

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
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April 2003



## Telling our Story(ies)

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

As my *Pesach*/Passover practice has grown and deepened over the past decade or so, I have come to appreciate all of the intense physical work that it takes to prepare my house and kitchen for the seven days of *Pesach*. Scrubbing the oven, cleaning out the cabinets, changing over the dishes, I pause periodically and say, *lichvod Pesach*, "in honor of Passover." This physical process reinforces a deeper sense of clearing out the *chametz*, the unnecessary "stuff" that gets in the way of my own freedom and happiness.

All of this effort sets the stage for the *Pesach seder*, the ritual re-telling and re-experiencing of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. The book we use for the *seder*, the *haggadah* (which literally means "the telling") is a brilliant pedagogical tool, crafted with the intention of telling our communal "master" story and encouraging each of us as individuals to place ourselves within that story. The *haggadah* teaches: *B'chol dor v'dor, chayav adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatzah mi-mitzrayim*—"In each and every generation, each person is obligated to see him/herself as if s/he went out from *Mitzrayim*." It is not enough to read the words in the *haggadah*, or to speculate about what might have really happened "back then"; far more is demanded of us. We are encouraged—commanded, even!—to read ourselves into this story of liberation from a place called "Mitzrayim," the Biblical name for Egypt that means "narrow places." What are the "narrow places," the places of being pressed in or held back, that I am struggling to find my way out of? Where have I experienced moments of liberation in my life? What are the oppressions around me in the world today that I feel compelled to act upon? These are the questions we are supposed to be asking ourselves, and one another, around the *Pesach* table.

I often encourage people to liberate themselves from their printed *haggadah* for some portion of the *seder* and to create a more personalized "telling." One practice that is easy to do is to create a "freedom plate" on your table, along with the traditional *seder* plate. Ask everyone who will be

attending the *seder* to bring a small object that either symbolizes freedom for them, or that symbolizes something they want to be liberated from. Put the objects on your "freedom plate," and at some point during the *seder* ask people to share a few sentences about what they brought. This is a great way for kids and adults to add a bit of their own story to the traditional rituals. There are many resources out there to help you create a dynamic, interactive and interesting *seder*—I encourage you to spend an hour or so one of the Jewish bookstores in Brookline, perusing the many *haggadot* now available, including *A Night of Questions*, the wonderful Reconstructionist *haggadah*.

There is another kind of story-telling that we are doing this spring, in connection to our first annual *Nadiv Lev* campaign. This campaign is not only a drive to raise \$50,000 by June, but also an opportunity for us to hear and tell our stories as members of Dorshei Tzedek. The *Nadiv Lev* committee has set a wonderful goal of having a face-to-face meeting with every member household over the next three years, beginning with the first third this spring. These meetings are opportunities for each member to tell his/her own story as it relates to Dorshei Tzedek—how you arrived here, what it means for you to be part of this community, what your hopes and expectations are for your own Jewish journey. Through telling our personal stories and listening for both their unique qualities and their commonalities, I

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## Board Notes

*Elizabeth Ross, Dorshei Tzedek Secretary*

The last meeting of the Dorshei Tzedek Board took place on March 9.

*Attending:* Debbie Waber, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Tessa Goldsmith, Roberta Carson, Dan Halbert, Judy Hersh, Erica Streit, Michael White, Marc Steinberg, Cheryl Sacks, Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx, Nancy Gertz, Steve Siegel, Jill Volk, and Elizabeth Ross. Non-Board members in attendance were Sivan Nasoff (for Finance) and Susan Manheim (for Chesed).

*D'var:* Tessa opened the meeting by talking briefly about the first *parsha* from the book of Leviticus, *Vayikra*. She remarked that Leviticus, the middle book of the Torah, doesn't continue the story of the Jewish people that begins in Genesis and Exodus and resumes again in Numbers. Rather, Leviticus consists of laws, many of which outline the means of atonement for public and private transgressions via sacrifice of unblemished animals. Tessa told us that commentators have seen the process of sin as distancing oneself, and the process of atonement as bringing oneself closer to God's presence or Godliness. As modern day Reconstructionists, without a place for or belief in animal sacrifice, Tessa suggested our challenge is to understand how we can incorporate sacrifice into our own thoughts and actions.

*Nadiv Lev Update:* The Finance Committee is preparing a letter to the community outlining what the Torah of Money Committee has learned about our values around fundraising, and our needs for increased revenues from fundraising, as our expenses are larger than what we collect from dues and our donations-to-dues ratio is smaller than what is considered optimal for congregations.

*Finance Update:* At this month's committee meetings, committees will be working on budgets for next year. In order to assist them in this process, the Finance Committee has prepared guidelines for putting together a budget along with the Finance Committee's best approximation of historical expenses.

*Retreat Update:* The next Dorshei Tzedek retreat will take place over the weekend of June 4, 2004 at Camp Ramah. (Camp Isabella Friedman is not available.) Camp Ramah is a Jewish space, relatively close to us in Palmer, MA (80 minutes away), and has a great waterfront and great sports facilities. The Board expressed gratitude to Judy Hersh for all the work she did in securing this location for us.

*Strategic Planning:* Debbie summarized the priorities set by the Board last October and outlined our progress in many areas. She then asked the Board to split up into three groups envision to Dorshei Tzedek five years from now. Short summaries of these discussions follow.

*Membership/Communications discussion:* The Membership Inreach Committee envisioned a thriving buddy program, regular community building events, as well as some visual aids to help us get to know each other: photographs posted somewhere (like on the retreat) and a name-tag board. Membership Outreach envisions continuing our orientations for new members, open houses for prospective members, and doing more to attract new members over the summer months. Chesed envisions offering an educational piece to help new members get more comfortable asking for help. The Newsletter and Web committees envision more seamless connection between the various communications committees and see the Web site as a vehicle for some of the functionality we now depend on paper for: bill paying, donations, electronic form bank, membership binder, etc.

*The Education/Programming group* used 'Community of Learners' as the centerpiece of their discussion. The program was seen as a vehicle for developing *minhagim* (customs) for our community around different holidays and lifecycle events, helping member households enhance their home observances and encouraging them to invite others from the community to celebrate with them, to grow relationships among children and adults and among households with and without children, and to help involve post-b'nai mitzvah teens as active participants in our congregation.

*The Finance/Infrastructure group* envisioned an annual fundraising campaign integrated with an ongoing Torah of Money (ToM) process including new member orientation around ToM. They envision having a larger professional staff, having resolved our permanent space issues: rent/buy, sole/shared, and having a more fully developed leadership development program in place.

It was decided to bring this kind of discussion to the membership at the next Members' meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be Sunday, April 6.

## Pesach

The first Passover *seder* falls this year on **Wednesday evening, April 16**. Reconstructionist practice is to observe the holiday for seven days, as it is in Israel.

### Let All Who Are Hungry Come And Eat...

It's a mitzvah to attend a Passover *seder* and a mitzvah to invite someone to your *seder*—so do a mitzvah! Once again, our *Seder Matchmaker*, Linette Liebling, will be matching Dorshei Tzedek members who have space at their first or second *seder* with members who would like to attend a *seder* and need somewhere to go. If you have room at your table, or if you are interested in attending a *seder* at a member's home, please contact Linette by **Wednesday, April 9**, at 617-244-7248 or [netgrace@aol.com](mailto:netgrace@aol.com)



### Seventh Day Pesach Service

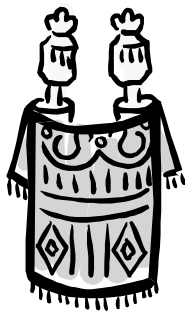
Wednesday, April 23, 9:00–10:30 am

at The Unitarian Society

We will celebrate the Crossing of the Sea with a morning service, *Hallel*, a brief Torah reading and study, and recitation of the *Yizkor* prayers.

## Torah Siyyum and Celebration

Sunday, May 4, 2:30 - 4 pm



Join us for a wonderful program to dedicate our "new" Torah which we bought this fall. Come learn about the history of the scroll and about how a *sefer* Torah is written with Reconstructionist *sofer* (scribe) Rabbi Kevin Hale. This program is for adults and kids and promises to be a lot of fun!

*(The Hard Work of Freedom, continued from page 1)*

believe that we will greatly enhance our ability to achieve our mission as a congregation. What are the ways that our membership wants to become more Jewishly educated? What are the social and political issues that affect us and might spur us to action? What are the many gifts this talented group of people wants to bring to the project of building a community? Just as it is with our communal story of the Exodus from *Mitzrayim*, our individual stories tell us not only who we are and where we have come from, but also where we would like to be heading.

May this season of story-telling be an empowering and enriching one for all of us. May your *seders* be liberating and your Passover holiday nourishing, on all levels!

**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.

## Torah of Money

### "Values of the Month"

In last month's newsletter we began our look at the values that are the foundation of our Dorshei Tzedek community and how those values should shape our actions around money. Last month, I shared some of our committee's ideas about *kedusha*/holiness and *ain kemach, ain Torah*/no flour, no Torah. For this newsletter, our column looks at *b'tzelem Elohim*/human dignity, *kehilla*/community, and diversity.

**B'tzelem Elohim / Human Dignity.** Literally, this phrase refers to the Torah teaching that every human being is created "in God's image. Rabbinic tradition understood this to mean that a person's dignity must never be compromised, no matter the circumstances. This value leads us to respectful behavior, both on the part of those members who will be asking the rest of us to donate as well as the rest of us who will be asked. Studying this value reminds us of the importance of respecting confidentiality, but it does something more as well. It reminds us that personal wealth is neither the standard by which we wish to be judged nor the standard by which we should judge others. It therefore asks us to look at our silence about money and income and ask whether this silence contributes to the sense of shame and anxiety that so many of us feel around this issue.

**Kehilla / Community.** While American culture speaks a language of individual rights, Jewish tradition stresses individual obligations to the community and communal responsibility for its individual members. Traditionally, a Jew is responsible for helping maintain the community as a whole. Looked at in this light, fundraising is about strengthening the community and is an opportunity to build new relationships within the community. *Kehilla* asks us to understand our individual piece of a large collective effort.

**Diversity.** Our mission statement says that we are an inclusive community and embrace diversity as an important aspect of being a welcoming, inclusive congregation. There are many types of diversity that we seek, including family status and sexual orientation, age, religious background and level of observance, as well as that of income and class. This value means we must grapple with how to raise money in a way that acknowledges the diversity of class background and income levels in our community.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and questions. Contact Wendy at [wgedanken@hotmail.com](mailto:wgedanken@hotmail.com)

## Tikkun Olam

### Stand Up for Social Justice: Jewish Community Advocacy Day 2003

Thursday, April 3, 9:00-11:30 am

The State House, Boston

As in years past, hundreds of Jewish people from all across the state will go to the State House the morning of April 3rd to meet with their legislators and advocate for issues of concern to the Jewish community. This year, with the state facing its worst fiscal crisis in decades, and the impact of the budget crisis falling hardest on the homeless, the elderly, people with disabilities, low-income families and other vulnerable people, it is especially important that we raise our voice in support of maintaining the safety net for the neediest residents in our state.

Participants in advocacy day do not need to have any lobbying experience or expertise about the issues. We will provide briefing materials, and participants will meet in teams with their legislators. For more information or to register for Jewish

Community Advocacy Day, please contact Michael Karpman at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston at [mkarpman@jcrcboston.org](mailto:mkarpman@jcrcboston.org) or 617-457-8664.

### Environmental Justice: A Jewish Call to Action The Annual Environmental Leadership Institute of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life May 15 -18 in Utica, Mississippi

Join environmental activists, Jewish educators, community leaders and student organizers from around the country for an exciting three-day program of study and skills workshops, outdoor programs, and a unique eco-Shabbat experience! For more information, visit [www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org), or contact [info@coejl.org](mailto:info@coejl.org) or call 212-684-6950.

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Send items to be published in future newsletters to  
[dtnews@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dtnews@yahoogroups.com). Thanks!

The Newsletter Committee:

Dan Halbert, Josh Herzig-Marx, Karen Engels,  
Tim Rosa, and Susannah Zisk

## Shabbat Programs

### Erev Shabbat Services

*Remaining dates: April 11, May 9, and June 13*

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

### Family Erev Shabbat Services

*Remaining dates: April 4, May 2, and June 6*

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

*Remaining dates: April 12, May 10, and June 21*



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.)

### Tot Shabbat Program

*Remaining dates: April 12 and May 10*

This program, geared for preschool children (parents also welcome) provides an introduction to Jewish songs, stories and holidays. Questions? Contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Education Director at 617-965-0330 x4 or [school@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:school@dorsheitzedek.org).



## Bat Mitzvah of Shana Hausman



Please join us on **May 3 at 9:45 am** as our daughter Shana is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Shana, a seventh-grader at Day Middle School, is an eager student and an asker of tough questions in all areas. Shana is also a participant in theater and dance in and out of school, and an enthusiastic soccer player. A thoughtful participant in Torah discussion since age four, when she asked why the prayer book was in "English and Japanese", Shana is looking forward to her first opportunity to share a *d'var* Torah with the Dorshei Tzedek community.

For Shana's *tikkun olam* project, she is sharing her love for learning as a tutor for a second-grade student from an immigrant family in Waltham. She is also inviting friends and family to contribute to the Jewish Fund for Justice ([www.jfjustice.org](http://www.jfjustice.org)) in lieu of gifts.—Allison and Ezra Hausman

## Adult Education

### Jewish Practices and Teachings at the End of Life: A Practical Guide

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday evenings, May 1 and 8, 7:45 - 9:15 pm  
at The Unitarian Society

Many of us don't think much about what to do when a loved one dies until the time is upon us; many of us have done very little thinking or planning for our own eventual death. The Jewish tradition is rich in practices and traditions to help mourners and the larger community deal with issues of death and dying. Join Rabbi Toba for a discussion of issues including: What does the Jewish tradition say about burial practices? What are some decisions my loved ones or I should be thinking about now? What should I say or not say when I make a *shivah* call? What are Jewish mourning practices all about, anyway? The first class will deal with decision-making and practices at the end of life; the second class will look at Jewish mourning traditions.

#### Last chance to sign up for *Me'ah*!

*Me'ah*, a two-year program involving 100 hours of Jewish learning, is accepting applications until **April 11** for the class starting in October 2003. Dorshei Tzedek is participating in the *Me'ah* program in collaboration with Temple Hillel B'nai Torah in West Roxbury and the Newton JCC. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a community of serious adult learners and to be exposed to the broad sweep of Jewish learning and history, from the Biblical through the Modern eras. For an application, contact Rabbi Toba or Robin Stein at the JCC (617-558-6500).

Here are some thoughts from current Dorshei Tzedek *Me'ah* students about the program:

"As light fills in the outlines of my street I am reminded of looking through the window of the three-room apartment in Brooklyn that my parents, brother, sister, and I called home. Dad emigrated from Diveen, Poland when he was about twelve and Mom, of Russian parents, was born in Boston. I knew I was a Jew and absorbed my identity from my Orthodox family along with Mom's chicken soup on Friday night, and my aunts, uncles and cousins who lived on my block or around the corner. I went with them and my friends to the *shul* three blocks away where I could play with my Dad's *tallis* strings while he prayed or when I was older I could sit with the women upstairs in the balcony. But being a girl in that community I wasn't sent to *cheder*.

"We joined Dorshei Tzedek because the community was welcoming and I wanted a place to say prayers upon my Dad's death. *Me'ah* has given me a place to learn with my intellect about the religion I had absorbed with my senses. And the class has given me an opportunity to begin to connect with the community as we study together. Joining Dorshei Tzedek in my late fifties and with neither of my two children in the congregation, *Me'ah* has created a small group that I know within a larger group that I have yet to know. The students come to *Me'ah* with different histories but we have the same thirst to learn, the same desire to explore and to know, and this drive, what a surprise, makes a Jewish community during that space and time that we learn together."—*Jackie Fleischman*

"I decided to take the *Me'ah* course for several reasons. First, not having grown up with any Jewish education, I thought this could fill in some of the major holes in my understanding. What is the Talmud, a tractate, *mishnah*? What happened in Europe during the Middle Ages? What about the Torah and other sacred texts? What do we know about them? Second, I (with my husband, Joel) also wanted to make learning a family endeavor. Joel and I took the class together. As our son studied for his bar mitzvah, we learned and studied, too. Finally, I wanted an opportunity to study with and get to know other Dorshei Tzedek members.

"*Me'ah* has allowed for all this and more. Even though I started with very little knowledge, I was able to study and learn with other members of the class. *Me'ah* has covered a huge amount of material in a relatively short period of time; I feel (as do many members of the class) that this overview has given me enough so that I can later go back and learn more about the topics which most interested me. And, while many class members do lead very busy lives and the reading didn't always get done, each class offered something new to learn and understand. I have been really grateful to have this opportunity."—*Laura Katz*

"*Me'ah* provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the thought and history of the Jewish people. Our four courses have taken us on an amazing, whirlwind journey through the Bible, on through the rabbinic period, continuing through the middle ages, and concluding in the modern era. Our *Me'ah* experience has been enhanced by being exposed to the diverse styles and perspectives of our four teachers, and also by getting to know and interact with the other students from Dorshei Tzedek and Hillel B'nai Torah.

(Continued on page 7)

## Member Potluck



Everyone is invited to either host or attend our next *Havdalah* (Saturday evening) potluck on **May 10**. If you haven't hosted yet please consider opening up your home. Whether you have room for 5 or 25 it feels good to get to know other members on your own turf! Hosting is especially nice if you have a child or partner who prefers to stay home. Let us know how many you can have and whether you have pets. Guests should let us know who will be attending from your household, and whether there are any allergies or food restrictions. We'll do the matching. Widen your Dorshei Tzedek circle by signing up for a guaranteed evening of fun. Contact Ami Gordon at [amisgordon@attbi.com](mailto:amisgordon@attbi.com) or 617-630-1717 by May 4 at the very latest.

## New Member Orientation

On **Saturday, April 5 at 6 pm**, members who have joined within the past year are invited to a potluck dinner and orientation at The Unitarian Society. Meet other newcomers, learn about exciting developments in the congregation, and get to know Dorshei Tzedek Board members and Rabbi Toba Spitzer. Childcare will be provided.

Food assignments: last names beginning with A-K bring a meatless main dish; L-P bring a cold salad; and R-Z bring dessert. This is guaranteed to be a fun evening for all, and we hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Andrew Compaine at [wellshrink@aol.com](mailto:wellshrink@aol.com) or 781-237-9600.

## Be A Buddy

As our congregation grows it becomes increasingly important to help new members find a place for themselves within the larger community. This year we've begun to match up new members who request a buddy with veteran members, who invite their buddies to share a meal or two, sit together at several services or events, and help the newer folks make connections during their first year at Dorshei Tzedek.



Instead of making calls to locate a buddy each time a new member joins, as we've been doing, we'd like to start a list of people who'd enjoy helping a new member navigate their way into life at Dorshei Tzedek. When a new member requests a buddy, we'll call someone from the list who may live nearby, have similar age children, or have similar interests as the new member.

You can sign up to be a buddy by contacting Judy Hersh at [judyherh@attbi.com](mailto:judyherh@attbi.com) or 617-332-2487. Judy and Linda Hsu will do the matching as requests come in. Please sign up now: being a buddy will feel good for you and the new member you're helping!

(*Me'ah*, continued from page 6)

"While I have found all of the courses interesting and informative, I was particularly affected by the course on the medieval period taught by Rabbi Benjamin Samuels. I had come to this course with some knowledge about the Sephardim in Spain. However, I never felt a particularly deep connection with the middle ages. This course pro-

vided such a visceral connection and an understanding of how the Jewish people migrated from *Eretz Yisrael*, through North Africa, to the rest of Europe. As we continue living as Jews in a new land, our connection to our people's history and to our present *chaverim* is enriched by the *Me'ah* experience. I recommend it highly."—  
*Stan Fleischman*

## Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

### General Fund

**Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess**

*With thanks to the Dorshei Tzedek community  
for your kindness and support*

**Wendy Gedanken and Joaquim Branco**

*In memory of Efrem Goldberg*

**The Gertz-Cohen Family**

*In memory of Relly Dibner's beloved father  
Rachmany "Moni" Wolfson*

*In memory of Mary Schwartz' beloved mother;  
In honor of Larry Pensack and Lynne Brandon  
for refuah sh'lemah*

*On the occasion of Julian Cohen's 8th birthday,  
from his adoring family*

**Laura and Joel Katz**

*With special thanks to Rabbi Toba for her guidance and  
teaching for Dan's Bar Mitzvah*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Adam and Amy Brenner**

*With thanks to Rabbi Spitzer*

**Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess**

*In gratitude for your help in our time of mourning*

**Leslie Rubin and Debra Rattet**

*In honor of Rabbi Toba, with gratitude*

### School Fund

**Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess**

*In honor of the future of our children and Judaism*

**Laura and Joel Katz**

*With thanks to Miranda Phillips for all her wonderful teach-  
ing of our children this year*

**Leslie Rubin and Debra Rattet**

*In honor of Elizabeth Holohan becoming a Bat Mitzvah*

### Building Fund

**Angus-Kirshtein Family**

*In appreciation of Rabbi Toba's many contributions toward  
building a strong CDT community*

**Leslie Rubin and Debra Rattet**

*In memory of Gerald Rattet on his first yahrzeit*

## Camp JRF

This June, youth from across America will come together for the second season of Camp JRF. Camp JRF offers the full gamut of summer camp activities and also strives to create a warm and caring community, where campers can build character and learn a deep respect for Jewish tradition and what it has to offer in everyday life.

Camp JRF is open to students entering grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. High school students are eligible for the *Hadraha* or counselors-in-training program.

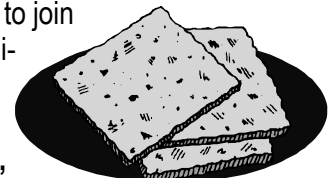
This coming season, 39 of 40 first year campers are returning to camp. To date, enrollment has more than doubled for the coming summer session.

Dorshei Tzedek member Elana Rome will be working as a counselor at Camp JRF this year. Our neighbor congregation in Attleboro, MA is sending seven campers.

It's not too late to sign up! For more information, visit the camp website at [www.campjrf.org](http://www.campjrf.org).

## Kitah Hay Saves Pesach – Matzah Raiser

The entire community is invited to join Kitah Hay as we put on our original dramatic work, *Kitah Hay Saves Pesach*. The play will begin at **5:15 pm on Thursday, April 3**, and will run about thirty minutes.



The play is free, but we ask that all audience members bring at least one box of *matzah*; we are trying to collect at least 60 boxes of *matzah* to donate to Family Table. Questions, please contact Meg Berenson, [meg@brandeis.edu](mailto:meg@brandeis.edu).

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 Spitzer directly at 617-454-0511 if you are in need of financial assistance.





# April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up and Notes
Wed Apr 2	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop</b>	(see previous newsletters)
Thu Apr 3	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	<b>Kitah Hay Saves Pesach Matzah Raiser</b>	(see page 8)
Fri Apr 4	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b>	(see page 5) Jerry Friedman (c), Linda Hsu
Sat Apr 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Tazira</i> <i>Kitah Vav Siyyum:</i> <i>class leads services with Rabbi Spitzer</i>	Michael Kajen (c), Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Sat Apr 5	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef & Bet Classes	
Sat Apr 5	6 pm - 8 pm	<b>New Member Orientation / Havdallah</b>	Andrew Compaine, Lauren Gibbs, Erica Streit (c)
Sun Apr 6	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Fundraising for Friendship's Way	(see page 11)
Fri Apr 11	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Aleph Dinner	
Fri Apr 11	8 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	(see page 5) Jeff Behrens, John Holohan (c)
Sat Apr 12	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	(see page 5)
Sat Apr 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Metzora</i> <i>Shabbat Hagadol</i>	Nancy Gertz (c), Jeff Katz
Sat Apr 12	11 am - 11:45 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	
Sun Apr 13		Kitah Zayin Family Outing	
Sun Apr 13	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program	
Sun Apr 13	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Education Program	
Tue Apr 15		<i>No Classes through April 28 Pesach and Spring Break</i>	
Wed Apr 16		<i>First Seder</i>	
Thu Apr 17		<i>Pesach</i>	
Sat Apr 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Pesach</i>	Lynne Brandon (c), Hilary Marcus
Wed Apr 23	9 am - 11 am	<b>7th day of Pesach Yizkor service</b>	(see page 3)
Sat Apr 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Acharei Mot</i>	Jacqueline Fleischman, Stephen Zisk (c)
Tue Apr 29		<i>Religious School Classes Resume</i>	

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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 weekend 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 all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.



# May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up and Notes
Thu May 1	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Jewish Practices and Teachings at the End of Life: A Practical Guide</b>	(see page 6)
Fri May 2	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b> <i>Kitah Dalet Siyyum: Services led by class</i>	Julie Fox, Eric Berman, Jill Stanzler-Katz
Fri May 2	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Dalet Dinner	
Sat May 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Shana Hausman</b> <i>Parshat Kedoshim</i>	(see page 5) Eileen Morrison, Audrey Roth
Sat May 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sun May 4	2:30 pm - 4 pm	<b>Torah Siyyum and Celebration</b>	(see page 3)
Thu May 8	3:45 pm - 5:45 pm	No Class - Staff Meeting	
Thu May 8	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Jewish Practices and Teachings at the End of Life: A Practical Guide</b>	(see page 6)
Fri May 9	8 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Josh Herzig-Marx, Lori Rutter, Cindy Bittker
Sat May 10		<b>Member Havdalah Potluck Dinners</b>	(see page 7)
Sat May 10	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	(see page 5)
Sat May 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Emor</i> <i>Kitah Hay Siyyum: Services led by class with Rabbi Spitzer; followed by class lunch</i>	Dan Rome, Charles Frankston, Jamie Tessler
Sat May 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes	
Sat May 10	11 am - 11:45 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	(see page 5)
Sat May 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services <b>Bat Mitzvah of Hadass Silver</b> <i>Parshat Behar</i>	TBA
Sat May 17	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Alef and Bet Classes: <i>Final Session</i>	
Sat May 17	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Gimmel Havdalah Siyyum	
Sun May 18	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program: <i>Final Session</i>	
Sat May 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Services <i>Parshat Bechukkotai</i>	Eric Karp, Stan Piltch
Fri May 30	3:45 pm - 5:45 pm	<i>Final Day of Classes for Upper School</i>	
Sat May 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Bemidbar</i>	Ed Bruckner, Bobby Kleinberg, Sivan Nasoff

## Dorshei Tzedek Religious School Fundraiser and Educational Event on behalf of Friendship's Way

On **Sunday April 6 from 2–4:30** at the Unitarian Society our entire school will participate in a *tikkun olam* project in support of Friendship's Way, an after school program in Israel serving Jewish and Palestinian children. With the assistance of Barbara Shatkin, each class is involved in a different aspect of the program. Kitah Dalet is helping to organize a "gently used" book sale, Kitah Gimmel is making bookmarks to sell, and students in Kitah Vav will be preparing and selling Israeli food. Kitot Aleph and Bet will be providing decorated cookies for a bake sale. Kitah Zayin will be creating a room about Jaffa and reading stories about connections between Arab and Jewish children, and Kitah Hay is taking responsibility for advertising the event. Rabbi Toba will be giving a slide presentation about Friendship's Way.

In addition to the "Gently Used" book sale with books of all kinds for readers of all ages, there will also be a Middle Eastern food sale, story reading, bookmark sale, bake sale, a slide show about Friendship's Way, and speakers from Israel. The students are proud of and excited about their involvement in this project. It has been a chance for everyone to support and learn about a special program that brings Jewish and Arab-Israeli children together to provide sorely needed services and simultaneously teach values of peace and coexistence.

You can help by donating books for our book sale and participating on the day of this event .

Please come!! Have fun, learn something, eat something, buy something, schmooze with friends, and help make our school's *tikkun olam* project a huge success! Plan to join us on April 6 to support Friendship's Way and our students who have been working so enthusiastically to make this project a success.

### Calling All "Gently Used" Books



A major means of fundraising for the Friendship's Way event described above will be the sale of "gently used" books. Please donate books you no longer want for this fundraiser. We are looking for fiction and non-fiction books in good condition that are marketable and of contemporary interest for readers (or listeners) of all ages. We are hoping for and NEED donations from as many congregants as possible in order for this fundraiser to succeed. Book donations may be put in the marked box in the vestibule adjacent to the school office at any time. During the week of March 28–April 3, books may also be taken to home locations listed on the right. Please call the household to arrange a mutually convenient time, or leave your books in the marked box on the porch as described. If you need books to be picked up, please call Barbara Shatkin at 617–964–3121. **Thank you very much!!**

### Book Drop-Off Sites

- Shatkin/Littman, 15 Channing Road, Newton Centre, 617-964-3121
- Enoch/Epstein, 58 Spruce St, Watertown, 617-926-0836
- Pearce-Probst, 90 Fayerweather St, Cambridge, 617-547-0441
- Manheim/Schiff, 32 Oakhurst Circle, Needham, 781-449-2984

At the households below, leave books in marked box on porch:

- Hemley-Bronstein, 350 Auburndale Ave, Auburndale
- Kohn, 60 Spring Park Ave, Jamaica Plain
- Bresnick, 562 California St., Newtonville

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

## Mazel Tov

Mazel tov and yasher koach to Elizabeth Holohan—and her family—on becoming bat mitzvah!

Congratulations to Katy Jablon, daughter of Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon, on completing the requirements for the Bat Or Award, the Jewish religious recognition for Junior Girl Scouts. The Bat Or program was designed to provide spiritual motivation to Jewish girls who are Junior Girl Scouts. Katy has been a member of Girl Scout Troop 3038 for five years.

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## Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to Barbara Ayres, Lynne Brandon and Francis Greenberg. 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 in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617-454-0511) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

## Todah Rabah

A huge thanks to everyone who made our wonderful Purim celebration possible! Thanks to our incredible Purim spiel team: the writing/directing duo, Jeffrey Fortgang and Sheree Galpert; the high-tech crew headed by Clifford and Amy Goldsmith; and all the wonderful actors—Bill Shorr, Alan Epstein, Miranda Phillips, Laurie Gould, Dan Rome, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Marcia Okun, Marc Steinberg, and all the kids! Thanks also to our *megillah leyners*, Miranda Phillips and Chayim Herzig-Marx, and the Costume Parade team—Amy Goldsmith, Hanna Epstein, and Hankus Netsky. Thanks also to Deb Levheim and Diana Fisher-Gomberg for providing prizes, *hamantaschen*, and general logistical support. Rav Tiffany loves you all!!

We all owe a big *todah rabah* to Marc Steinberg, Holiday Programmer Extraordinaire, for overseeing the coordination of all of our holiday celebrations this year. *Yasher koach*, Marc!