

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465

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President's Message

By Debbie Waber

Those of you who were members several years ago might remember that we convened a committee to review the implications of growth. That committee studied the issue, surveying congregations around the country, and concluded that growth is both positive and necessary for us to continue to be vibrant and healthy. Since that time, with little active recruitment, we have grown at an annual pace of about 20%. Our current membership is approximately 150 households, a significant increase over where we were even two years ago. This growth has been wonderful and brought new energy and variety to our community.

Last month, the Board held a retreat to review issues it will need to focus on this year and to work on strategic planning. It was clear from our discussions that with the growth comes a natural growth in needs, which we must address if we are to remain a healthy community. As we all recognized last year when we attempted to acquire our own **space**, our current space is seriously inadequate. I will not go into detail here, but no matter what your primary connection to Dorshei Tzedek, you are undoubtedly aware of the problems that this issue creates.

It is also clear that we need additional **administrative support** beyond the 20 hours per week currently available. Insufficient administrative support is having an adverse impact, not only on our volunteers, who find themselves struggling to fill the gaps, but also on our paid staff—rabbi, educational directors, teachers, and administrator—who are put in the difficult position of having to make things work for us with inadequate resources. Related to this, we often do not have access to the information we need to operate effectively, especially **financial information**. These are key resources, and we are basically trying to function with the same amount we had when our membership was much smaller, even though we now have nearly twice as many households.

Which brings me to **fundraising**. Our budget must reflect our current needs more realistically, as well as our aspira-

tions. Dues payments, unfortunately, are never sufficient to support the operating budget of a synagogue, especially a young congregation like ours that does not have an endowment. Under the leadership of Steve Siegel, the Fundraising Committee has made a wonderful start this year, easily raising the funds to purchase a new Torah, with participation of 70% of the membership! As has always been our practice, however, we will be guided in this mission first by our values. Wendy Gedanken and the Torah of Money Committee have taken on the task of helping us to explore and define these values, first with the November Members' Meeting and then the Community Conversations on **December 8 and 10** (see page 2), as a start. This process is of vital importance to us as we embark on this new phase of our development, and I urge everyone to engage and contribute.

Finally, two other areas emerged from our conversations that need attention. One is the position of **Educational Director**, which is being very capably filled in an interim fashion by members Cindy Shulak-Rome and Elaine Pollack; the other is **leadership development**. Committee chairs need to work with their committees to document their work and procedures. As a result, each new chair will not "reinvent the wheel," and enable the chair to groom committee members to assume leadership and Board positions.

Overall, the state of the congregation is very good! Our problems are healthy ones that we can solve if we attend to the values that attracted us to the community and keep us engaged with it. Stay posted and participate!

B'shalom.

INSIDE

Torah of Money Community Conversations	2
Chanukah Party, Shabbat Programs	3
Contributions	4
Adult Education	5
Zamir Chorale, Meditation and Chanting Workshops.....	5
Condolences, Refuah Sh'lemah, Todah Rabah, Mazel Tov.....	6
School News	6
Bar Mitzvah Celebrations	7
Calendar (removable)	9-10
Membership News	11

Join the Community Conversation on our Torah of Money Fundraising

By Wendy Gedanken

As announced at the November Members' Meeting, the Torah of Money Committee has scheduled three opportunities to participate in discussions about fundraising, money, and Dorshei Tzedek. The first three "Community Conversations" will be based on information we have gleaned from the 'Gallery of Anxieties' at the Members' Meeting and from the questions people raised at the end of the study session. (For those of you unable to attend the meeting, everyone was given the opportunity to write down several concerns or anxieties regarding Dorshei Tzedek and fundraising, capital campaigns, and so on. We then broke into small groups and studied text from Exodus, concerning *nadiv lev*, "giving with a willing heart." Each group then came up with questions they want the Torah of Money Committee to address.) **We hope every Dorshei Tzedek household will be able to attend one of the Community Conversations.**

The schedule and locations for the December Community Conversations follows:

- Sunday, December 8, 10 am – 12 pm:** at the home of Jeff and Jill Stanzler-Katz (617-325-8029)
- Sunday, December 8, 7 – 9 pm:** at the home of Carla Naumburg and Joshua Herzig-Marx (617-916-2704)
- Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 - 9:30 pm:** at the home of Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx (617-964-2791)

As always, feel free to contact us; we do want to hear from you. You can email me at wgedanken@hotmail.com or call me at 617-332-1246. We will publish a complete list of members of the Torah of Money Committee in the next newsletter.

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.

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.

Dorshei Tzedek Chanukah Party

Chanukah is just around the corner! 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!



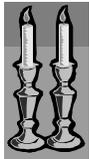
We'll begin with a veggie/fish potluck dinner at 6 pm. If your last name begins with A–G, bring dessert or fruit salad; H–O, bring a vegetable salad; and P–Z, a main course. Please do **not** bring *latkes* as these will be provided. **Be sure to bring enough food for at least 12 people**. Drinks will be provided as well. Craft activities for younger children will be provided during the potluck.



The community candle lighting (bring your own chanukiyah and six candles!) and singing will occur at approximately 6:30 pm, and children's programming will follow. Children ages 0 through second grade (and their parents) will gather in the Alliance Room downstairs to hear stories and music. Children in grades 3-7 will gather upstairs for a Chanukah Olympiad—fun, games, and prizes for all!

Shabbat Programs

Erev Shabbat Services



Winter dates: December 20, January 17 (Tubishvat Seder—see details in January newsletter), 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

Winter dates: December 13 (second Friday), January 3, February 7, and March 7

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! **Storytellers 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

Winter dates: 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.)

No Shabbat Morning Services December 28



Contributions



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Roz Mainelli

In honor of Rachel Forman's Bat Mitzvah

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

In honor of Rachel Forman's Bat Mitzvah

Nancy and Ray Zibman

In memory of Efrem Goldberg

Claudette and Jonathan Beit-Aharon

*In honor of the 20th Anniversary of
Eva Rosenn's 21st Birthday*

David Roberts and Sue Fischlowitz

In memory of Efrem Goldberg

Gertz-Cohen Family

*In honor of the Katz-Farber family,
on the occasion of Jacob's Bar Mitzvah*

Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx

*In honor of the Engagement of
Joshua Herzig Marx and Carla Naumburg*

*n honor of the Marriage of
Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg*

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Forman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

In honor of Rabbi Toba's Birthday

Ellie Goldberg, Shelia Hall and Emanuel Koenigsberg

*In memory of Efrem Goldberg and in gratitude
and appreciation for Rabbi Spitzer's support and guidance*

Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg

For Rabbi Spitzer's invaluable help with our wedding

Juliet Phillips

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

Sherry Katz and Mark Farber

*In honor of Rabbi Spitzer
In honor of our son Jacob Farber,
on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah*

School Fund

Sherry Katz and Mark Farber

In Honor of Elaine Pollack

Building Fund

Sherry Katz and Mark Farber

In memory of Efrem Goldberg

Please send contributions to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Please include a note with the names of the donors and the dedication, if any, as you wish them to be printed in the newsletter.

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.

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.

Zamir Chorale of Boston to Perform Special Chanukah Concert

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, America's foremost Jewish singing troupe, will perform a special Chanukah concert at 3 pm, Sunday, December 8, at Temple Sinai in Sharon. Zamir is a 50-member adult chorale known internationally for its stimulating programming and artistic interpretations. The Temple Sinai concert will feature Chanukah tunes as well as other songs from Zamir's extensive repertoire.

Tickets for the concert are \$36 for reserved seats and \$18 for general admission (\$15 for children under 15). In addition, a special ticket package that includes reserved seats and a post-concert reception is available.

For tickets, contact Temple Sinai, 781-784-6081, or email zamirconcert@temple-sinai.org.

Meditation and Chanting Workshops at the Rowe Conference Center

On **December 20-22**, at the Rowe Conference Center in Western Mass., there are wonderful opportunities to experience Jewish meditative practice and ecstatic chant with Reconstructionist rabbis Sheila Weinberg and Shefa Gold, respectively. The two workshops are meeting separately, but will share parts of Shabbat together.

For more information, call 413-339-4954 or visit www.rowecenter.org.

Condolences



To Laura Katz, on the death of her father, Albert Thorp. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Jennifer Polk, on the death of her father, Felix. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Allison Hausman, on the death of her grandmother, Vivian Chayes. May her memory be for a blessing.

May all who mourn find comfort in this time of sadness and loss.

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to Barbara Ayres. May healing and comfort come soon to you 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 Spitzer (617-454-0511) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah—so many thanks—to Rabbi Toba Spitzer and all the Dorshei Tzedek members who were present for and/or participated in Rachel Forman's Bat Mitzvah. I felt truly blessed by and proud of our Congregation, and I am still experiencing the large and warm *kvell* that so many of you shared with us as Rachel was called to the Torah!

—Melanie Northrop

Mazel Tov

To all those who celebrated becoming bar/bat mitzvah in November—Jacob Katz Farber, Alex Katz, and Michelle Blitzman—and to their families!

Mazel tov to Stan and Jacqui Fleischman, on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Andreas!

School News

Kitah Gimel Needs Your Help!

By Morah Chavah

Kitah Gimel has been studying the mitzvah of “bal tashchit” (not wasting). With that mitzvah in mind, we've decided to do this project: collect used Chanukah wrapping paper to reuse as art material—in our classroom, and in others. (We have already used a lot of wrapping paper in art projects this year, and Kitah Gan and Kitah Aleph use it too.) We would love it if you would save your used wrapping paper, fold it neatly, put it in paper bags, and leave it in our collection box next to the Dorshei Tzedek office. We will put the box out on the first Tuesday in December. Todah rabah!

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 First Unitarian Society of Newton, Dorshei Tzedek'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.

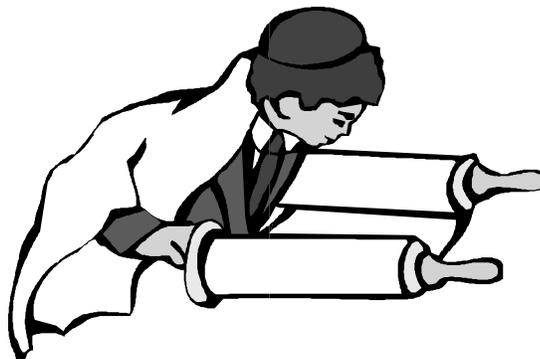
—Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

Bar Mitzvah of Adam Karp

Steffi and Eric Karp warmly invite the congregation to join us on **December 14**, when Adam follows his brothers Josh and Dan, to become a Bar Mitzvah at Dorshei Tzedek. Adam is a seventh grade student at Brown Middle School and attends Prozdor at Hebrew College. His Jewish education extends through the summer at Camp Yavneh, where he excels at tetherball. A green belt in karate, Adam enjoys soccer, riding his bike, and many other sports. He has recently taken up saber at the Boston Fencing Academy. Additionally, Adam enjoys participating in the Brown Middle School plays. He has a delightful sense of humor that he shares with one and all.

Adam is working on finding and making hats for the homeless, and urges anyone who wishes to donate a hat for the homeless to bring it to Dorshei Tzedek.

Please join the entire Karp family for *kiddush* luncheon following the service.



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.

Jewish Family & Children's Service Sponsors Support Groups

Jewish Healing Connections sponsors two ongoing support groups:

Drop-In Jewish Spiritual Support Group, offering psychological and spiritual support for anyone who is living with illness and those caring for loved ones living with illness. The group meets the **first and third Thursdays of each month, 10 am – noon**, at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton Street Newton Center, Room 201.

Drop-In Bereavement Support Group, offering psychological and spiritual support for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. The group meets **every Monday, 11 am – 12:30 pm**, at the JCC, Room 201.

There is no fee for either group. For more information, call Marjorie Sokoll at JF&CS, 617-558-1278.

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.





December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-Up and Notes
Tue Dec 3	6 pm - 8 pm	Chanukah Party <i>(see page 3)</i>	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 <i>at Temple B'nai Moshe, 1845 Commonwealth Ave. Brighton</i>	Ora Gladstone (c), Janet Boguslaw, Ezra Hausman <i>(see page 7)</i>
Sat Dec 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun Dec 8	10 am - 12 pm	Community Conversation: Torah of Money	<i>pick one of three (see page 2)</i>
Sun Dec 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Community Conversation: Torah of Money	“
Tue Dec 10	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Community Conversation: Torah of Money	“
Fri Dec 13	6 pm - 7 pm	Family Erev Shabbat Service	Josh Leichter, Ester Kohn
Fri Dec 13	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Gimel Dinner	
Sat Dec 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Adam Karp Bar Mitzvah	<i>(see page 7)</i> Janet Boguslaw, Sherry Katz
Sat Dec 14	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Alef Class	
Sat Dec 14	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Family Education Program	
Sun Dec 15	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Fri Dec 20	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Debbie Blicher (c), Stephanie Chacker, Bill Shorr
Sat Dec 21		<i>No classes - Winter Recess Classes resume Jan 2, 2003</i>	
Sat Dec 21	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Adult Education: Torah Study	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Sat Dec 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Elena Eisman (c), Howard Lurie, Toni Broh
Sat Dec 28		<i>No Shabbat Morning Service this week</i>	

Cut here to remove

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.



January Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up and Notes
Thu Jan 2		<i>Religious School classes resume</i>	
Fri Jan 3	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Amelia Zalcmán, Susannah Zisk (c)
Sat Jan 4	9:45 am - 1 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Va'era</i>	Ira Fader, Carolyn Fine Friedman (c)
Sat Jan 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun Jan 5	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Education Program	
Wed Jan 8	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: Understanding the Shabbat Morning Service	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Sat Jan 11	9:45 am - 1 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Bo</i>	David Felson (c), Jennifer Hochschild
Sat Jan 11	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sat Jan 11	6 pm - 8 pm	New Member Havdallah/Potluck	
Sun Jan 12	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Wed Jan 15	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: Understanding the Shabbat Morning Service	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Fri Jan 17	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Tubishvat Seder and Erev Shabbat Service	Mark Farber (c), Marcia Okun
Sat Jan 18		<i>No Religious School - MLK Holiday Weekend</i>	
Sat Jan 18	9:45 am - 1 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Beshalach</i>	Roberta Fortgang (c), Richard Fisher Gomberg
Wed Jan 22	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Education: Understanding the Shabbat Morning Service	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Thu Jan 23		<i>No Religious School - Staff Meeting</i>	
Sat Jan 25	9:45 am - 1 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Yitro</i>	Michael Cohen (c), Robin Einzig
Sat Jan 25	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Alef Family Education Program	
Sat Jan 25	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Class	
Sun Jan 26	3 pm - 5 pm	Community of Learners: Learning about Shabbat	<i>time is tentative</i>
Fri Jan 31		Community of Learners: Shabbat Dinners	

Membership News

Join us in welcoming the following new members:

Karen and Reinhard Engels were married last year, and have started to put down roots in Central Square, Cambridge. Karen is a sixth grade teacher at the Harbor School in Dorchester, and Reinhard is a computer programmer at the Whitehead Genome Center at M.I.T. Reconstructionism is new to both of them. Karen grew up strongly affiliated with the Reform movement, while Reinhard grew up as a practicing Lutheran. They have been searching for a congregation that is accepting of their interfaith relationship and that is strongly identified with issues of social justice. Karen and Reinhard are thrilled to have found Dorshei Tzedek. They have already been struck by the warmth of the community. Karen has recently joined the Newsletter Committee, and she and Reinhard are looking forward to becoming more involved.

Carol Hemley moved to Chestnut Hill from Long Island four years ago. Her daughters **Ellen** and **Debbie** are both members of Dorshei Tzedek, and she has attended services and holidays over the past nine years. She has enjoyed watching the congregation grow, and she feels it is very nice to be around so many warm and friendly younger people. She decided to join Dorshei Tzedek so she could feel like a member and participate in Jewish life with her daughters.

Debbie Hemley, Jonathan Weisberg and their daughter **Emma** (8), are delighted to have become members of Dorshei Tzedek. For the past nine years, they have lived in Auburndale, four blocks from Debbie's sister Ellen Hemley, brother-in-law Mark Bronstein, and their daughters Adina and Rachel (long-time members of Dorshei Tzedek.) Debbie and Ellen's families have been re-constructing extended family life and feel fortunate to live so close to each other. If that weren't enough, they recruited and successfully talked their mother, Carol, to move from New York to Newton four years ago. Carol also became a member of Dorshei Tzedek this month! Debbie, Jonathan and Emma are very happy to be members of Dorshei Tzedek's community and feel already that it is a great fit for their family.

Cindy Bittker Levine will soon be living in West Newton with her daughters, **Diana Rose** who is a senior at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School in Waltham, **Katie** (who mostly lives at Wheaton College) and Linus, their dog. Cindy works at home designing websites. She is a first year Me'ah student, a perpetual Photoshop student, and an active member of Hadassah. Cindy is vegetarian, loves cook-

ing, baking, and shopping at ethnic groceries around Boston. Diana speaks Hebrew and Mandarin and is interested in social justice issues. She hopes to attend Clark University next year. Katie is a lifeguard at the JCC, and has worked for many years with Newton Parks and Recreation special needs swimming and Camp Echo Bridge. She is a Neurobiology major and swims on the Wheaton College Women's Swimming and Diving Team. Cindy is looking forward to living in West Newton and becoming involved in the Dorshei Tzedek community.

Ingrid Neuman and Howard Lurie are originally from the Boston area, but have lived in Washington D.C., Vermont, and Western Mass. They have two daughters: **Aliza** age 10, and **Gemma** age 7, who both attend Dorshei Tzedek Hebrew school and the Peirce School in Newton. Ingrid is an art conservator and divides her time between working at the Museum of Fine Arts and her home business, Berkshire Art Conservation. Howard is an Associate Program Director at Facing History and Ourselves in Brookline. Aliza, Gemma, Howard, and Ingrid have enjoyed learning about and becoming active in the Dorshei Tzedek community. They live just a few steps from West Newton Square.

Lori Rutter and Jeff Behrens live a few blocks away from Dorshei Tzedek in West Newton with their multicultural mutt, Clipper. Jeff is a Framingham native and Lori grew up in Queens, NY. Both have been living in Newton for about 10 years. Jeff and Lori run a technology management consulting firm based in Nonantum that serves small and medium-sized businesses and nonprofit organizations. Jeff and Lori first discovered Dorshei Tzedek about five years ago when they met Rabbi Spitzer and asked her to officiate their wedding ceremony. Jeff and Lori can often be found eating sushi at Shogun or indulging in ice cream at Cabot's, but they also enjoy traveling, reading, and hiking in dog-friendly areas around New England.

Liz Umlas, Eric Berman, and their children **Rachel** (6) and **Jonah** (2), live in Arlington. Liz covers human rights and labor rights issues for a social investment research company in Boston. Eric works on African peace and security issues for various governments and organizations. They returned to the U.S. in 1999 after several years overseas (Cambodia, Mexico, and Switzerland), mostly working for the UN. Rachel is in Kitah Alef (and loves it) and Jonah looks forward to meeting other kids his age. Liz grew up in neighboring Auburndale; Eric was a member of SAJ growing up in New York. He's always on the lookout for a weekly card game. The whole family is excited to have joined the Dorshei Tzedek community.

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West Newton, MA 02465