

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
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## President's Message

Debbie Waber

Several months ago, I had the opportunity to study *Pikudei*, the final *parasha* (portion) in the book of Exodus. The text describes in detail the construction of the *mishkan*, the portable sanctuary that the Children of Israel carried with them during their 40 years in the desert. There ensued a discussion in my class of sacred space and how we moderns assume that sacred space is permanent because our experience of it is confined to fixed structures like synagogues and churches. The teaching of the *mishkan* is that sacred space does not demand a particular place, but that space becomes sacred because we create it to be so, and that holiness will dwell there because we create it.

Coming from a community that regularly creates its own sacred space, I found this discussion somewhat ironic. At Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, each of us has the opportunity to experience what our biblical ancestors experienced, with our own hands creating sacred space with our "set-up/clean-up" assignment. What makes our space sacred is not just that we pray in it, but the symbols that members of our community have created. For us, the beautiful silk hangings and screens created by our own *B'zalel*, Wendy Gedanken; the specially crafted ark with its wheels and "seatbelts" to keep the Torah scrolls secure; and the stand for Rabbi Spitzer's guitar are very much like the components of the *mishkan* described in *Pikudei*. Each of these items must be carefully placed in order so we can experience sacredness; the ark must sit precisely on the right floorboards in the Alliance room each *Shabbat*, and the silk hangings must be placed on the right windows. The instructions in *Pikudei* read similarly to the detailed instructions that Ellen Pashall so beautifully laid out for us in our members' binder. That the whole community shares in this task of creating the prayer space and that such importance is attached each week to getting it just right makes our space sacred. Indeed, it occurred to me that we might do

well to rename the dreaded "set-up and clean-up" assignment to "sacred space creation"!

Looking forward, after 12 years of having our prayer space at the First Unitarian Society and creating our sacred space in this way, we are about to make an exciting change. Thanks to the incredible work of Cheryl Sacks, Steve Siegel, and the Space Committee, starting this September, our sacred space will move across the street to a lovely room at the Second Congregational Church. Although we will still be renters, we will have a space that is our own, accessible to us 24/7. There will be far less for us to do each week to prepare our space for prayer; the sacred space will be set up as such most of the time. The *ner tamid*, the eternal light, on our ark can now remain lit eternally. Although our lives will become pragmatically easier, however, we risk losing some of the magic of sacred space that our ancestors experienced while wandering the desert. It is an exciting transition, but somewhat poignant as we leave behind a bit of our wandering and enter a new phase of our development as a community. As we move into this beautiful space and become guests of our friends at the Second Church, my prayer for us is that we sustain the spirit of *mishkan* in our space and throughout our life as a community.

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## Members' Meeting Notes

*Elizabeth Ross, Dorshei Tzedek Secretary*

54 members from 47 households attended the most recent CDT member's meeting on March 30. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a strategic planning discussion led by Debbie Waber, CDT President. After reflecting individually on what brought us to CDT, what we value about CDT as members, and what our hopes and fears are for CDT's future, we split into five groups to envision the congregation in five years. Each group was asked to list four things we'd like to see stay the same in five years' time and four things we'd like to see changed.

The areas of Kehilla (community) and process received the most comments. Members wanted to preserve our community's welcoming, open, connected, caring, cohesive, and diverse quality. In five years time, members hoped for more involvement of youth, and more groups sharing home-based celebrations together in their homes. In the area of how we get things done, members were interested in preserving and expanding upon our use of values as the driver for our decision-making, our progressive dues structure, our lack of emphasis on the material, our fun, open, participatory style, our commitment to process, and our responsiveness to the needs of members. In five years, members hoped for an even greater percentage of the community to be involved in leadership of the community and activities.

Comments on education focused on preserving the quality of our school and our genuine enthusiasm for learning at all levels: school, adult education, and community of learners. Members wanted to expand on the "community of learner's" theme and activities, and to see greater opportunities for and participation in educational, cultural, social opportunities for adults including adult b'nei mitzvah classes and ceremonies.

In two areas—services and our Rabbi—members wanted very little to change. Comments on services focused on maintaining the spiritually and intellectually engaging, musical, participatory, fun and informal yet traditional quality of our services. Members spoke out strongly in favor of maintaining our balanced relationship with Rabbi Spitzer, and all groups took the opportunity to affirm their appreciation of Toba in her multifaceted role as CDT Rabbi and their hope that she would continue to grow and develop with us as we move into CDT's future.

The area in which changes were envisioned most strongly

was infrastructure. In five years, members saw a more substantial and stable infrastructure in place including more full-time staff and rented or owned space, while hoping that we will be able to achieve this while maintaining our values.

Member's comments were brought back to the board for further discussion. Please see the next issue of the newsletter for details of the board's discussion.

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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.

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).

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## Todah Rabah

*Mazel tov and todah rabah* / thank you very much to Barbara Shatkin for dreaming up our Friendship's Way Tikkun Olam event and spearheading the entire operation! Barbara worked hard to integrate all the students of our school into this project, which was both a learning opportunity for the students, as well as a chance to support a wonderful organization in Israel. Thank you, Barbara, for all your hard work in turning a great idea into a reality for our entire community!

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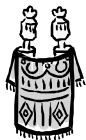
**Contacting Rabbi Spitzer:** Rabbi Toba Spitzer does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. Please call her directly to make an appointment at 617-454-0511. Rabbi Spitzer's office is at the Second Church, 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 Siyyum and Celebration

**Sunday, May 4, 2:30 – 4 pm, First Unitarian Society**

Join us for a wonderful program to dedicate our “new” Torah that 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. We will ceremonially “complete” our Torah and inaugurate it for use at our services. This program is for adults and kids and promises to be a lot of fun!



## Shavuot



**Thursday, June 5, 8 pm to midnight**

Celebrate the giving of Torah with Torah study and other topics! Tradition has it that the heavens open at midnight on *erev Shavuot*. So, come see if you can make it all the way...or join us for just part of the program! We'll study, eat, and sing together to celebrate this holiday of revelation.

8:00 pm: *Ma'ariv* service

8:40 pm: A Shavuot nosh - please bring fruit or dairy desserts (eating dairy products is a Shavuot tradition)

9:00 pm: Study begins, and continues to midnight. Teachers include Rabbi Spitzer, Elaine Pollack, and other members of the community. If you have something you'd like to teach—a Jewish text (a Biblical text, or a poem, or something else), an art project, or a little late-night yoga—please contact Rabbi Spitzer.

## Friendship's Way An Inspiring Tikkun Olam Project

*By Barbara Shatkin*

The April 6 Fundraiser and Educational Event on behalf of Friendship's Way, the after-school program serving at-risk Arab and Jewish children in Jaffa, Israel, was a truly wonderful event. Our success came from the multitude of books contributed by our members, and by the active and enthusiastic participation of all our schoolchildren and so many adults.

Each grade took on a particular role and made a unique contribution. Kitot Aleph and Bet beautifully decorated cookies. Kitah Gimmel made lovely bookmarks and ran a bookmark making table. Kitah Dalet took responsibility for the “gently used book sale”—advertising the book drive, sorting books with their parents so that customers could efficiently find their favorite genres, and cashing out purchases. Kitah Hay advertised the actual event, and made a variety of creative clay magnets. After visiting a Palestinian restaurant on a field trip to learn about the background of the restaurant owner and observe the making of falafel sandwiches, Kitah Vav students made over 100 scrumptious sandwiches on an assembly line in a student's

kitchen the morning of the event. Kitah Zayin students transformed the Children's Chapel into a room with the feel for old Jaffa, provided information about the city, and read excerpts from young adult literature about Arab-Jewish connection.

A Jewish Israeli student and a Palestinian Israeli student from Brandeis spoke about their personal histories and experience in the coexistence and peace movement in Israel, and Rabbi Spitzer showed a slide show about Friendship's Way. Younger children were treated to story reading about friendship and discovering people from other cultures. The raffle of members' unique skills became another way in which both child and adult members could contribute, and the raffle added excitement and suspense to the event.

Through the hard work of so many members and the terrific support of so many attendees, we raised \$2,570. This money is being delivered to Friendship's Way via the New Israel Fund. What was as wonderful as the amount of money raised was the opportunity for members of all ages to work together as a community for the common purpose of helping those in need, and to do so in a context of learning about Arab-Jewish relations and working for a program that fosters coexistence between Arabs and Jews. May there be many members on the planning committee next year!

## Torah of Money

### "Values of the Month"

By Wendy Gedanken

In the past two newsletters, the Torah of Money committee has shared thoughts on some of the values that are the foundation of our Dorshei Tzedek community and how those values should shape our actions around money. For this month, we look at *nadiv lev*/generosity, and *tzedek*/social justice and equity.

***Nadiv Lev/Generosity:*** When the Israelites came together to build the first synagogue—the *mishkan* (Tabernacle) in the desert—they were asked to bring offerings of *nadiv lev*—literally, a "willing heart/mind." The Torah emphasizes that the *mishkan* was built not only with a mandatory tax of a half-shekel, but through the generous outpouring of the Israelites' hearts (seat of wisdom) and hands. This value recognizes that as a community, we should create opportunities for people to express generosity. We want to establish a community in which we give, not out of a feeling of guilt, but from a generous sense of responsibility.

***Tzedek/Social Justice and Equity:*** The Torah states that, while special protections must be given to the poorest members of society, rich and poor people must be treated equally before the law; neither is to be favored or oppressed. The value of *tzedek* implies that no matter how much one gives to the congregation, decision-making power and participation in congregational life is never linked to one's ability to contribute large amounts of money. The Torah of Money committee also understands this value to mean that we have a congregational commitment to promoting justice in the wider society. The simple act of talking about and challenging our assumptions about money and class is transformative. We must consider how our own fundraising might be linked to larger issues of social and economic justice.

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

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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

## Tikkun Olam

### The Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy

By Abby Cohen

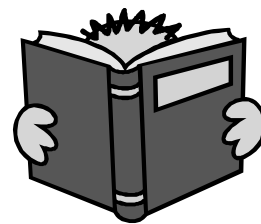
Are you looking for a *tikkun olam* opportunity? Come join me as a literacy volunteer in the Boston Public Schools one morning a week. The Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy is a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston. The Coalition would be thrilled if Dorshei Tzedek joined many of the other local congregations whose volunteers are trained to tutor K-3rd grade students one-on-one each week in a public school in Boston or Cambridge.

I am finishing my second year in this program as part of the Temple Shalom team that goes to the Marshall School in Dorchester. I spend about 2 1/2 hours once a week total. It has been a wonderful experience and I would love to include Dorshei Tzedek members who are interested.

There is a full day of training from the Coalition. No previous tutoring experience is required!

As the Coalition states in its flyer, "Nearly half of America's third graders cannot read at grade level. As part of a local and national initiative, the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) mobilizes the Jewish community to ensure that all kids can read. Join more than 600 local Jewish volunteers who make a commitment to this effort and who truly make a difference."

If you are interested in the program for the next school year (there is training in September and October and the tutoring begins in October), please contact Abby Cohen at 617-965-6766, [Cohen-Snyder@rcn.com](mailto:Cohen-Snyder@rcn.com). I am happy to talk with you about the program and answer any questions.



# Shabbat Programs

## Erev Shabbat Services

*Remaining dates: May 9 and June 13*

Once a month, from 8 to 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.

## Erev Shabbat Family Services

*Remaining dates: May 2 and June 6*



On the first Friday of each month, 6 – 7 pm, join us for a musical, fun service, all ages welcome! On Friday, May 2, our erev Shabbat family service will be co-led by Rabbi Spitzer and the Kitah Dalet (4th grade) class. Please join us for this special Shabbat service!

## Shabbat Morning Service Notes

On Shabbat morning, **May 10, 9:45 am – 12 pm**, Kitah Hay (5th grade) will lead the service with Rabbi Toba. Please join us for this special Shabbat service!

**Important Notice:** Due to a conflict with First Unitarian Society programming, our service on **May 17** will be held at a different location. (See “Bat Mitzvah of Hadass Silver” on page 7 for more information.)

**Save the Date!** On Shabbat morning, **June 7**, we will be celebrating teachers and learners in our community—honoring our religious school teachers, recent graduates of the Me’ah program, and others who engage in Torah at Dorshei Tzedek! The Education Committee will be sponsoring a special kiddush lunch after services.

## Torah Study with Rabbi Spitzer

*Remaining dates: 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 refreshment.)

## Tot Shabbat Program

*Remaining date: May 10, 11 - 11:45 am*

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).

## 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.

# School News

## Mazel Tov!

It is with mixed emotions that we extend a hearty *mazel tov* to our fifth grade teacher, Meg Berenson, and to our sixth and seventh grade teacher, Ilana Blatt Eisengart. Meg learned recently that she was accepted into the Delet Program at Brandeis, a graduate program to train educators specifically for work in Jewish Day Schools. Ilana will be attending a doctoral program in Psychology at Temple University beginning this coming September.

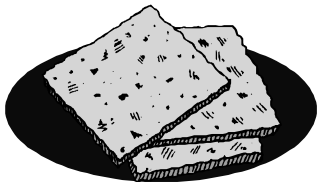
Both Meg and Ilana have been teaching at Dorshei Tzedek for the past two years, and while we know they will both be moving on to pursue some wonderful educational endeavors, we will surely miss both of them next year in the Dorshei Tzedek classrooms. We thank you both for all the wonderful energy and dedication you have brought to our school!

## Registration for Next Year

Registration for the coming school year is underway. Pre-registration ran through May 1, and regular registration is in effect from May 1 through July 31. If you have not received registration materials but are interested in enrolling your child/children in the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School, please contact Diane in the office at 617-965-0330 x3.

## Kitah Gimmel's Trip to the "Model Matzah Factory"

By Mira Netsky,  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade student



The first thing that we did when we got to "the model matzah factory" was to watch

a short video about *shmure matzah*. We learned that *shmure matzah* means "guarded matzah." The video showed all of the steps of making *shmure matzah*. When the video ended, we made our own *shmure matzah*. We made the flour and the dough. We learned that the dough is made of flour and water. We also learned that if the *matzah* takes longer than 18 minutes, it is not kosher for Passover because the dough could rise. We made our *matzah*

by first rolling the dough into a ball. After we did that, we rolled it out so that it was very flat. To do that, we used a rolling pin. We then took a fork and poked holes in our *matzah*. While the *matzah* was baking, we decorated *afikoman* covers. When we had finished decorating the covers, we got our *matzah* back. We got to eat it. That was the end of our trip to "the model *matzah* factory."

## Busy Times at School

The past few weeks have been busier than ever at our school. Each class was involved in some aspect of the Friendship's Way Tikkun Olam project (see related article on page 3). It was quite gratifying to see the kids' enthusiasm for this project, and all the creative energy they poured into it. We wrapped up this successful fundraiser with an assembly where we presented a check for \$2,570 to Jeff Green, Director of the Boston office of New Israel Fund (and Dorshei Tzedek member). The New Israel Fund will be directing the money we raised to Friendship's Way in Jaffa.

In addition to the Tikkun Olam event, students in each class have been learning about Pesach. Kitah Gimmel had a recent field trip to the Matzah Factory. Kitah Hay students wrote and produced a play, creatively based on the Exodus story, which they presented to their parents and all the students. The price of admission was a box of *matzah* that was donated to Family Table. Another Tikkun Olam project involved Kitah Aleph—they had a field trip to Second Step, where they donated snack foods for the children in this program.

It is hard to believe that we are already preparing for the end of the year. Many upper school classes have a *siyyum* planned for sometime in May—a ceremony for students to share what they have learned with their families and the larger community. As the spring season gets extremely busy, please be sure to make note of the dates your child's class will have their *siyyum*. And, of course, there is always our final assembly to look forward to on May 17 for Aleph and Bet Classes and on May 29—our last day of school for grades Gimmel – Zayin.

## Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

### 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*

### Bat Mitzvah of Hadass Silver

We look forward to celebrating our daughter Hadass's Bat Mitzvah with the Dorshei Tzedek community. Hadass will be called to the Torah [*Parshat Behar*] on **May 17 at The Eliot Church of Newton, 474 Centre Street, Newton Corner**. Services will begin at **9:45 am** and will be followed by a *kiddush* for all.

Hadass is a seventh grader at Day Middle School. She is active with the school newspaper—*The Daytime*—where she seems to have the Mid-East beat. She loves basketball, being with friends, and sleeping late on weekends.

In a time when there is so much that worries and distresses all of us, we are grateful to bring family and friends together with Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for our *simcha*.—*Ora Gladstone and Mitchell Silver*

### Bat Mitzvah of Laura Greenly

The Dorshei Tzedek community is invited to celebrate Laura Greenly's Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday May 24**. Laura and her family have been members of Dorshei Tzedek for the past nine years where Laura has attended the religious school continuously since kindergarten. She has played the violin as part of the All City Orchestra for the past four years. Laura is a seventh grader at Day Middle School in Newton. She enjoys acting and singing and participating in Day Middle School theater programs. Laura loves animals. Her *tikkun olam* project is helping to provide wish-list items to animals in need through the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Angell Memorial Animal Hospital. Laura has two cats, two fish, and a guinea pig.

Laura will be celebrating this day with her parents, Ricky and Rob Greenly, her sister Savannah, and other family members and friends. Ricky and Rob invite the congregation for a *kiddush* following the services.

## Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

### General Fund

**Ellie Goldberg**

*In honor of the memory of Mabel Raum,  
mother of Sharon Sholkin*

**Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan**

*In honor of Elizabeth's 13th birthday*

*In honor of Miranda Phillips: thank you for being  
an excellent tutor*

*Thanks to Rabbi Spitzer for her wonderful guidance during  
Elizabeth's preparation for her Bat Mitzvah*

**Elizabeth Samelson and Paul Hattis**

*To Barbara Shatkin and family and Kitah Vav for fabulous  
fundraising efforts to support Friendship's Way*

**Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome**

*In honor of Elizabeth Holohan's Bat Mitzvah*

*In honor of Elaine Pollack's Birthday*

*In honor of Barbara Shatkin and her dedication to  
Tikkun Olam, with gratitude for all her work on our  
Friendship's Way Tikkun Olam project*

*In honor of Shana Hausman's Bat Mitzvah*

**Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steven Siegel**

*To the hardworking pizza and brownie eaters of the  
Space Committee—for their dedication, commitment,  
ideas, and energy*

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.

## Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Delegates' Assembly

**Monday, May 12, 7 - 9 pm**

*St. Christopher Church Hall, Dorchester*

Join a group from Dorshei Tzedek to learn more about GBIO and explore possible congregational membership in this exciting organization!

Where in Greater Boston do whites, Latinos, Asians, African-Americans, Africans, and Haitians come together to build meaningful relationships? Where do Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and many other congregations come together to build power and take action around social and economic justice in our communities? The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)!

In these difficult economic and political times, we all need a way to feel a part of a larger whole that is spiritually-based, powerfully multi-racial and working toward justice. GBIO is bringing congregations together across cities and suburbs to build a positive force in Massachusetts.

GBIO is currently involved in action to save the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and is also considering the possibility of mounting a campaign around the state budget crisis and tax policy. Other new ideas for campaigns include dealing with the issue of elder care, including problematic patient to nurse ratios and low wages of the largely Haitian CNA's who work in area nursing homes. This is an intriguing campaign because of the membership in GBIO of Haitian churches where many nursing home workers worship, and of synagogues and churches where many families of the elderly residents belong.

As our congregation considers membership in GBIO, we would like more members to "experience" the organization first hand! The May 12 Delegates Assembly is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other communities and hear more about the issues. If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact Janice Fine (jfine@neaction.org or 617-541-0500 during the day and 617-524-7513 in the evening) or Betsy Hinden (bhinden@rcn.com or 617-916-2704). We will organize carpools to the meeting if enough people want to attend from the same neighborhood(s).



## Members' Meeting

**Sunday, June 1, 7:15 pm, First Unitarian Society**

Don't miss the final Members' Meeting of 5763, where we will vote on a new Board and the budget for next year, and discuss other important issues! Please try to send at least one member of your household to this meeting.

## Members' 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 people 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.

## 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 [judyhersh@attbi.com](mailto:judyhersh@attbi.com) or 617-332-2487. Judy and Linda Hsu will do the matching as requests come in. So far only three CDT households have signed up to be buddies for new member households. We'd really like 20 households to participate. Please sign up now; being a buddy will feel good for you and the new member you're helping!

## 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, First 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 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.

## Mazel Tov

As most of you know, the Board decided in the Fall that we needed a full-time administrator in our office. Unfortunately, Claudette Beit-Aharon, who has served us with great energy and commitment over the past year, was unable to take a full time position, and we said goodbye to her on April 4. We are very grateful to Claudette for her hard work and we wish her well as she moves on. We are pleased to announce that Diane Dillon has accepted the position of full-time administrator and started work on April 7. Diane is a native of Watertown, currently living in Waltham, and has many years experience as an Office Manager. We are delighted that she has stepped into this important role in our community. Please stop by the office and introduce yourself to Diane when you have an opportunity.

## Community of Learners' Shabbat Practices

*By Clifford Goldsmith*

Thank you for the great feedback we received about the Community of Learners (COL) Shabbat program. We have also heard from several members that the COL Shabbat workshops have changed their practices. The following musings come from CDT members who attended COL Shabbat workshops:

"Through a combination of the Gan program's focus on Shabbat and Havdallah and the Community of Learners Shabbat and Havdallah programs, my daughter and I now have a Shabbat practice. I buy Challah dough from Tulers, Mara braids it, and we bake it for Friday night dinner (as well as saying the blessings). We use the Havdallah service as a transition on Saturday evening between my time with Mara (Tuesday or Wednesday through Saturday) and her Dad's time with Mara (Saturday through Tuesday or Wednesday). We dance a make-shift hora afterwards. Friday nights, whether alone with Mara or with Shabbat guests, is a lovely time for the two of us. The transition between parents early evenings on Saturday has been transformed by the Havdallah service into a special time when the three of us are in harmony and Mara has a familial unit. These celebrations would not have happened, if not for Dorshei Tzedek's learning opportunities. They are a wonderful addition to our lives."—*Lauren Gibbs*

"I very much enjoyed the COL program, and have changed my Shabbat practices recently. It was not exactly because of the COL program, but the program cemented my change and was a positive reinforcement.

"I recently decided that I would no longer check email on Shabbat. I have been looking for work for a while, and I had lined up a temp job during the course of the week that was supposed to start the following Monday. I checked email on Shabbat morning to find out that the job had actually fallen through. I was really looking forward to working, and it ruined my day to some extent to find out that the job was not going to happen. I also realized that it was news that certainly could have waited until Sunday, and it was nothing that I really needed to know on Shabbat. So, after that I decided that I would no longer check email or even check mail during Shabbat. We spend so much of our lives on computers and involved with the daily business of our lives, that it is wonderful to have a block of time that can be a real respite from the ordinary. Also, most things that

happen are really not that urgent. If they are, someone could always call me.

"So, I'm happy with my new Shabbat practice, and it was reinforced by things I learned at the Community of Learners weekend event. I've really come to appreciate the peacefulness that my Shabbats now have, and I find it rejuvenating and spiritually fulfilling, even if I am not at services."—*James Kaplan*

"I've been an avid bread baker for more than 20 years. Though I try a few times a year to make Challah for special occasions, I never get it right—the loaves are too flat, the texture is wrong, the surface isn't shiny, etc. So, when Cindy Shulak-Rome's Challah baking workshop came along, Caroline, our 9-year-old and co-baker, and I seized the opportunity.

"Cindy's workshop taught us the proper steps to make Challah, provided helpful hints of what not to do, and added some of her special family secrets along the way. Since then, Caroline and I have been making two Challot for every Shabbat. We've worked out a system about who does what—I create the starter with initial ingredients, Caroline pounds down the dough after the first rising and braids the loaves, we share the egg wash, and I handle the baking. Our whole family enjoys fresh, from-scratch Challah made by hand each week. Only last Friday night one of our family members said, 'Wow, this tastes better than store-bought Challah.' Ahh...we've arrived at the summit. Thanks Cindy."—*Tim Rosa*

"I attended Elaine's workshop on Shabbat dinner, and Friday night ritual and logistics. I really enjoyed learning about what was ritual or practice and was 'law.' I was enthusiastic to learn all the different practices that other families have tried, tricks of the trade that work with different age kids, and the like. I also enjoyed the intensity and continuity of the workshops and different activities over a packed weekend. It would be nice to compile a home-grown CDT resource guide for Shabbat, akin to what we receive for bar/bat mitzvah.

"As far as practice change, *per se*, the Community of Learners helped me to focus on the *kavanah* of Shabbat, and got me centered and focused more on what the main spirit and intention could be, instead of so much worry about preparing meals and doing dishes on time! Our practice didn't change: Friday night Shabbat dinner just feels a bit more accessible and do-able than it did before."—*Lisa Samelson*



# 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 9)
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 7) 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	<i>No Class - Staff Meeting</i>	
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 9)
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 9)
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>	<i>At the Eliot Church of Newton</i> (see page 9)
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 <b>Bat Mitzvah of Laura Greenly</b> <i>Parshat Bechukkotai</i>	Eric Karp, Stan Piltch (see page 7)
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

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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.

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



## June Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Set-up/Clean-up and Notes
Sun Jun 1	7:15 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Member's Meeting</b> <i>(see page 9)</i>	Alan Epstein, Beth Berman <i>(see page 9)</i>
Thu Jun 5	8 pm - 12 am	<b>Shavuot Program</b> <i>(see page 5)</i>	Jonathan Magaziner, Rochelle Weichman, Alison Morantz
Fri Jun 6	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b> <i>(see page 5)</i>	Ilana Mainelli, Lisa Goodman, Laya Steinberg
Sat Jun 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Yizkor</i>	Joel Katz, Naomi Botkin, Daniel Wohl
Fri Jun 13	8 pm - 9:15 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Jeff Fortgang, Dorie Fried, Caryn-Amy King
Sat Jun 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Strassberg</b> <i>Parshat Naso</i>	Leslie Rubin, Debbie Hemley
Sat Jun 21	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Sat Jun 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Beha'alotekha</i>	Jacob Weinberg, Shoshana Simons, Peter Dain,
Sat Jun 28 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>Parshat Shelach Lekha</i>	Karen Engels, Carla Naumburg, Rebecca Gutman