

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
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Tishri-Heshvan 5762

October 2001



Co-Presidents' Column

by Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

Each of us has experienced growing pains. We wake up one morning and don't entirely recognize our own bodies: parts seem to sprout suddenly or to lag behind or fail to coordinate the way they used to; our clothes don't fit; chairs aren't the right size. Some growing pains are emotional and not physical: we're all in some degree reluctant to change, we wonder if we can really go to the next stage of development, and we're unsure just who we'll become as we grow.

Dorshei Tzedek is also experiencing growing pains and will probably continue to do so for many months to come. Some of our pains are physical and some are emotional. Our membership is growing, which creates tension as well as excitement. It's exciting to see so many more people at services and programs because it tells us we're building something attractive and meaningful. We feel a part of a more substantial and varied community. The payoff to all our organizing and planning effort is the appreciation of an ever-larger circle of friends. And, frankly, we have more resources, both financial and human, to undertake even more ambitious goals. The corresponding tension is that we frequently encounter people who are strangers even though we know they are members. We may hesitate to introduce ourselves for fear we've done it before and have simply forgotten who the other person is — we are all loathe to risk embarrassment.

But the growing pains we want to talk about this month are physical growing pains. Many of our members are all too keenly aware that we have outgrown the facilities of the First Unitarian Church, and we've written on this subject before. This month we want to lay out for you the process through which we, along with the Rabbi, the Executive Committee, the Space Committee, and the Board, will guide the congregation over the coming months. The objective of that process is to reach a shared understanding of our requirements for space, of the trade-offs presented by different locations, of the resources

needed to secure the space we want, and of the approach we'll take to find our next home.

This month we are holding a series of parlor meetings and invite all members to attend at least one. We have arranged the meetings in different geographic areas and on different days and times to be as convenient as possible for all households. Our agenda for the first round of meetings is this:

- Present the reasons we believe we've outgrown the Unitarian Church
- Share results from our earlier survey of space requirements
- Listen to your views about ideal attributes for our space
- Probe the trade-offs concerning location
- Air anxieties
- Outline the ongoing role of the Space Committee

Here is the list of dates, times, and places for the first parlor meetings:

Date	Time	At the home of...
Oct 16 Tue	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein
Oct 16 Sun	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Roberta and Paul Carson
Oct 28 Sun	10 am - 12 pm	Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jerry Friedman

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Notes From Our Board.....	2
Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shabbat Family Services.....	3
Chesed Cmte, Board Orientation, DT Open House	4
Bat Mitzvah Celebrations, Shabbat Potlucks	5
Contributions, Naming Ceremonies.....	6
Shabbat Retreat, JCRC Institute	6
Adult Education	7
JRF News	8
Calendar (removable).....	9-10
JRF Statement on the Attack on America	11

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

We want to complete this first round of meetings before the November Members' Meeting so we can report consolidated results at that time. At the Members' Meeting we hope to reach some consensus about what our needs and desires for space are for the coming years. We expect to follow up with a second round of parlor meetings, at which we will discuss in greater detail the specifics of finding new space, the costs associated with buying vs. leasing, possible locations, etc.

We'll need another presentation to the membership after the second round of parlor meetings. The ultimate objective of these meetings and presentations is to achieve agreement by the congregation that we can move forward to identify new space and that we can make the financial commitment necessary to secure a desirable space. As most of you know, finding space is largely a "targets of opportunity" undertaking — we must have the ability to move quickly when a desirable location presents itself. We believe that by discussing the subject of our space requirements and desirable attributes thoroughly and openly, in advance, and then asking for the concurrence of the congregation, we can position ourselves to act decisively when the time is right.

No doubt we'll have our moments of tension, and more than a few of anxiety, as we move through this process. After all, it's part of our growing pains! We'll do our best to honor your feelings and to listen to your concerns, because we know, in the end, that we'll reach the best result for our community. What you can do, in turn, is to attend a parlor meeting and the November 3 Members' Meeting, to make your thoughts known, and to engage with us in this important matter. We really need the entire congregation to be involved and bought in to this important process.

Now that the newsletter is published monthly, Rabbi Toba Spitzer's column and the Co-President's column will usually appear in alternate months.

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.

Notes from Our Board

by Elizabeth Ross

The Board last met at the home of Roberta Carson on August 14, 2001.

Rabbi Spitzer reported on the status of our school going into the 5762 school year. The search for a full-time Education Director search is still ongoing, but, academically, the school is in excellent shape with a complete curriculum for every grade in place. A new post b'nei mitzvah class, taught by Rabbi Spitzer, will meet for six sessions this fall. At the time of the meeting, teacher hiring for the school year was nearing completion.

Judy Herzig-Marx reviewed plans for leadership training this fall, consisting of a

Board orientation centered on visioning for the coming year and a nuts-and-bolts session for committee chairs to include training in running a meeting, budgeting, and bringing a proposal to the Board. This latter

meeting, scheduled for **Monday, October 22, at 7:30 pm**, will be open to and useful for any member currently active in a committee.



Rabbi Spitzer reviewed adult education classes already planned for this year and solicited ideas about other potential topics and class leaders. Already planned for this year are monthly pre-Shabbat morning Torah study sessions led by Rabbi Spitzer; a continuation of the summer leyning intensive with Elaine Pollack; a Saturday morning class taught by Judy Herzig-Marx based on the book, "Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach," by Rabbis Rebecca Alpert and Jacob Staub; and a Reconstructionist "Introduction to Judaism" class taught by Rabbi Karen Landy. Suggestions for new topics included repeating an Introduction to Reconstructionism class; Jewish crafts; a series on learning Hebrew phrases, blessings, reading short texts, and reviewing customs particular to Jewish holidays; and a class focusing on the challenges of being Jewish in a non-Jewish society.

Paul Hattis (past Treasurer) reported the good news that we ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$18,000. Looking ahead, it was felt that we should be frugal with this surplus given the current economic fluctuations and our anticipated space and personnel needs.

Sukkot

The holiday of Sukkot is known as *z'man simchateynu*, the “time of our joy.” Come be joyful with us as we celebrate this week-long festival! Childcare is available for all morning services.

Celebrate the first day of Sukkot, **Tuesday morning, October 2** with a morning service and Torah reading 9-10:30 am. Bring your lulav and etrog, and shake it!

Later the same day, we'll have a potluck dinner and Sukkah decorating at **5:45 pm** and an evening service that's appropriate for kids as well as adults at **7 pm**. If you are coming for dinner, please bring enough for 10-12 people. If your last name begins with A-J, bring a vegetarian/fish main course; K-P, bring a salad or fruit salad; R-Z, bring dessert. Drinks will be provided.



On Shabbat Sukkot, **Saturday, October 6**, begin the morning at **8:45 am** with Torah study on a Sukkot theme, led by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, and then join us for a Shabbat morning service with special prayers for Sukkot, and a Kiddush in our Sukkah. Morning services begin at **9:45 am** (and bring your lulav and etrog!).

Simchat Torah



Join us **Monday, October 8, 6:30-8:30 pm** for a fun evening of music, creativity, and dancing with the Torah! All ages welcome (and schnapps encouraged). This is the holiday of rejoicing with the Torah, when we finish reading the very end of the book of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy) and roll it all the way back to the beginning of *Bereshit* (Genesis). All ages welcome!

These events are at the Unitarian Society in West Newton Square, 1326 Washington Street.



Erev Shabbat Family Services



On the first (or so) **Friday** of most months, we welcome Shabbat with a musical, all-ages Erev Shabbat family service, from **6-7 pm** at the Unitarian Society. Mark your calendars: the dates for the year 5762 are **November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 10, and June 7**.

Chesed Committee Report

by Lisa Port White

Our Mitzvah Committee, which has been providing meals to members in demanding life situations and transitions, is morphing. A group of dedicated members, through study and discussion, is working towards a deeper and more encompassing definition of what it means to be a caring community and what forms should "chesed" (loving-kindness) take in the Dorshei Tzedek community. The renamed Chesed Committee has formed to explore what this means and how to make this change happen. As with all our Dorshei Tzedek endeavors, we need input from and connection with our membership. Members should look for a survey to be coming after the High Holidays, and we ask that you return the information as soon as possible. If you have any questions in the meantime or would like to participate on this committee, please call Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

In the meantime, we are continuing to provide the meals and support we can for members who let us know their needs. If you are experiencing a life-changing event – such as the joy of bringing a child into your home, or dealing with illness or surgery, or caring for parents or children who are ill – and would like a little extra support, please contact Susan Manheim or Rabbi Spitzer (617-965-0330). It is a mitzvah to give and a mitzvah to receive. Don't hesitate to call for either purpose!



Prospective Members' Open House

Our open houses for prospective members are a great way for potential members to learn about the congregation, meet current members and have questions answered. The next open house is **Sunday, October 28, at 7:30 pm** at the Unitarian Society. For more information, call 617-965-0330 x1.

Board and Committee Orientation



Board Members, Committee Chairs, and anyone else who is interested are asked to attend Part 2 of this year's Board Orientation, to be held on **Monday evening, October 22, 7:30 pm**, at Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx's home. This meeting will consist of two



parts: *Running Effective Meetings* and *The Budgeting Process*. Each part will run for approximately one hour and will be highly informative and helpful to all volunteers in our congregation. For more information, contact Nancy Gertz at 617-969-5456 or ngertz@mediaone.net.



Bat Mitzvah Celebrations



Anna Bresnick

Anna Bresnick is the daughter of Elaine Bresnick and the late Martin Bresnick. An 8th grader at Day Middle School, Anna especially loves soccer and basketball, but she is also an excellent writer and poet. For her Tikkun Olam project, Anna volunteered at the Newton Community Service Center daycare program. Anna plans to donate the centerpieces at her party, which her Aunt Janice will make out of art supplies and books, to the children at NCSC. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to help us celebrate Anna's bat mitzvah at the Unitarian Society on **October 20**.—Elaine Bresnick

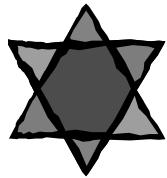
Anna Kahn-Leavitt

On **Saturday, October 27**, our daughter, Anna, will read from the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us at the Unitarian Society and join us afterwards at a kiddush. Anna has a keen interest in Jewish studies and traditions and has undertaken her Torah studies with concentration and thoroughness. She has been going to Jewish summer camps (Yavneh and Micah) since she was 9. Anna is entering the 7th grade at Shady Hill School where English literature is her favorite subject. She is known for her strong self-confidence, flair, and eagerness to lead and participate in group activities. Her favorite sport is kayaking. She has a strong stage presence; she has been singing regularly in the Boston Children's Opera and has had children's roles in some professional operas.—Laurie and Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt

First Shabbat Potluck of the New Year

This year we're having six potluck dinners in members' homes. They will be split between Erev Shabbat (Friday) and Havdallah (Saturday). These potlucks are one of the best ways to get to know other Dorshei Tzedek members. The first one will be **Saturday, October 13**. Ami Gordon will collect names of hosts and guests, and Judy Hersh will assist with the matching. We need to know who is attending from your household, and any allergies or food preferences you have. Hosts should let us know how many people you'd like to have over. The **deadline for signing up is October 7**, so contact Ami right away at 617-630-1717 or amisgordon@mediaone.net.





Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

Sandra Gertz

In honor of all the people of Dorshei Tzedek who have shown kindness and generosity to her daughter, Nancy

Chiae Herzig

Wishing Dorshei Tzedek a good year

Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury

Naming Ceremonies

We are blessed to have two new young members.

On Shabbat Sukkot, **October 6, at 9:45 am**, please come welcome Benjamin, son of Kelli Kirshtein and Wendy Angus, to our community as we give him his Hebrew name.

On Shabbat morning, **November 3, at 9:45 am**, we welcome Abram, son of Judith Wine and Aileen Cronin, to our community and give him his Hebrew name.



Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Nathaniel Lichten, who was chosen to compete in this year's "Olymipyeda," Israel's international science contest for teens. Nathaniel traveled to Israel this past summer with 3 other Bostonians to join Israeli, English, and Australian high scorers in a science camp program. This year's program was centered around sports science.



Shabbat Retreat

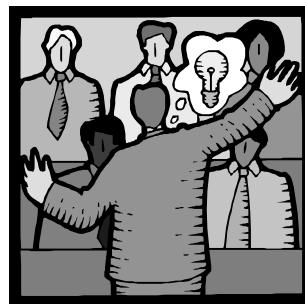
Sylvia Boorstein, a noted teacher of mindfulness meditation (and highly recommended by Rabbi Toba!), will be leading a contemplative Shabbat retreat on **October 19-21** at the Elat Chayyim retreat center in New York (about a 4-hour drive from Boston). If ten Dorshei Tzedek members attend, they will 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).



The 2001 JCRC Tzedek Institute for Synagogues

Building Skills for Effective Social Justice Leadership

Join the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston on **Sunday, October 21, 1:30-6 pm**, at Brandeis University, for an exciting afternoon of inspiring speakers and interactive workshops designed for lay and professional synagogue leaders who share an interest in learning best practices and refining skills used in successful synagogue-based social justice work. For more information, call the JCRC at 617-457-8645.



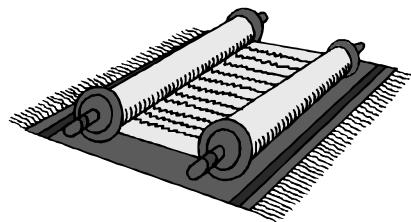
Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:40 am

at the Unitarian Society, West Newton

Fall Dates: October 6, November 10, December 8



In our Shabbat morning study this year, we will explore the weekly Torah portion with the help of a variety of commentators, ancient and modern, including rabbinic midrash, the medieval commentator Rashi, Hassidic interpretations, and modern feminist insights. All texts will be provided in English translation, and no previous experience with text study is necessary! A pre-reading of the week's Torah portion is helpful but not required. Bring your own coffee/tea and join us for this early morning prelude to the Shabbat service! (no fee)

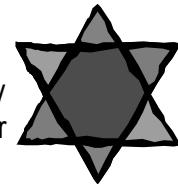
Exploring Judaism: An Introduction to Jewish Text, Tradition, and Practice

with Rabbi Karen Landy

22 class sessions, beginning **mid-October**

Exciting New Introduction to Judaism Class!

With support from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Dorshei Tzedek is sponsoring a new, Reconstructionist Intro to Judaism class this year, beginning after the fall holidays. The class will be taught by Rabbi Karen Landy, a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Spiritual Consultant at Jewish Family and Children's Service (and a classmate of Rabbi Spitzer!). This course is intended for anyone who feels the need to learn some of the basics about Jewish tradition, history, and practice, and it can also serve as a first step on a path to conversion or adult bar/bat mitzvah. The class sessions will cover Jewish prayer and theology, history, ritual and holiday celebration in a setting that encourages questions, conversation, and personal reflection. For more information on location, fees, and registration, please call the administrator at the Dorshei Tzedek office, 617-965-0330.



Introduction to Reconstructionist Judaism—*New this newsletter*

With Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Tuesday evenings, November 6, 13, and 20, 7:45 – 9:15 pm

at the Unitarian Society, West Newton

Happy to belong to a Reconstructionist congregation, but wondering what this movement is all about? Interested in exploring Judaism from a Reconstructionist approach? This is the class for you! We will explore the thought of Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism, and discuss Reconstructionist approaches to key issues of living as a Jew: how we understand and talk about God, the Reconstructionist rejection of "chosen-ness," and the "reconstruction" of Jewish liturgy and ritual. Free for members; \$10/class for non-members (\$25 for entire series).

JRF News



JRF Northeast Shabbaton

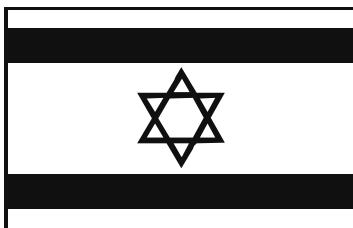
Discover Reconstructionist life outside of Dorshei Tzedek! Hopefully each member household has received a brochure for the Jewish Reconstructionist

Federation Northeast Shabbaton, which is taking place this year November 9-11, 2001, at Camp Isabella Freedman in the Berkshires. The regional Shabbaton is a wonderful weekend of study, celebration, and prayer with Reconstructionist rabbis and congregants from throughout the Northeast. If you did not receive a registration form, please contact JRF-NY (212-870-2483 or www.jrf.org). See you in the Berkshires!



Solidarity Mission to Israel Rescheduled

The professional and lay leadership of the JRF has decided, after consulting with its constituent communities and those registered for the Mission, to reschedule the Leadership Mission to Israel. They are exploring dates in December, January and February and will communicate all relevant information in the very near future.



Camp JRF Update

from Camp Directors Rabbi Ruth Smith and Larry Smith

In the aftermath of the terrible events of September 11, we reaffirm our vision for the first Reconstructionist summer camp. Peace, tolerance and a commitment to diversity must become a way of life to our youth. Our camp is one of the major ways that the movement will be promoting this vision in the next year.

It is very exciting to begin to put the pieces of the camp in place. The entire program, from Arts and Crafts to Sports to Celebrating Shabbat, will be based on creating connections with each other in a joyous, vibrant community. Our excellent music program will highlight the engaging songs coming out of the Reconstructionist movement as well as old favorites.

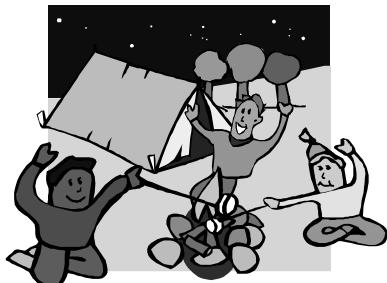
Our movement is now ready to undertake such an exciting endeavor. Even before officially starting the recruitment process for counselors and specialists, we received inquiries about staff positions from college students and other adults from Reconstructionist congregations. They, too, are excited about the camp, and are eager to spend their summer in a Reconstructionist environment spreading what they love about Judaism to a new generation. We have also met with some Reconstructionist Rabbinical College students who have felt the excitement that the camp is generating at the College.

We'll be traveling to many congregations over the next few months; perhaps we'll be coming to your area. Give us a call or check the Web site. Also, look for the Camp JRF brochure and videotape, which should be available in your congregation, or else please ask us for a copy. Here is the pertinent information:

CAMP JRF

June 23 - July 14, 2002 for campers heading into 5th, 6th, and 7th grades (as of Fall, 2002) on the campus of Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, Illinois.

For more information: Call the Camp Directors toll-free at 1-866-JRF-CAMP (866-573-2267), check the website at www.jrf.org, or email: camp@jrf.org.





October Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
Tue Oct 2	8 -10 am	Sukkot Morning Service	Elaine Pollack, Wendy Gedanken (see page 3)
Tue Oct 2		No school—Sukkot	
Tue Oct 2	5:45-7:30	Sukkot Potluck dinner and service	Steffi & Eric Karp, Elena Eisman, Ilene Spiro, Katy Cushman, Jonathan Gordon, Jeffrey Green, Susan Hart (see page 3)
Sat Oct 6	8:45-9:45	Adult Education: Torah Study	(see page 7)
Sat Oct 6	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Elaine Fanwick, Dan Halbert
Mon Oct 8	6:30-8:30 pm	Simchat Torah Celebration	Roberta Fortgang, Beth Brooks, Amy Bermar, Jerry Friedman, Elena Eisman, Alison Hausman, Karla Hailer-Fidelman (see page 3)
Tue Oct 9		No school—Simchat Torah	
Sat Oct 13 *	9:45 am - 1 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Paul Carson, Robin Einzig
Sat Oct 13	10 am - 12	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sat Oct 13	evening	Members' Potluck Dinners	(see page 5)
Sun Oct 14	2 - 4 pm	Kitah Gan Family Program	
Tue Oct 16	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Space Parlor Meeting	<i>At the home of Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein (see page 1)</i>
Wed Oct 17	7:30 - 9 pm	New Member Orientation	
Sat Oct 20	9:45 am - 1 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Anna Bresnick	Barbara Shatkin, Barbara Isaacs (see page 5)
Sat Oct 20	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun Oct 21	2 - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Education	
Sun Oct 21	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Space Parlor Meeting	<i>At the home of Roberta and Paul Carson (see page 1)</i>
Mon Oct 22	7:30 pm	Board and Committee Chair Orientation	
Thu Oct 25	7 - 10 pm	Upper School Parents' Back-To-School Night	
Fri Oct 26	6 - 8 pm	Kitah Gan Shabbat Seder	
Sat Oct 27	9:45 am - 1 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Anna Kahn-Leavitt	Sherry Katz, Willa Kuh (see page 5)
Sun Oct 21	10 am - 12 pm	Space Parlor Meeting	<i>At the home of Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jerry Friedman (see page 1)</i>
Sun Oct 28	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Prospective Members' Open House	David Felson, Judy Hersh
Tue Oct 30	7 - 10 pm	Lower School Parents' Back-to-School Night	

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Events and services are held at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. High Holy Day services are at the Solomon Schechter Day School, Wells Avenue, Newton. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off. Free child care is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.



November Calendar



Members' Meeting

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday evening, November 4, 7:15 pm**, for the first Members' Meeting of the year. Every household is encouraged to send at least one representative to this important meeting. We will devote most of the meeting to the topic of space, including results of the parlor meetings. We will discuss short-term (next two years) and longer-term options.

Please check the November newsletter when it arrives for changes and additions to this schedule.

Date	Time	Event	Setup/Cleanup and Notes
Fri Nov 2	6 – 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Laurie Gould, Peter Hess
Sat Nov 3	9:45 am – 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Michael Kajen, Ricky Greenly
Sat Nov 3	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Alef and Kitah Bet Classes	
Sun Nov 4	2 – 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Sun Nov 4	7:15 – 9:30 pm	Members' Meeting	Ami Gordon, Sally Kolodkin
Tue Nov 6	7:45 – 9:15 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Reconstructionism	
Sat Nov 10	8:45 – 9:45 am	Adult Ed: Torah Study	
Sat Nov 10	9:45 am – 12 pm	Bar Mitzvah of Jack Schiff	Tessa Goldsmith, Debra Rubin-Rattet
Tue Nov 13	7:45 – 9:15 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Reconstructionism	
Fri Nov 16	6 – 8 pm	Kitah Dalet Shabbat Seder	
Sat Nov 17	9:45 am – 12 pm	Bar/Bat Mitzvah of Sam and Julia Pashall	Ora Gladstone, Linette Liebling
Sat Nov 17	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Alef Family Ed Program	
Sat Nov 17	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Bet Class	
Sun Nov 18	2 – 4 pm	Kitah Gimel Family Ed Program	
Tue Nov 20	7:45 – 9:15 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Reconstructionism	
Thurs Nov 22		<i>No School (Thanksgiving)</i>	
Sat Nov 24 *	9:45 am – 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Beth Green, Dinah Moeller, Jeff Sacks
Fri Nov 30	6 – 8 pm	Kitah Gimel Shabbat Seder	

Statement from Leaders of the Reconstructionist Movement: On the Attack on America

Eleh Ezkarah... "These we remember and pour out our hearts."

In shock and sorrow, we mourn with all Americans. We express our horror at the devastating loss of life and stand in solidarity and sympathy with the families of the dead and injured and with those awaiting news of loved ones. As Jews we believe that human beings are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God; that each life is infinitely precious in the sight of God; and that each life lost diminishes God's presence in our world.

Tuesday's attack was a devastating assault on the values for which our country stands-freedom and democracy, justice, pluralism and tolerance. Yet the soul of America cannot be weakened by acts of terror, as long as we realize that the safety and security of every nation and individual lies in an affirmation and defense of freedom and democracy that extends to all peoples. In the wake of terror we need to be especially vigilant lest our understandable anger become a pretext for persecution or discrimination against any individual or group.

Together Americans of all backgrounds and faiths share grief and rage, and together we must seek justice. We cannot withdraw from the struggle for freedom; to do so would only strengthen the hands of those devoted to the destruction not only of America, but of what America stands for as well.

Hayom Harat Olam... "Today the world begins."

As we approach the Jewish New Year, we ask: how can we shape that world for freedom and democracy? If we believe that God has no hands but ours, then the work of building a just world will require the efforts of each one of us. If God has no voice but ours, then human rights and justice are the messages we must speak. And if God has no heart but ours, then our integrity and commitment to sacred values must permeate our daily lives, as we seek to heal the world.

In the coming days and weeks, our country will face difficult choices and challenging moments. We pray for the courage and conviction to stand united as Americans. Together, let us lift the lamp of freedom that will banish the darkness of terror.

With outstretched hands, uplifted voices and grieving hearts, we pray for each other, for our country, and for our world in this New Year.

*Richard Haimowitz, President
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation*

*Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, President
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association*

*Donald Shapiro, Chairman
Board of Governors
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College*

September 13, 2001

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