

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

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Cheshvan-Kislev 5763

November 2002



The Longer Road

By Rabbi Toba Spitzer

As I write this column, the drumbeats of war are growing louder, Congress having just voted to give the President authority to attack Iraq. By the time you read this, we may already be engaged in combat. Without making light of the many horrible crimes of which Saddam Hussein is guilty, for many reasons I feel that this rush to war is ill-advised, if not downright foolhardy. I fear that the havoc that may be ignited in the Middle East as the result of a preemptive U.S. attack will endanger not only those Americans and Iraqis caught up in the fighting, but also Israel, hopes for Israeli-Palestinian peace, and the stability of the entire region.

It is anyone's guess as to the true motives of those who are taking us to war. But in their rhetoric, and in much of the rhetoric that we have heard since last September 11, issues have often been framed in terms of "evil" and the need to confront and eradicate it. It is natural to desire quick and clear solutions when we are confronted with violence and its attendant horrors, whatever our political proclivities. But we all know that there are no easy answers when it comes to the challenges posed by violence and oppression. To eradicate injustice, to build democracy, to defuse hatred—these are long-term goals that need long-term strategies.

Judaism, from my perspective, is not only a religious/spiritual path, but just such a long-term organizing strategy. Jewish practice seeks to engage people in collective efforts to maximize *tzedek* and *chesed*, justice and loving-kindness. Judaism's redemptive vision of a world in good repair begins in our immediate communities and extends outward toward society as a whole. It encompasses all aspects of life, from how we eat our food to how we treat workers, from our speech to our wallets.

Evidence of this kind of collective effort was visible in the countless acts of generosity and kindness that helped sustain the Goldberg family during Efrem's long illness and in mourning his death. From bringing casseroles of food to offering rides to appointments, from medical consultations

to sitting *shmirah* with Efrem's body at the funeral home, these acts and many more were evidence of the power of a community that is mobilized not by fear or revenge, but by caring and love. Each person may have experienced their contribution as one individual act, and may even have felt that it was of no great consequence, but flowing together these individual acts became a powerful stream of support.

Fundamental to the Jewish organizing strategy is the notion that our actions shape our attitudes and beliefs. By engaging in acts of *chesed*—whether as receivers or givers—we realize the fundamental connections that tie us to other human beings. By participating in the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*—giving a portion of our income to alleviate economic inequalities—we come to understand that what we think of as "ours" is in fact not all ours, and that we have obligations to the people around us. By gathering together in a *minyan*, a prayer community, we foster an awareness of blessing and gratitude. All of these practices reinforce the central importance of community and mutuality.

There is other organizing that is needed, no doubt—the organizing that sustains movements for justice and for peace, the organizing that shapes political systems and challenges those who put profit above the well-being of the earth and its inhabitants. The two types of organizing complement each other, by grounding collective efforts to repair the world "out there" in the internal organizing that

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Membership News

Join us in welcoming the following new members:

Naomi Botkin lives in Worcester and is a cardiology fellow at UMass Medical School. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, hiking and canoeing. She feels that Dorshei Tzedek is well worth the drive from Worcester because of its wonderful, musical services and its warm and welcoming members. She is looking forward to getting more involved in the DT community.

Bruce Miller, Laya Steinberg, and their children **Marina** and **Perry Miller** live in Auburndale with their guinea pig Ranebow. Marina (8) is in Kitah Gimmel at Dorshei Tzedek and loves learning Hebrew. She and her brother Perry (5) attend Burr School. Bruce is an optical engineer at Compucyte, a medical instrumentation company in Cambridge. He suffers annually during Red Sox season. Laya is a self-employed graphic designer and children's book author. When she's not driving carpools she can be found in her garden, creating pottery, or doing yoga. The Steinberg Miller clan love to swim, hike, travel, and eat ice cream.

Sivan Nasoff was born in Israel some 30 years ago, raised in Buffalo, NY, and exiled to Gabon, Central Africa for two years of Peace Corps service, with sojourns of note in Corsica, Poughkeepsie, and New Haven along the way. Finally, she makes her home here in Newtonville with her girlfriend Sophia. She is the Concerned Finance Manager at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge. When Sivan isn't busy being concerned, she enjoys ice hockey, improvisational comedy, and backyard play with her small nephews and cousins. She's looking forward to expanding her community by joining Dorshei Tzedek!

Goodbye to my friends

I'm saying farewell—for now—to all my friends at Dorshei Tzedek. The logistics of trekking from Framingham have proven insurmountable, at least temporarily, and I have joined Temple Beth Am, which is right up the street from my house. The good news is that my decision was precipitated by Emma, age 11, who declared that I was neglecting her Jewish education and insisted I do something about it. We found a wonderful tutor, who also teaches at Beth Am, and the rest is history. I've been with Dorshei Tzedek almost from the beginning and can hardly bear the thought of leaving. But I bet that once the kids are out of Hebrew school you will see me again!

Sarah Kuhn

Condolences



To Elaine Landes on the death of her brother, Lolek Eliezer Lahat. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Miles Fidelman, husband of Karla Hailer-Fidelman and stepfather of James and Micah Shapiro, on the death of his mother Fay Fidelman. May her memory be for a blessing.

Hankus Netsky on the death of his mother Rhoda Netsky. May her memory be for a blessing.

May you find comfort in this time of sadness and loss.

Mazel Tov

To Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg on their wedding!

To Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg on their engagement!

To everyone who celebrated becoming bar/bat mitzvah this October, and their families—James Shapiro, Rachel Forman, Dan Katz, and Dan Rosa!

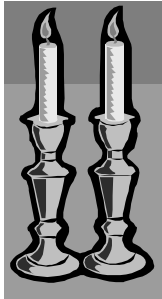
(The Longer Road, continued from page 1)

shapes who we are as individuals and how we function in community. In the short term, our leaders will continue to tell us that complex issues can be solved with bombs and guns. But for the long term, we can turn for inspiration to our ancestors who took a long and difficult journey through the wilderness, moving step by step toward a place where the promise of freedom, of love and justice, would be fulfilled.

Contacting the Rabbi: Rabbi Toba 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 617-454-0511. Rabbi Spitzer's office is at the Second Church, 60 Highland Avenue, just up the hill from The Unitarian Society.

Rabbinic Liaison Committee: The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to insure the maintenance of a good relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Louise Enoch, Linette Liebling, or Mark Farber. These matters will be handled confidentially and appropriate solutions sought where possible.

Shabbat Programs



Erev Shabbat Services

*Fall/winter dates: November 22, December 20,
January 17 (Tubishvat Seder—watch for details in upcoming newsletters!),
February 28, and March 14*

Once a month, from **8:00-9:15 pm**, join us for a musical and contemplative entry into Shabbat. All are welcome, but please note that this service is oriented towards adults and older kids.

Family Erev Shabbat Services

*Fall/winter dates: November 1, December 13, January 3, February 7, and March 7
(note: the December date is the second Friday of the month)*

On the first Friday (usually—check the schedule) of each month from **6–7 pm**, join us for a musical, fun service, all ages welcome! **STORY TELLERS NEEDED:** If you would like to tell a story at one of these services, please call Rabbi Spitzer at 617–454–0511.



Shabbat Morning Study

Fall/winter dates: November 23, December 2, January 11, February 8, and March 15

Join us once a month at **8:45 am** for a closer look at the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Spitzer, seen through the lenses of commentaries both ancient and modern. No text study experience required! (Bring your own tea or coffee.)

Shabbat Traditions Workshop

Thursday, November 7 at 7:30 pm

At the home of Amy Mazur in Newton Highlands, call 617–969–5659 for directions

Are the Friday evening blessings a bit of a mystery? Looking for ways to transform a rushed end-of-the-week meal into a wonderful family experience? There are some simple but beautiful rituals to greet Shabbat at your dinner table on Friday evening. These traditions become your children's Jewish memories!

Dorshei Tzedek member and Master Teacher Elaine Pollack will facilitate the workshop, teach the prayers and songs, and have tapes and texts on hand. You will be invited to sing and share favorite tunes, as well as share your own rituals and practices for Kabbalat Shabbat. Please RSVP to Amy Mazur, 617–969–5659.

Chanukah



Chanukah is early this year, so mark your calendars now! The first night of Chanukah is Friday, November 29, and Dorshei Tzedek will be celebrating with our **fabulous community Chanukah party on Tuesday, December 3, at 6 pm**. Join us for *latke* making and eating, candle lighting, and singing, with fun activities for all ages! We'll begin with a veggie/fish potluck dinner at 6 pm. If your last name begins with A–G, bring dessert or fruit salad; H–O, bring a vegetable salad; and P–Z, a main course. Please do NOT bring *latkes* as these will be provided. **BE SURE TO BRING ENOUGH FOOD FOR AT LEAST 12 PEOPLE.** Drinks will be provided as well.

Bat and Bar Mitzvah Celebrations

Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Katz

We warmly invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to join us in celebration when our daughter Alexandra is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, November 16 at 9:45 am** at the First Unitarian Society of Newton. Alex is currently in the eighth grade at the Rashi School in Newton. She has studied Hebrew and Jewish studies at Rashi since she began there in the first grade. Alex enjoys acting, playing the piano, art, reading, softball, and playing with our nine-month-old golden retriever, Rudy. For the past five years, Alex has been an active participant in Odyssey of the Mind/Destination Imagination, a team-based creative problem solving organization. This academic year, she has also taken on the role of Business Editor for the Rashi yearbook. Alex lives in West Roxbury with her parents and ten year old sister Samantha (and Rudy).

For her Tikkun Olam project Alex has chosen to work with the Horizons Initiative, a local non-profit organization that creates play areas in homeless and domestic violence shelters and provides day care for homeless children. At her service, Alex will be collecting art supplies that the organization greatly needs, such as crayons, markers, buttons, playdoh, glue sticks, glitter, paint, paper, and paint brushes. She will also be donating a portion of her Bat Mitzvah money to purchase other items on their wish list. In addition, she plans to volunteer at one of their day care locations. If you are interested in learning more about the Horizons Initiative, Alex invites you to visit their website at www.horizonsinitiative.org.

—Jill Stanzler-Katz and Jeff Katz

Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Blitzman

Michelle Rose Blitzman will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah at the Unitarian Society on **November 30**. We invite all who are in town, and who can ambulate after ample turkey and fixings, to celebrate with us this first day of Chanukah as well as Michelle's ascent to the Torah. Come celebrate, raise a joyful sound, and join in *kiddush* following the service!

Michelle is an active and bright 7th grader at the Chenery School in Belmont. Michelle plays soccer and is a first violin at Chenery. As an avid pet lover, she is the devoted owner of two kittens and one hermit crab. She has trained and built playgrounds for hermit crabs since her pre-school years, trained two neighborhood puppies with professional coaching, and lovingly cared for her fish (keeping one goldfish alive for eight years). Her *tikkun olam* project entailed organizing a blanket and towel drive for Boston animal shelters, for which she collected enough from her 6th grade schoolmates to fill two cars.

—Geri Blitzman

Bar Mitzvah of Stefan Cohen

We look forward to celebrating our son Stefan Cohen's Bar Mitzvah on **Saturday, December 7**, with the Dorshei Tzedek community, our family, and friends. *Please note that due to schedule conflicts at the Unitarian Church, Dorshei's regular Shabbat services will be held that day at Temple B'nai Moshe, 1845 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton (2 blocks east of the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Chestnut Hill Avenue).*

Stefan, a seventh grader at Bigelow School, has interests which range from gourmet cooking and politics to computers and gaming. He is a fabulous older brother to Julian, who is seven years old. Stefan has embraced the process of preparing to be Bar Mitzvah, due to his own affinity for Torah and to remarkably caring and engaging coaching by Elaine Pollack. After an in-depth tour of Pine Street Inn, Stefan decided to focus his *tikkun olam* project on generating support for the Inn and helping the homeless. He has organized a drive at temple and at Bigelow School to collect a variety of items that are needed by the Inn. Centerpieces from Stefan's party will be donated to Pine Street Inn as well.

We hope that you will join us for Shabbat morning services and *kiddush* on December 7.

—Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

New Approaches to Mikveh

Mayyim Hayyim, a new community *mikveh* scheduled to open in 2003, is holding a series of classes this fall about the *mikveh* (ritual bath) as a place for contemporary Jewish spirituality. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings, November 12 and 26 and December 10, and on Thursday mornings November 7 and 21 and December 5. Topics include Men Reclaiming *Mikveh*, *Mikveh* as a Resource for Spiritual Healing, and Women and Water, among others. For more information, go to www.MayyimHayyim.org.

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

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

Creative Judaica Interfaith |Celebrates Chanukah

A creative holiday program for interfaith families with children ages 3–9. Sunday, November 3, 2–4 pm at the Newton JCC. For more information, call the JCC at 617–558–6596.



New Member Potluck and Orientation

On **Saturday, November 2 at 6:30 pm**, members who have joined within the past year are invited to a potluck and orientation at the First Unitarian Society. Meet other newcomers, Dorshei Tzedek Board members, and Rabbi Spitzer. Childcare will be provided. Food assignments are: A – Z (bring a main, meatless dish); L – P (bring a cold salad); R – Z (bring dessert). This is guaranteed to be a fun evening for all, so we hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Erica Streit at erica_streit@hotmail.com or call 617/278-6235.



Contributions



General Fund

In memory of Efrem Goldberg:

Sheila Brownstein

Veronica Crowley

Steven and Cynthia Drysdale

Barbara and Fredric Fabricant

The Fortgang Family

Mr. and Mrs. Junius Gertz

Gail Glick

Tessa and Cliff Goldsmith

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

Madge Gordon

knowing how important CDT was to Efrem and Ellie

Bonnie and Larry Greenberg

In memory of a wonderful husband, father, and friend

Allison and Ezra Hausman

Jerry S. Jacobs

Ted Kaplan

Sarah Kuhn

Marcia Leibler

Spencer and Susan Lookner

Fay Judith Mittleman

Rabbi Linda Potemken

Arlene and Kurt Pressman

The Sacks Family

*We will miss his quiet, steady presence
and his sense of humor*

Ira Schor and Ilene Spiro

Emily Schreiner

Sharon Schumack and Michael Luckens

Howard Sholkin

In memory of my long-term friend, in support of the congregation which meant so much to Efrem and his family

Rohna and Melvin Shoul

Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman

Joan Siflinger

Gerald Van Dan

Jill Volk and Steven Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. Junius Gertz

*Happy special birthday to Hope Jawatsky,
and a speedy recovery to Perry Deitch*

Marge Gordon

Frances Greenberg

*In honor of the tasty meal prepared by
Susan Manheim and Jack Schiff,
and in honor of Rabbi Spitzer blowing the Shofar*

Arlene and Kurt Pressman

In memory of Eliezar Lahat, brother of Elaine Landes

The Sacks Family

*In honor of the 50th birthdays of
Sherry Katz and Mark Farber*

*In appreciation of all who worked on the High Holidays and
made it such a meaningful weekend for our entire family*

Lisa Schneier

*In appreciation of the Congregation's support during my
father's illness and death*

Jill Volk and Steven Lewis

*In honor of Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg's
wedding*

Holy Book Fund

Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa

In memory of Efrem Goldberg

Chiae W. Herzig

In honor of the birthday of Chayim Herzig-Marx

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lisa Schneier

*In appreciation of Rabbi Toba's guidance and support
during my father's illness and death*

School Fund

The Fortgang Family

*In honor of the marriage of
Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg*

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Adult Education

Upcoming classes—mark your calendars!

Understanding the Shabbat Morning Service

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:45–9:15 pm, January 8, 15, and 22

at the First Unitarian Society (free for members; \$18 for non-members)

Join Rabbi Spitzer for an exploration of the meaning and structure of the Shabbat morning service. What does it mean to pray as a Reconstructionist? What are the key prayers and why do we say them? What do I need to know to feel more comfortable in Shabbat morning services? We'll discuss these questions and more! The class is suitable for those with little knowledge of traditional liturgy and for those who come to services but would like to understand the deeper structure.

Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:45–9:15, February 5, 12 and 26, March 19 and 26, and April 2

(Dorshei Tzedek members only)

This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys and the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process, and after a break the class will re-convene to share what people have written. This class was a wonderful experience for those who participated two years ago, so don't miss it this year! Because class size is limited, you must call Rabbi Toba at 617-454-0511 to register. No writing experience or expertise is required.

Allison and Ezra Hausman

In honor of Miranda and Bobby's Wedding

Debbie Rattet and Leslie Rubin

In honor of the marriage of

*Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg, mazal tov
In honor of Nancy Gertz, l'chayim!*

Lisa, Paul, Joey and Zev Samuelson Hattis

In Honor of Rachel Forman's Bat Mitzvah

*In memory of Efrem Goldberg, whose devotion
to his family friends and community was truly a gift
In memory of Eliezer Lahat (David Felson),
brother of Elaine Landes, uncle of Rachel and Gabe,
may his incredible life story be an inspiration to us all*

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as 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 of 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 at 617-454-0511 if you are in need of financial assistance.

Me'ah

Dorshei Tzedek Members Complete 50 Hours of Study Together

"Me'ah" is the Hebrew word for 100, and the name of an adult Jewish learning course that several Dorshei Tzedek members are taking together. Me'ah offers 100 hours of class time, spread over two years on an academic calendar. We have completed the first year of study, which included a Bible class and a Rabbinics class.

Barbara Geller, a professor at Wellesley, taught the Bible section. Her ability to answer almost any question and draw from a variety of ancient texts and archaeological data drew great acclaim. "In Bible class, that material came alive to me in a way that I had never experienced it. Exploring and reading the Bible from a perspective of the time in which it was written, and having such a knowledgeable guide in the process was incredibly mind-widening for me," said Amy Mazur.

Rabbi Reuven Cohn taught the Rabbinics class. For many of us, this was our first introduction to Talmud study. "I really appreciated the perspective I got on the evolution of Judaism historically and theologically, and how the *Tanakh* and the Talmud fit into that context... The Rabbinics class taught us how to approach a tractate and decipher its meaning, both in the context in which it was written and to think about how it applies (or doesn't apply) today," remarked Cindy Rivka Marshall. "I came away with an appreciation for the multi-generational conversation that is recorded on each page of the Talmud, and a new level of comfort with approaching this material," commented Laura Willis.

The course involved reading outside of class, *chavrutah* study of texts with a partner, and large group discussions during our weekly sessions. In addition to our regular class meetings, we had the opportunity to meet occasionally with Rabbi Spitzer and Rabbi Penzner to discuss what we had learned and the questions that had been raised. "It was a wonderful experience to study with other adults, all of whom brought unique backgrounds and insights to the class. It seemed like the learning we did helped all of us to move along our Jewish paths," said Cindy Rivka Marshall. Amy Mazur comments, "Every class was like a new adventure and I left most classes feeling as if I moved further along on my own Jewish journey than I ever thought possible." She adds, "If you are interested and ready to explore Judaism in a very rich and fulfilling way, I highly recom-

mend Me'ah."

Me'ah was started by Rabbi David Starr and Rabbi Barbara Penzner, and has grown into a nationwide program with more than twenty sections of Me'ah offered in Boston alone. The courses in Boston are administered by Hebrew College (now in Newton Highlands). Our course has about 25 participants, mostly from Hillel B'nei Torah (in West Roxbury) and Dorshei Tzedek, and is co-sponsored by the Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton and Temple Hillel B'nei Torah.

If you want a sneak preview of some of the Me'ah material, you could read "Who Wrote the Bible" by Richard Elliot Friedman or "As a Driven Leaf" by Milton Steinberg (we read these books in the summer before the course started). The curriculum for the second year of Me'ah includes medieval Jewish history in the fall and modern Jewish history in the spring. After our course finishes next year, a new section of Me'ah will begin in Fall 2003. Watch for the "A Taste of Me'ah" flyers for information on a one-night course to see what Me'ah is like. Or contact Judi Ehrlich, our Me'ah coordinator, at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 617-558-6444 or jehrlich@jccgb.org for more information. Special thanks to Hillel B'nei Torah for providing a spacious room for our class meetings.

A note on Setup/Cleanup

Thank you all for contributing to Dorshei Tzedek by helping to set up and clean up for our services and other programs.

But, please make sure that you don't leave another member stranded or left in the lurch. When you are assigned to setup/cleanup duty please contact the other members of your team at least 10 days to 2 weeks before your assigned date to make sure you will all be there and to coordinate kiddush (or whatever else needs to be done).

We ask our more experienced members to be coordinators for setup/cleanup, as indicated by (c) following their names on the calendar listing). But if you don't hear from your coordinator 10 days before your event, please contact the coordinator and/or the other members of your team.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before the service or event. Review (or bring with you) the detailed setup instructions that are in your member's handbook. A copy of these instructions is also posted on the cabinets in the upstairs kitchen. Thank you!

—Ellen Pashall



November Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-Up and Notes
Fri Nov 1	6 pm - 7 pm	Family Erev Shabbat Services (see page 3)	Sandra Sedacca (c), Lauren Gibbs, Susan Nitkin
Fri Nov 1	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Dalet Dinner	
Sat Nov 2	9:45 am - 12 pm	Jacob Farber Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Services (see Oct newsletter)	Amy Berman, Nancy Osher Blumberg
Sat Nov 2	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sat Nov 2	6:30 pm	New Member Potluck and Orientation	(see October newsletter)
Sun Nov 3	7:15 pm - 9:30 pm	Member's Meeting	
Wed Nov 6	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: With All Your Possessions	(see October newsletter)
Thu Nov 7	7:30 pm	Shabbat Traditions Workshop	(see page 3)
Sat Nov 9 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Debbie Sher (c), Beth Green, TBA
Sun Nov 10		No Alef and Bet Classes Veterans' Day Weekend	
Wed Nov 13	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: With All Your Possessions	(see October newsletter)
Sat Nov 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Sharon Gorberg, Ricky Greeley
Sat Nov 16	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun Nov 17	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Wed Nov 20	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: With All Your Possessions	(see October newsletter)
Fri Nov 22	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Hay Shabbat Dinner	
Fri Nov 22	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Services	Alex Sugerman-Brozan (c), Jodie Siegel, Janice Fine
Sat Nov 23	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Adult Education: Torah Study	(see page 3)
Sat Nov 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Elaine Bresnick (c), Ira Schor, Jane Schwartz
Sat Nov 23	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun Nov 24	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Education Program	
Thu Nov 28		No School - Thanksgiving	
Fri Nov 29		First Night of Chanukah	
Sat Nov 30		No School - Thanksgiving	
Sat Nov 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Michelle Blitzman Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Services (see page 4)	Leeann Simons, Deb Levheim

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

Setup/cleanup people: The coordinator for your event is labeled "(c)". **Please contact that person to coordinate your work at least 10 days before the event.**

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.



December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up and Notes
Tue Dec 3	6 pm - 8 pm	Chanukah Party (see page 3)	Marc Steinberg (c), Theresa St. John-Siegel, Stuart Snyder, Brian Nadler, Melanie Adler, Beth Brooks, Stacey Chacker, Diane Fisher-Gomberg
Sat Dec 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Stefan Cohen Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Services (at Temple B'nai Moshe, Brighton)	Ora Gladstone (c), Janet Boguslaw, Ezra Hausman (see page 5)
Sat Dec 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Fri Dec 13	6 pm - 7 pm	Family Erev Shabbat services	Debra Levheim (c), Josh Leichter (see page 3)
Fri Dec 13	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Gimel Dinner	
Sat Dec 14	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Class	
Sat Dec 14	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Family Education Program	
Sat Dec 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Adam Karp Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Services	Janet Boguslaw, Sherry Katz (see December newsletter)
Sun Dec 15	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Fri Dec 20	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Services (see page 3)	Debbie Blicher (c) , Tania Mirales, Stephanie Chacker
Sat Dec 21		<i>No classes - Winter Recess</i> <i>Classes resume January 2, 2003</i>	
Sat Dec 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Elena Eisman (c), Howard Lurie, Toni Broh
Sat Dec 28 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services	Meryl Kahn (c) , Ester Kohn, Cindy Marshall

In Memory of Efrem Goldberg

Dear Friends,

When Efrem and I participated in the founding of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, we had high expectations for what it could become as a hands-on community for learning how to live a good and meaningful life. However, we could never have imagined what a source of friendship, community, and sustenance the Congregation would be for us, especially during Efrem's illness. The community truly lived up to the concept of a caring community during the years of Efrem's illness (and even before that when I broke my hip), and also performed those many *mitzvot* and acts of kindness that brought the girls and me such enormous comfort when Efrem died. We were truly taken care of. Below is a poem from the funeral which helps me express my feelings and I think expresses Efrem's values and spirit.

For those of you who would like to make a donation in honor of Efrem, I would like you to know about three organizations that were important to him and to our family.

- *Congregation Dorshei Tzedek*, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465

From its earliest days, Dorshei Tzedek was the base for many important individual and family milestones. Reva was the Congregation's first Bat Mitzvah, Sasha's Bat Mitzvah was two years later, and I was among the first group of women to be Bat Mitzvah. All of these gave us enormous inner wells of knowledge and pride and were a strong foundation for our identity as a Jewish family. The ongoing friendships and the million acts of generosity and kindness have eased our pain over and over and over again. I truly believe we would not be the individuals or the family we are today had it not been for Dorshei Tzedek.

- *SICIF (Sandy Island Camp Improvement Fund)* c/o YMCA of Greater Boston, 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston MA 02115

We also want to tell you about the significant role that twenty years at Sandy Island has played in our lives. Sandy Island is a small family camp in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee. The spirit and beauty of Sandy Island is surpassed only by the friends we have made during Week 7. This year, because Efrem was very weak, it took the efforts of some very special people to make it possible for us to be there. Friends donated a golf cart to make it easier for Efrem to get around. We also brought with us an all-terrain wheel chair, the Landeez. This beach chair on big soft wheels made it possible for Efrem to go everywhere, even out on the beach to see the meteor showers. Efrem was so excited about the wheelchair that he began developing a business plan to help promote and distribute these hard-to-find chairs to make it possible for others to have access to places like Sandy Island and other natural areas, parks, and beaches.

- *Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund*, 36 Bromfield Street, Suite 204, Boston MA 02108

Efrem's support was essential for my work in environmental health advocacy and public policy; he was truly a partner in these efforts. He gave me the freedom to be part of many local, state, and national campaigns and organizations working on children's health and pollution prevention. He was my partner at many Green Decade Coalition, Healthy Tomorrow, Toxic Action, and Precautionary Principle conferences. He believed, as I did, that diseases such as cancer and asthma are environmentally caused and that the key to reducing preventable illness and disabilities is clean air, clean water, clean energy and safe food.

Clean Water Action is one of the most effective organizations working on these issues and it is made up of the most inspiring, self-less and dedicated people it has been our pleasure to know.

B'shalom,

Ellie, Reva, and Sasha

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

Shabbat Tapes Available



Sung by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Dorshei Tzedek has available audio tapes of: (1) the Friday evening Family Service and (2) our regular Shabbat morning service. To order either or both tapes, please send payment of \$6/tape (includes shipping) to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

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.