourner's Kaddish would reduce the awkwardness that mourners may feel when standing in isolation.

The Committee's discussion of this topic revealed that there is not a definitive "right" or "wrong" concerning non-mourners standing for the Mourner's Kaddish. Therefore, the conclusions that we reached should not be considered *halachic* conclusions, but instead represent what felt best for a particular group of people at a particular point in time.

In reviewing this proposal, the Committee considered the following points:

- Many Reform congregations have adopted the custom of having the entire congregation stand for the Mourner's Kaddish. Often, this is linked to remembering Holocaust victims by reminding the congregation that entire Jewish communities were annihilated leaving no surviving family members to say Kaddish for the deceased.
- Experiencing the death of a close relative is a significant life change. Standing for Kaddish (with the other mourners only) is a Jewish way of marking this change and may help some mourners proceed through the grieving process.
- In some communities it is viewed as inappropriate (even disrespectful) to stand for Kaddish when your full immediate family is alive.
- Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's membership comes from a variety of Jewish backgrounds, which have diverse approaches to the custom of who stands for Kaddish.

After some discussion, the theme that emerged was that although it may be supportive to mourners to have the entire congregation stand for Kaddish with them, this support

comes at the expense of coercing some congregants to violate a deeply rooted custom. In addition, for some mourners, the process of standing while much of the congregation is seated allows the mourner to acknowledge their recent loss publicly which can be important to the mourner's own healing process and makes the community aware of who is in mourning. With this in mind, the Committee decided to maintain the current practice where the service leader introduces the Mourner's Kaddish by inviting those who are in mourning, those who are observing a Yahrzeit, and those whose custom it is to stand during the Mourner's Kaddish to please stand.

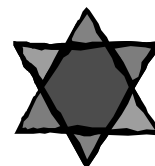
Discussion of this topic seems to have a long history. In preparing this article, I consulted the web and came across the following in a "My Point of View" column by Rabbi Jack Moline of Agudas Achim Congregation (Conservative) in Northern Virginia:

The 16th-century code Shulchan Arukh notes two things about standing for kaddish. The first is that whoever is reciting it must stand. The second is that there are communities in which all congregants stand for every kaddish, and others in which they do not (unless the kaddish follows a standing prayer, like Hallel). The custom is local.

If there are any topics that you would like the Ritual Committee to review, please forward them to Rabbi Spitzer at tspitzer@worldnet.att.net, 617-924-6242 or to Kelli Kirshtein at kellikir@juno.com.

National Havurah Institute

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.





Contributions



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Janet and Mark Fagan

In memory of Amy Mazur's father

Jeff and Roberta Fortgang

In honor of our daughter Becky's bat mitzvah celebration and those of all her classmates, and with many thanks to our fellow Kitah Zayin parents and the congregation for their support

Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jerry Friedman

In honor of Elaine Pollack for preparing Rose Friedman for her bat mitzvah celebration

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

In memory of Amy Mazur's father, Marvin Mazur

In memory of Geri Blitzman's mother, Sara Blitzman

In memory of Jeremy Savitz

In honor of Lisa Port White's wonderful contributions to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors as Secretary and all-around hard worker

In honor of Clifford Goldsmith for all he has done and continues to do for our congregation

Chiae Herzig

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's birthday

Amy Mazur

In honor of Lauren Sacks' becoming bat mitzvah

In appreciation for Tessa Goldsmith's great assistance with Hebrew

In honor of Ben Rome and Zachariah Demuth's becoming b'nei mitzvah

Ellen Pashall

In honor of the b'nei mitzvah celebrations of Zack Rubin Rattet, Becky Fortgang, Aaron Littman, Lauren Sacks, Rose Friedman, Ben Rome, Zack Demuth, and Hannah Epstein

Lisa Port White

In honor of Dan Halbert, Ezra Hausman, and Mark Farber for all the work on the newsletter

In honor of Meryl Kahn for the publicity work

In honor of Cheryl Sacks

for her great humor and friendship

In honor of Jill Volk for her friendship and inspiration

In honor of Tessa and Clifford Goldsmith, the best hagbah/galil team around

In honor of Nancy Gertz

in appreciation of her friendship and support

In honor of Andrew, Betsy, Chayim, Cheryl, Clifford, Elizabeth, Judy, Kelli, Linette, Lynne, Nancy, and Paul for their work on the Board and Executive Committee

In honor of Gianna Bird for all her friendly help

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

In honor of Elaine Pollack for all her assistance to our entire family with Lauren's preparation for becoming bat mitzvah; she is an extraordinary teacher who guided us with warmth and patience

To thank the community for helping us make Lauren's bat mitzvah event so wonderful

In memory of Leslie Rubin's father

Steve Sugerman's friends at CVS Pharmacy in Hanover, MA

In memory of Louise Sugerman

Jill Volk & Steven Lewis

In honor of Zachariah Demuth becoming bar mitzvah and Rose Friedman becoming bat mitzvah

Lyn and Ed Weiner

In honor of the recent bat mitzvah celebration of Lauren Sacks and as a thank you to Elaine Pollack for helping Lyn learn her "Parsha"

Holy Book Fund

Beatrice Kaplan

In memory of Marty Bresnick

**Elaine and Gil Medoff; Ida, David and Rose Arbital;
Caren Cinnamon; Mario and Dolores D'Anna;
Violet and Joan Ramundo**

In memory of Louise Sugerman

Elizabeth Ross and Caren Smith

In honor of Kitah Zayin 5761 and 5774

School Fund

Roberta and Jeff Fortgang

In honor of Miranda Phillips, whose tutelage brought warmth, humor, and spirit to Becky's bat mitzvah studies

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

In honor of the b'nei mitzvah ceremonies of this year's class of remarkable and inspirational young adults

In celebration of Judith Wolfman's life transition and in honor of her leadership as our Education Director

Lisa Port White

In honor of Morah Chava

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jeff and Roberta Fortgang

In gratitude for Rabbi Toba Spitzer's spiritual and intellectual guidance through the bat mitzvah process

Ora Gladstone and Mitch Silver

In honor of Zack Leibling Demuth, Hannah Enoch Epstein, Rebecca Fortgang, upon their becoming b'nei mitzvah

Cynthia Piltsch

In honor of the Naming Ceremony for Lee Katz

Lisa Port White

In honor and appreciation of Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

Thank you for all your help, Toba

Alex and Jodi Sugerman

In memory of Louise Sugerman

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 Jodi Sugerman-Brozan and her family on the passing of her mother, Louise Sugerman, and to Leslie Rubin and his family on the passing of his father, Edward Rubin. May their memory be for a blessing, and may both families find healing and comfort among family, friends, and community.



Todah Rabah

Alex and I both would like to thank all of you for your kind expressions of sympathy when my mother, Louise Sugerman, died in April. My entire family was moved by the support and help you provided during this most difficult time. The comfort of belonging to such a loving community has helped to pull us through. Our heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Toba Spitzer and the entire Dorshei Tzedek community.

—Jodi and Alex Sugerman-Brozan

Dear friends: We would like to thank everyone for their loving wishes, caring deeds, and all the other nurturing acts of kindness during these past few months. Our whole family is grateful for the visits, phone calls, e-mails, and also for the many dinners, flowers, breads, soups, and sweets. We truly appreciate everyone's interest and ongoing support during this stressful time. We all feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

—Efrem and Ellie Goldberg, Reva and Sasha

Membership

Join us in welcoming the following new members:



Jill Stanzler-Katz and Jeff Katz live in West Roxbury with and their daughters, Alexandra and Samantha. Jill is a psychotherapist in private practice and a synagogue consultant for the Jewish Resource Network Initiative. Jeff is a consultant for non-profits and a Research Fellow at the Kennedy School at Harvard. Alex and Sammie are students at the Rashi School. After an exhaustive synagogue-shopping expedition that lasted too long, they have joined Dorshei Tzedek because of the Reconstructionist philosophy, warm welcoming congregation, inspiring and spiritually uplifting rabbi, and because Jill loves to sing.

Yoni and Nancy Osher Blumberg live in Watertown. Yoni is finishing fourth grade at Rashi. He likes the wilderness, drawing, coin collecting, and karate (he expects to get his black belt this summer after four years of lessons). Nancy works for the Nature Conservancy as Director of Finance and enjoys spending time with friends, hiking, reading, and singing. They were attracted to Dorshei Tzedek's size and the warmth and involvement of the congregation.

Stan and Jacqui Fleischman have lived in Newton for almost 40 years. They met at Brooklyn College and have not yet shaken their Brooklyn roots. They have two married daughters: Marcella who is a 7th grade teacher at the Shady Hill School and Marilyn whose web design career in Washington DC is temporarily on hold while she cares for their five-month-old grandson, Marc. Stan has been involved in computer software development for many years and currently works at Fidelity Investments. Jackie is a social worker specializing in adoption. She currently works for Act of Love Adoptions and serves as Secretary of the Adoption Professionals Association of Massachusetts and on the board of directors of the Open Door Society. While always maintaining a strong Jewish identity, Stan and Jackie have never joined a congregation before. They are delighted to find how welcoming and comfortable Dorshei Tzedek feels.

Todah Rabah

To everyone who has helped make our b'nei mitzvah celebrations of the past year so special:

- To Ellen Pashall and Cheryl Sacks for their ongoing efforts to create a comfortable and beautiful davvening space.
- To the Goldsmith family for the lovely Torah reading

table cover.

- To Leslie Rubin and Frances Greenberg for the elegant Torah reading stand.
- To Wendy Gedanken, Mia Branco, and Malcolm White for the beautiful screens.
- To Elaine Pollack for the lovely bimah rug.
- To Caren Smith for the never-ending supply of tzedakah boxes.
- And most especially to our wonderful crew of bar/bat mitzvah tutors: Elaine Pollack, Miranda Phillips, and Ben Weiner.

Yasher koach to everyone!

Todah rabah to the Kitah Zayin class and their parents for the lovely gift to the congregation of a havdalah set and Shabbat candlesticks.

Mazel Tov

To Ilana Mainelli and Dan Seidman on the arrival and naming of Teddy Seidman!

To our new graduates!—

- Reva Goldberg, on receiving her B.A. from the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University.
- Alex Sugarman-Brozan, on receiving her law degree from Northeastern University.
- Melanie Forman, on receiving her Master of Social Work from Boston University.
- Erica Streit, on receiving her Master of Public Health from Boston University. She concentrated in maternal and child health.
- Lisa Susswein, on receiving her Master's in genetic counseling from Brandeis University. (Sadly, Lisa says she and Amy Entwistle are moving to Atlanta for career reasons. They will miss DT and would love to be put in touch with any DT member's friends in Atlanta. Their number there will be 404-320-2058, or send e-mail to lisasusswein@aol.com.)

(Our apologies to anyone whose graduation we missed - please let the newsletter know for a future issue!)

To all those members of Dorshei Tzedek who became bar and bat mitzvah in May and June, and to their families: Aaron Littman, Lauren Sacks, Rose Friedman, Ben Rome, Zachariah Demuth, and Hannah Epstein!

To Hope Kellman and Jim Fennell on the arrival of their son, Amos Charles, and to Isaac and Grace on their new baby brother!



Summer Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
Jul 14, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Home of Debbie Waber and Steve Leonard</i>	Debbie Waber, Steve Leonard, Michael White (see page 3)
Jul 28, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein</i>	Ellen Hemley, Mark Bronstein, Ellen Pashall (see page 3)
Aug 10, Fri	6 pm (service) 7 pm (potluck)	All Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner <i>Home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein</i>	Ellen Hemley, Mark Bronstein, Beth Brooks, Jayne Bailin (see page 3)
Aug 11, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Lisa Levine, Deb Feldheim
Aug 18, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Debbie Blicher, Geri Blitzman
Aug 22, Wed	7:45 pm	Chesed Committee Meeting	
Aug 25, Sat	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Karen Arnold, Jeff Arnold
Aug 26, Sun	4 - 6 pm (softball) 6 - 8 pm (picnic)	Softball and Picnic Supper <i>Arsenal Park, Watertown</i>	Ilana Mainelli (see page 3)
Sep 1, Sat	9:45 am	Stella Rose Isaacs Bat Mitzvah	Setup/Cleanup TBA (see page 5)

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Events and services are held at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Rabbi Spitzer is on vacation for the last three weeks of July.

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