

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

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

June 2002



Co-Presidents' Column

by Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

Why is a synagogue like a piggy bank? Too easy, right? You only get out of it what you put in. But a congregational piggy bank is different, because everyone gets to take out as much as everyone together has put in. We've had the honor of serving as co-presidents of Dorshei Tzedek for the past two years. During that time, we've definitely put quite a bit into that piggy bank, but we've taken out even more. Oh, we've put in many hours of meetings — Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, member meetings, parlor meeting, and many committee meetings — because those come with the role. But what sticks in our minds is not the number of meeting hours, but the amazing talents and abilities of the congregants with whom we've spent those hours. And we've taken out much, much more in the enjoyment of friends and colleagues, fellow worshippers and celebrants, fellow seekers after a just life.

In this column, our last as co-presidents, we want to thank the Dorshei Tzedek community for giving us the opportunity to serve as elected leadership. Dorshei Tzedek is a special community. We all know this, but it's well to remind ourselves often. We have self-selected to be members of a community founded on and grounded in Reconstructionist principles and behaviors. As Rabbi Toba puts it, we come together as producers of Judaism, not merely as shoppers or passive consumers. We have worked hard to be an open community, dedicated to *k'lal Yisrael*, the unity of all segments of the Jewish population. We are democratic in the true sense of the word, asking our members not only to shoulder the responsibility of choosing and voting but also the responsibility of being informed and thoughtful. In thanking you, we also want to acknowledge that each and every one of you, as members of our community, makes working on behalf of the community worthwhile. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching you go about the sacred work of building community.

We feel especially fortunate to have served during a period of transformation. Structural changes certainly can bring many anxieties and dislocations, but they also can be times of great excitement and stimulation. Two years ago, you the members

had just taken a huge developmental step: you voted to make our dues income-based. The Torah of Money group had led us through a quintessentially Reconstructionist process, identifying our core Jewish values, consulting Torah and Talmud, studying and thinking how our tradition can speak to us today and how we can act within our tradition and also within a modern context. The decision was followed by two important events. First, the Torah of Money group completed its work by writing a brochure describing our dues structure and how it came into being. The brochure still serves as a clear articulation of who we are and how we understand ourselves as a community. Second, the members of Dorshei Tzedek ratified their decision by self-assessing themselves in accordance with the guidelines. It's hard to over-emphasize how important it is that we truly live the values we talk about.

Now we are reviving the Torah of Money to discuss matters relating to a capital campaign. How do we bring our Jewish values to bear on fund-raising? What does Torah teach us about recognizing financial contributions? How does Talmud deal with sharing financial burdens between current and future members of the community? What mechanisms can help us avoid becoming "about" money even as we seek to accumulate a large sum for investment? Buoyed by confidence from our past results, we know that Dorshei Tzedek will find a values-based and sensitive approach to handling such issues. We are fortunate to be working with a skilled development consultant, Hillel Korin, who is not only Jewishly knowledgeable but has years of experience working in the Boston

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Notes from Our Board

By Elizabeth Ross

Remember — Members' Meeting: June 2, 2002 (see back page)

The Board last met on the evening of May 5, 2002.

Dan Rome presented the Fundraising Committee's goals for the remainder of this year which include making phone calls to those who have contributed in the past but have not given this year, and follow-up on unfulfilled pledges made on membership forms.

Paul Hattis and Jonathan Gordon presented budget projections for next year. This budget will come to the membership for review and approval at the June 2 members' meeting. As we need to increase revenues slightly to keep pace with expenses, next year's proposed budget will likely include a 5% or less cost-of-living increase in dues within each income category; elimination of the partial (50%) dues policy for first-year members and instituting instead a cap of \$1,800 for first year members; and an increase in the price of High Holy Day tickets for non-members. Likely changes on the expense side will include increases in salaries and the cost of health insurance for staff, savings for Rabbi Spitzer's future sabbatical, and costs associated with our space search.

Nancy Gertz presented an update on the feasibility study which the congregation is undertaking to determine how much we might be able to raise to support our future space needs. We have hired a consultant, Hillel Korin, to help us perform this study, and the work will be nearly complete by the time the June newsletter is published. Nancy outlined the process which Hillel expects to follow in interacting with the congregation, to include one-on-one interviews, small group sessions, and an e-mail survey, each of which will target a broad cross-section of the membership.

Debbie Waber presented an update on our process with the Congregational Church in Newtonville. She remarked that over the next two months demands on the Board and the membership concerning this issue will be great; we will have weighty decisions to make and things might feel rushed to most of the congregation. Plans were discussed for the May 15 informational meeting, which will have taken place by the time of this publication, and the June 2 members' meeting, at which the membership will vote on whether or not the congregation should make an offer on this space.

Cheryl Sacks, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented a proposed slate for the Executive Committee,

Board, and Off-Board positions for 2003. The slate will be presented to the membership for a vote at the June 2 members' meeting.

Elizabeth Ross presented an update from the Web Committee. The CDT Web site has been moved to www.dorsheitzedek.org. Over the summer, the Committee plans to mount a functional calendar on the Web site, to update contact information, and to create functional pages/areas for CDT committees. The Committee will also review the overall look and usability of the site. Elizabeth Ross is the acting Chair of the Web Committee and Dan Halbert is the acting technical Webmaster.

Judy Hersh and Erica Streit presented an update from the Membership Committee. Planning for the June retreat is in full swing. The Committee has renamed itself the *Kehillah* (Hebrew for Community) Committee and is in the process of recruiting new committee members for next year. Anyone interested in helping potential CDT members get to know our community, integrate new members into CDT, and plan community-building events should contact Judy or Erica.

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Jewish community within a framework of Jewish values.

Equally gratifying is the way you have created a Middle East discussion group, a safe place where people can wrestle with the seemingly intractable problems of that troubled region. The early activities of the Chesed Committee are another source of *nachas*. That our congregation can begin devoting more effort and energy to social justice and *tikkun olam* is another sign of growth and maturation: we have progressed well beyond the subsistence state, beyond the place where most of our effort is needed simply to keep ourselves functioning, and it's been a privilege to watch this happen.

What we want to make sure you all realize is that Dorshei Tzedek isn't just about its elected leadership—it's about the sum total of the contributions of all its members. Important decisions lie ahead of us, many choices that will color who we are and what we're about. We've learned over the past two years that there can be no better guidance than to follow the collective and informed wisdom of the membership. We'll take that lesson with us to our new roles. We look forward to the continued opportunity to be members of this community and to work for its welfare, and we are deeply gratified to be doing this work with all of you.

Proposed Congregational Leadership Slate

The following is the proposed slate for the Dorshei Tzedek Board and Executive Committee for 5762-3 (2002 - 2003), as approved by the Board at the May 5 meeting. The congregation will vote on this slate at the upcoming members' meeting on **June 2**. If anyone is interested in being part of any committee please call either Cheryl Sacks or Linette Liebling. We would be more than happy to hear from you

Executive Committee

President:	Debbie Waber
Finance	Mark Farber, Paul Hattis, and Jonathan Gordon
Past President	Judy Herzig-Marx
Secretary	Elizabeth Ross
First Vice President	Chayim Herzig-Marx
Vice President of Education	Cindy Shulak Rome
Vice President of Membership	Roberta Carson

Board Positions

Newsletter	Dan Halbert
Ritual	TBA by Ritual Committee
Membership	Erica Streit, Judy Hersh
Social Action	TBA by Social Action Committee
Space	Steve Siegel and Cheryl Sacks (Co-Chairs)

Fundraising	Steve Siegel
House Operations	Ellen Pashall
Member At Large	Nancy Gertz
Holiday Programming	Marc Steinberg

Off-Board Positions

Education	Tessa Goldsmith
Personnel	Elaine Bresnick
Adult Education	Ira Schorr
Chesed	Linette Liebling and Susan Manheim
Public Relations	Dinah Moeller
Web Committee	TBA
Rabbinic Liaison	Linette Liebling, Mark Farber, and Louise Enoch
High Holiday	Cliff Cohen and Lissy Medvedow
Torah of Money	Wendy Gedanken

Todah Rabah

Barbara and I want to thank all of the folks who have so generously fed us throughout the winter and the spring, and all those who might do so in the future. Having a home-cooked Shabbat meal has been a blessing during Barbara's lengthy, and as yet unidentified, illness. We continue to be reminded what a blessing it is to be a part of this wonderful congregation. And yes, we would like to return some of the dishes you brought our meals in!

—Thanks, Andy Diamond and Barbara Ayres

Mazel Tov

To Jodi Siegel, Susan Bernstein, and Sophie on the birth of Eli Avram!

Elaine Pollack on receiving her Master's Degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew College; Rachel Herzig-Marx on her graduation from Smith College; Abigail Leonard on her graduation from the University of Pennsylvania; Gabriel Landes on his graduation from Wesleyan University;

Beth Pollack on her graduation from Beaver Country Day, she'll be heading to NYU in the fall; Sam Leonard on his

graduation from Newton North High School, then off to American University; Noah Isaacs on his graduation from Newton North High School and heading to Wesleyan University in the fall.

Community Notices

Refuah Sh'lemah: The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to Barbara Ayres, Efreim Goldberg, Francis Greenberg, Linette Liebling, and Audrey Roth. May healing and comfort come to you soon and those who help to care for you. If you or someone in your household is ill or needs support around healing or sickness, please contact Rabbi Toba Spitzer (617-454-0511) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

Sports Update: Last month a merry group of DTz members met for pizza and "bowling for *babkes*." The following talented and lucky players scored a *babke*: Paul Carson (men's), Cheryl Sacks (women's), Jake Carson (kids), Hannah Epstein (teens), and Julia Sklar (candlepin). The rest of us will have our turn to shine another time, perhaps on the softball field at the retreat!

Middle East Discussion Group

By Wendy Gedanken

Based on responses the discussion group has had from other members, we are trying to organize more opportunities for Dorshei Tzedek members to learn about and discuss events happening in Israel. As this newsletter is being written, we have already had one of our "conversation" meetings and had a showing and discussion of the Oscar-nominated documentary "Promises." Based on response to these events, the Committee will be planning more opportunities to learn about and discuss the events happening in the Middle East.

Because there is so much written about Israel and Palestine, it can be overwhelming just trying to figure out where to begin reading. We think a good place to begin is the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation site, www.jrf.org. There, you can read an article by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, "Guide to Talking About Israel," which is based in part on experiences of the Dorshei Tzedek Middle East Discussion Group. Also at this site are lists of educational resources that draw on a wide range of viewpoints.

The Boston area is blessed with innumerable opportunities to hear speakers who represent all perspectives. One recent opportunity was the very moving series of talk given by Lt. Guy Grossman, an Israeli Army reservist who is active in Ometz L'Sarev, an organization of reserve soldiers and officers who refuse to serve in the occupied territories in the current situation. Below is Bill Shorr's summary of one of those lectures.

Lt. Guy Grossman came to the Boston area during the third week of April to speak at universities and temples. Guy is a reservist in the Israeli army's elite anti-tank division, who served four years of active duty in the occupied territories and Lebanon and multiple reservist rotations since. I saw him in Wayland on Sunday morning at Shir Tikvah, where he spoke with a hushed, almost pained intensity about his 10-year military tenure, including his responsibilities as a 19-year-old in command of a Palestinian refugee camp.

This year he was among the first to sign his name to a letter declaring his refusal to serve again in the occupied territories. He spoke of his decision to sign in both personal and political terms, but always in the context of his love of the State of Israel. He utterly insists on Israel's legitimate self-defense needs, as well as his own desire to continue serving in a combat role to defend her rightful borders. "The Israeli army is moral, and has the highest of ethical

standards", Grossman said, citing the various kinds of training soldiers receive. He went on to say, "It is the occupation itself that is immoral and must be ended."

Lt. Grossman also spoke with what seemed to be a combination of sadness, distress, and disbelief at the difficulty of finding congregations that were even willing to listen to what he had to say. Shir Tikvah's rabbi was clear in his introduction that the congregation was able to sponsor the reservist's presentation without necessarily endorsing his views, with the intention of providing an opportunity for underrepresented voices in the Jewish community.

School News

By Cindy Shulak-Rome

As I write this article we are in the midst of winding up another vibrant school year, and by the time you read this, we will have drawn another year of Jewish learning to a close. Each class in our upper school has participated in a Shabbat *siyyum* in which they share the culmination of their *T'filot* (prayer study) by helping Rabbi Toba lead part of a Shabbat service.

In our weekday afternoon program we have begun a pilot project with our fifth and sixth graders. *Pe'ulot* (special activities) is a chance for students to choose one of four electives for our last few weeks of school. Two *pe'ulot* proved to be favorites of all the students, and they have each been participating in one of these on Thursday afternoons. **A Taste of Israel**, taught by our sixth grade teacher Ilana Blatt-Eisengardt, touches on the culture, geography, language, food (we made falafel!) and of course politics of Israel. In **Jewish Art**, taught by member artists Sharon Gorberg and Wendy Gedanken, and our fifth grade teacher Liz Offen, participating students are making Havdalah spice boxes. If successful, we'd love to expand such a program next year, to include all grades and more offerings.

Many thanks to Sharon Gorberg and Wendy Gedanken for designing the art project and making time to come into school to work with our students. I welcome members who have a particular interest or skill that they would like to share with our students to contact me about helping out with future *pe'ulot* projects.

Our first and second graders—Kitah Aleph and Kitah Bet—had their final class of the year, complete with a life size

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'human board game' where the students challenged their parents. **Torah Talk**, our pre-class family Shabbat observance, in which students, parents, teachers, and a host of our stuffed animal friends share songs, prayers and of course a bit of Torah, has been a highlight for all. We wove our way through many Torah stories this year, highlighting the theme that each of us is created *b'tzelem elohim* (in the image of God), talking about the many ways we find that spark of godliness in each of us and all that we do.

This year, we began our first **Post B'nai Mitzvah Program** with two mini-courses. Our first course, **Ethical Debates and Jewish Disagreements**, gave students the opportunity to study with Rabbi Toba what Jewish tradition says about ethical issues of our day, including cloning human beings, the death penalty, abortion, etc. Our second course, **Jewish Environmental Action**, was taught jointly by Rabbi Toba and CDT member Jodi Sugarman-Brozan. Students studied Jewish texts related to issues of the environment and learned about real-life scenarios of environmental injustice and attempts to organize against it. Julia Pashall summed up her experience of this class: *"I learned about what goes on outside of my little world. Not everyone is born on an equal playing field. This class planted a seed in me for volunteering for a cause."* Both classes were well received by the students, and we are beginning to plan for next year.

Our heartfelt thanks to Jodi Sugarman-Brozan for giving of her time and her talents to work with our teenagers on this course. We'd love it if Jodi were the first of many—we welcome the opportunity to forge links between our school population and the larger Dorshei Tzedek community. Think about how you might share a skill or a passion with our young adults by teaching or co-teaching a mini-course!

News from Kitah Gimel

by Miranda Phillips

In class a few weeks ago Kitah Gimel had a great conversation with Rabbi Spitzer about God. In the process, they came up with this list of alternative names for *Adonai*:

Peaceable; Force; Source of Goodness; Life;
Code; Thinker; Parent; Force of Nature; Water;
Powerful; Source of Life; Wind of Peace and Love

Good work Kitah Gimel!

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Remaining Spring date: June 22, 8:45–9:45 am

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).

Beginning and Intermediate Hebrew Classes in the Boston Area

Natasha Shabat, a teacher who comes very highly recommended by several Dorshei Tzedek members, teaches Hebrew classes for adults at a variety of levels at several different Boston locations. For more information, contact Natasha Shabat at nshabat@post.harvard.edu or 781-643-1346.

Shabbat Programs

Chanting and Meditation Service

Join us for the final chanting and meditation service of the year on **June 1 at 9:45 am**. This contemplative service combines singing, silence, and Torah study for a wonderful Shabbat experience—don't miss it! (No meditation experience required).

Erev Shabbat Service

On **Friday, June 21**, we welcome Shabbat with a musical, all-ages Erev Shabbat family service, from **6 – 7 pm** at The Unitarian Society. We will take a break in July, and resume the family service in August (see the upcoming Summer Newsletter for the date).



Tot Shabbat for Families with Preschoolers

The Tot Shabbat previously scheduled for Saturday, June 8 has been *cancelled*. We'll see preschoolers (and their parents!) in the fall.

Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Susan B. Edelstein

*In appreciation to Rabbi Toba and the Congregation,
with gratitude to the community,
as I prepare for my move to NY*

Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein

In honor of Nancy Gertz' continued good health

Jeffrey and Roberta Fortgang

In honor of Nancy Gertz

Francis Greenberg

*with thanks for the lovely Shavuot meal, which was
delivered anonymously. Thank you!*

Emanuel Koenigsberg

*In appreciation for the support and comfort that
the members of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek have
given to the Goldberg family during Efrem's illness*

Laurence Palmieri Peers

Caren Smith and Elizabeth Ross

*In honor of Nancy's and Efrem's courageous battles
against cancer*

Nessa and Bill Spitzer

In honor of Toba and Gina in their new home

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Laurence Palmieri Peers

Caren Smith and Elizabeth Ross

*Wishing Rabbi Toba and Gina happiness in
their new home*

Holy Book Fund

Amy Gerber and Mordie Weintraub,

Natan Harel and Bette Hoffman, and

Laurence M. Pensack

In honor of Nancy Gertz, with love

Sandy Swartz

*In honor of our inspirational and beautiful
friend, Nancy Gertz*

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds like the School or the Holy Book Funds. In addition, donations can be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs at the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. Donations to this fund are encouraged, in addition to (not instead of!) your contributions to help support the congregation. Checks should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Please contact Rabbi Toba directly if you are in need of financial help at 617-454-0511.

Membership



Join us in welcoming the following new members: **Andrew Compaine** and **John Dubrow** met on a blind date nearly 20 years ago while medical students in New York City. Andrew is a psychiatrist in private practice in Wellesley who specializes in psychotherapy. He is interested in spirituality, writes poetry, and sings with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. John is a radiologist at Winchester Hospital and enjoys cooking, volunteer work with The Human Rights Campaign, and movies. They live in Weston with their two standard poodles, Picard and Gilbert, and they are joyously awaiting the arrival of their first child. Andrew and John have been blessed with the incredible help of a gestational surrogate who has helped to make their dream come true. Danya Miriam's due date is June 11th...so please stay tuned.

DTz in Cyberspace

Over the summer, the Web Committee will be making many enhancements to our Web site, which now resides at www.dorsheitzedek.org. Watch your email for notification of changes as they happen. For a password to the members' area, please contact Dan Halbert (halbert@world.std.com). If you are interested in helping out with the Web site, please contact Elizabeth Ross (elizmr@yahoo.com).



All official congregational announcements should be posted to the "CDT-announce" list. If you have something you would like to post there, please send it to Paul Carson, the CDT list owner (p-carson@ti.com) or Elizabeth. The listserv for informal exchange of ideas and information among members of Dorshei Tzedek is cdt-list@shamash.org. For questions regarding the listservs, contact Paul Carson.



June-July Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up
Sat June 1	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Services Chanting and Meditation Service	Rick Glassman, John Holohan Faye and Marvin Snider
Sun June 2	2 – 4 pm	6 th Grade Family Education	
Sun June 2	7:15 – 9:30 pm	Members' Meeting (see back page)	Dana Leichter, Diana and Richard Gomberg
Tues June 4	7:30 – 9 pm	Adult Education: Creating A Caring Community	(see May newsletter)
Sat June 8	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Toni Rosenberg, Ira Fader Eugene Shuster
Fri June 14 – Sun June 16		Dorshei Tzedek Retreat – Camp Isabella Friedman	
Sat June 15		No Shabbat morning services in Newton	
Fri June 21	6 – 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	(see page 5)
Sat June 22	8:45 – 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	(see page 5)
Sat June 22	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Terry Traub, Ezra Hausman
Sat June 29	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Idit Klein, Barbara Zolit
Sat July 13	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Location TBA
Sat July 27	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service	Location TBA

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

No Fragrances, Please: So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to Shabbat morning services and adult education sessions. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Jewish Composers in America Concert

Sunday, June 9 at 7:30 pm
Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, Boston
(Corner of Huntington and Gainsborough, one block west of Symphony Hall)

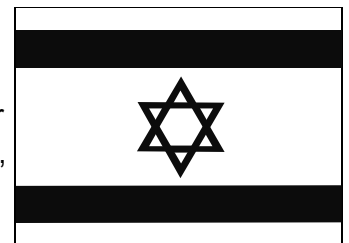


Hear the Zamir Chorale (including CDT member Liz Carver) together with members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band for a Jewish Composers in America Concert. Joshua Jacobson will conduct, with soloists Cantor Aryeh Finklestein, Cantor Charles Osborne, Mark Kagan, and Charles Claus. Tickets are \$36, \$25, \$12, with a \$2 discount for seniors and students and a \$2 advance purchase group discount for 10 or more people. Call toll-free (866) 926-4720 for tickets and information, or visit www.zamir.org.

Israeli Independence Day

Celebrate Israel's 54th year of independence with the greater Boston community on Sunday, **June 9, from 1 – 7:30 pm**, on the Esplanade

(at the MDC Lederman Field, near the Charles/MGH stop on the Red Line or Science Park on the Green Line). Activities include music and Israeli dancing, a *beit midrash* and *tzedakah* projects, Israeli market and food, and more! For event updates, go to www.jrcrboston.org.



Send items to be published in future newsletters to dtnews@yahoogroups.com. Thanks!

—The Newsletter Committee: Mark Farber, Dan Halbert, Josh Herzig-Marx, Tim Rosa, and Susannah Zisk.

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

Members' Meeting

June 2, 7:15 pm, At the Unitarian Society

The agenda includes approval of next year's budget, the election of the slate of officers (see page 3), and a vote on whether to authorize an offer on the Central Congregational Church building. Please plan to attend this very important meeting!

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members. As our name implies, we are seekers-of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition, where need be, and building on the tradition in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children's bond—to our heritage. We view education for ourselves and our children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and is both teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of mitzvah as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of tzedek (social justice) and gemilut chasadim (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.