

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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October 2003



President's Column

Debbie Waber, CDT President

This High Holiday season and the weeks leading up to it have been particularly meaningful for Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Last month, we joyously processed our Torah scrolls from the Unitarian Church, where we had met for 12 years in rental space that needed to be set up anew for each event, and we dedicated our first permanent prayer space in the Second Congregational Church. In somewhat anthropological terms, we have evolved from a "nomadic" community to a more "settled" one. For me personally, the appearance of a fixed sign in front of the Second Church, proclaiming the permanent presence of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, was especially moving. I thought back to our first High Holiday services in 1991, when a hundred or so worshippers gathered in an auditorium at Brandeis University, and marveled at the community we have created and how momentous it is for us to occupy our own permanent prayer space.

The securing of permanent prayer space, along with other basic infrastructure (full-time administrative support and organization of an ongoing fundraising campaign), signifies more than a material acquisition. I believe it represents a watershed moment in our development, as we can finally begin to turn more of our attention and energy outward to the larger community within which we live, while still attending to the needs of our particular community.

Although we all view tikkun olam as an essential Jewish value, our energies have in the past been so consumed with building and maintaining the CDT community that we have not been able to engage in these activities as much as we would have liked. However, under the leadership of our Tikkun Olam Committee chaired by Janice Fine, we have more recently begun to have a presence in the larger community as well. The Middle East Discussion group, coordinated by Louise Enoch, has engaged with other congregations in the Boston area to provide a venue for diverse Jewish voices to be heard about the vexing prob-

lems facing Israelis and Palestinians.

The Tikkun Olam Committee has been exploring an exciting avenue for our membership to engage in social justice issues as a congregation. The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is a confederation of urban and suburban congregations of all faiths whose goal is to forge common commitments to social and economic justice in the Greater Boston area. This fall, we are engaging in a process of educating ourselves about GBIO so that we can make a decision later this year about whether our congregation will become a full-fledged member. The Tikkun Olam Committee is offering a variety of opportunities for members to learn about GBIO and what membership would mean for us as a community. The most important of these is the **Members' Meeting** scheduled for **Sunday evening November 9**. Representatives of GBIO will make a presentation to our membership at that meeting and we will have an opportunity to ask them questions and engage in discussion with them. We will also discuss the possibility of GBIO membership.

To me, it is a mark of our maturation as a congregation and our success in building our own community that we now can direct more of our focus to social justice issues outside of our community. I believe that CDT can represent a unique Jewish voice in the larger community. I hope to see all of you at the November 9 Members' Meeting so that you can learn more about this opportunity and so that your voice can be heard on this issue of great importance to our congregation.

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Nadiv Lev Campaign Update

Steve Siegel and the Nadiv Lev Committee

Thank you and congratulations! We have wonderful news about our first annual Nadiv Lev campaign, which wrapped up last month. Our community involvement has been extraordinary—109 of 146 CDT households, or 75%, have participated in this groundbreaking event! Many households were visited or called by volunteers involved in our Nadiv Lev effort, and we have collected much information about our member's values, preferences, wishes, and attitudes relating to Dorshei Tzedek.

Now, for the financial tally: our original budget goal for this campaign was \$50,000, but during the year, we increased it to \$54,000 because we made additional financial commitments. When we finished tallying cash donations, stock donations, and finding donations credited to the "wrong" area of our bookkeeping software, we found ourselves at \$55,860!

The generosity of our community does not end here. The Nadiv Lev campaign was specifically for our General Fund. In addition, our members and friends have contributed \$394 to our Book Fund, \$8,000 to our Torah Fund, \$772 to our Building Fund, \$2,330 to a special community fundraising event, and \$3,130 to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. All this has come during a rough economic period and a period of considerable change here at Dorshei Tzedek.

Our Nadiv Lev Committee, complete novices at this process in September of last year, received critical training and advice from our consultant Hillel Korin, from some of our members with fundraising backgrounds, from our Torah of Money Committee and the Board, and from other experienced members of the Reconstructionist movement. We know a lot now, have more to learn, and we feel that we can do this again and be even more successful at it, with your continuing support.

Many people are interested in knowing how gifts to the campaign broke down, in dollar ranges. Quite a few gifts came from outside of our membership, so the numbers below total considerably more than 109 households. Here they are:

- 1 gift of \$5,000
- 5 gifts between \$2,000 and \$4,999
- 11 gifts between \$1,000 and \$1,999
- 20 gifts between \$500 and \$999
- 20 gifts between \$200 and \$499
- 27 gifts between \$100 and \$199
- 55 gifts between \$5 and \$99

Amazing. So, to members of Dorshei Tzedek, friends and supporters of this campaign: a heartfelt "thank you" for being a part of this effort and heartfelt congratulations! We could not have done this without each other, and our congregation and community are the better for it! B'Shalom.

House and Operations Update

James Kaplan

The Board met recently and decided on a number of changes for Setup and Cleanup in our new space in the Second Church.

The first change is that it is no longer known as Setup and Cleanup, but instead as Kiddush. Members assigned for Kiddush will no longer be responsible for doing setup before services. People assigned will be responsible for providing Kiddush and setting it up for the congregation, and closing the building securely after they leave. Since we will likely be the only people in the Church on Saturdays, it is imperative that we remember to lock the space. Members assigned for Kiddush do not have to be at services until around 11 am. We do hope, however, that if you are assigned, you will still want to come to services and enjoy our new space!

The second change is that, starting in November, households (as opposed to individuals) will be assigned for Kiddush. For a regular Shabbat service, three households will be responsible for providing all the food and drink. Households should expect to be assigned no more than twice a year, and, in most cases, once a year.

We want to create an atmosphere in the new space where members will enjoy hanging around and schmoozing after services. To that end, we will be setting up more specific guidelines as to what households should bring for Kiddush. Remember, if no one from your household can provide Kiddush on your assigned date, it is your responsibility to switch with another member household and to let me know with whom you have switched. You can reach me at 617-393-0216 or jameshkaplan@hotmail.com.

As it comes closer to your assigned Kiddush date, someone from House and Operations will send you a reminder along with a copy of the new guidelines and procedures. Please do understand that as we get used to being in the new space, things may change. We will figure out what is working and what is not, and we will advise you about any changes.

Yom Kippur

Solomon Schechter Day School, Wells Avenue, Newton

Yom Kippur begins with the Kol Nidre service on **Sunday, October 5**, and we continue with a full day of services on **Monday, October 6**. A light Break Fast of bagels and juice will be served at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services.

If you have not yet received a mailing containing details about High Holy Day services and reservation forms, please call the Dorshei Tzedek office at 617-965-0330 (leave a message in voice-mailbox 1 if no one is in the office). You may also visit the www.dorsheitzedek.org to reprint the mailing.



Sukkot



Join us for a week of celebration as we enter *zman simchateynu*, the time of our joy! The Sukkot holiday celebrates the harvest season in ancient Israel, and is marked by building and living in Sukkot huts, for a 7- or 8-day period. Help us build the Dorshei Tzedek sukkah at the First Unitarian Society! We need a few adults to help put up the frame and cover the top with *s'chach* (greenery). If you are interested in helping out, contact **Paul Carson** at p-carson@ti.com. The Dorshei Tzedek sukkah will be open for business beginning October 10. All are welcome to bring a meal to eat in it at any time over the week of Sukkot!

Important Note: Different holiday programs will be happening at different sites, please be sure to check which are where!

Erev Sukkot Celebration

October 10, Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street

6 pm: Join us for a family-oriented program in the sukkah, including stories, songs, and teachings about Sukkot!

6:45 pm: Potluck dinner and dessert; drinks will be provided. If you are coming for dinner, please bring enough for 15 people. **If your last name begins with A – J, bring a vegetarian or fish main course; for last names K – P, bring a vegetable or fruit salad; last names R – Z, bring dessert.**

8 pm: Sukkot service for adults and older kids.

Shabbat Sukkot

October 11, 9:45 am, 60 Highland Street

At this service, we will be welcoming Rachel Felson into our community as a Bat Mitzvah, and celebrating the holiday of Sukkot—join us for much simcha!

Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Felson

Elaine and David invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to join us as our daughter, Rachel, is called to the Torah as a Bat mitzvah on Saturday, October 11, Sukkot. Rachel is an eighth grader at the Rashi School. She enjoys soccer and time with friends. Rachel loves animals and is a skilled horseback rider. Her Tikkun Olam project is helping to provide needed items for Greyhound Friends, Inc.—a rescue and adoption service for former racing greyhounds. There will be a Kiddush lunch following the service.

Bar Mitzvah of Sam Fader

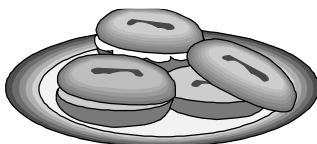
Please join us on October 25 at 9:45 am as our son Sam is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Sam is in eighth grade at Oak Hill Middle School and has attended the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School since first grade. Sam has been a baseball fan since the day he was born (we think), and he is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on the 100th anniversary of the first Major League Baseball World Series (which the Red Sox won!). Sam is a devotee of pure fun and friendship. At his brother's Bar Mitzvah several years ago at Dorshei Tzedek, he recited the Oseh Shalom blessing and then, with great poise, took a bow. For his *tikkun olam* project, he has been volunteering at Bristol Lodge, a soup kitchen in Waltham. He looks forward to continuing to be a part of Dorshei Tzedek.—*Emily Saltz and Ira Fader*

Prospective Member Bagel Brunch and Study with the Rabbi

Sunday, October 26, 10 am

60 Highland Street

Come nosh while you study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, learn about Reconstructionism, and meet current members. This is a great opportunity to find out about what it means to become a member of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.



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 617-965-0330. Rabbi Spitzer's office is at the Second Church, 60 Highland Street, in West Newton.

Community Resources

Jewish Family & Children's Service offers a variety of support services, including groups for those who have experienced pregnancy loss, support groups for new parents and interfaith families, and a social/spiritual/cultural group for Jewish adults with psychiatric conditions. For more information, call 617-227-6641 or visit their website at www.jfcsboston.org.

Shemini Atzeret

October 18, 9:45 am, Shabbat Service, 60 Highland Street

The week of Sukkot ends with a special Shabbat morning service where we pray for a good rain for the crops in the year to come! So bring your water guns for our special *Geshem* ("Rain") prayer. We will also say Yizkor prayers, in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 18, 60 Highland Street



The week of Sukkot concludes with Simchat Torah—rejoicing with the Torah! On this holiday, we celebrate completing one yearly cycle of reading the Torah and begin again with Bereshit, the Creation of the world. This year, we will be having two celebrations:

Simchat Torah Family Program, 5 pm – 6 pm: For families with children up to age 7, join us for a special program of learning, fun and music!

Simchat Torah Service and Celebration, 7:30 pm: Join Rabbi Toba and professional musicians at this service, where we'll sing and dance with our Torah scrolls. Bring your dancing shoes! This service is great for adults and older kids.

Shabbat Programs

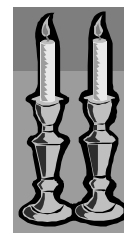
All Shabbat services are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space.

60 Highland Street in West Newton Square, in the Second Church of Newton

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

Fall Dates: Nov. 7, Dec. 5, 6 pm – 7 pm

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday of each month (except in October, when we will be celebrating Erev Sukkot on Friday, October 10).



Erev Shabbat Services

Fall Dates: Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, 8 pm – 9:30 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection—please join us!

Shabbat Shuvah,

October 4, 9:45 am

At this Shabbat morning service, which falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we will be celebrating the naming of **Amalia Mireles-Shorr**—please join Amalia and her parents for this joyous occasion!



Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Andrew Compaine

Mezuzah for our new space

Sylvia Cohen Gangursky

*In honor of the special birthday
of Anne Silberstein Cohen*

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

In Memory of Toba's father, Bill Spitzer

In Memory of Ora's mother, Deborah Gladstone

In Memory of Efrem Goldberg

*In honor of Toba's and Gina Fried's commitment
to one another*

In honor of Nancy's parents, 50th wedding anniversary

With gratitude for Michael's parents, Anne and Bob Cohen

*With gratitude to Paul Hattis, for his kindness,
generosity, and wisdom*

*With gratitude for the hard work on behalf of Dorshei
Tzedek, to Debbie Waber and the Executive Committee,
and Cheryl Sacks and the Space Committee*

*With prayers for a refuah sh'lemah to
Nancy's sister, Betsy Gertz*

Ora Gladstone and Mitchell Silver

*In honor of Leah Netsky and Alex Kaufman for doing so
beautifully as they've become a Bat and Bar Mitzvah*

Francis Greenberg

In memory of William Spitzer

*In honor of Rabbi Spitzer and Gina Fried's
ceremony of commitment*

*In honor of Caren Smith's completion of her
first year at vet school*

*In memory of Efrem who showed me the
meaning of courage*

Lisa Port White

In memory of Alison Hausman's father

In honor of Toba and Gina's naches

In honor of the continuing sisterhood of Torah study with

*Cheryl Sacks, Sherry Katz, Karen Arnold,
Linette Liebling, and Lesley Chapman*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried's
ceremony of commitment*

*In honor of the Space Committee and all their hard work to
make our new space a special home for our community*

In memory of Ora Gladstone's mother

Nessa Spitzer

In honor of Toba's and Gina's ceremony of commitment

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cynthia Piltch

*In memory of Bill Spitzer and in honor of Rabbi Toba and
Gina Fried's commitment ceremony*



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 617-965-0330 if you are in need of financial assistance.

When sending a contribution, 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. Mail to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

Condolences

To **Ora Gladstone and her family**, on the death of Ora's mother **Shirley Gladstone**.

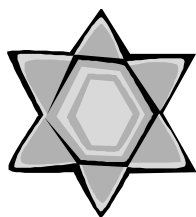
May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Allison Hausman and her family** on the death of Allison's father, **Bob Daskal**.

May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Beth Brooks and her family**, on the death of Beth's mother, **Esther "Stacey" Brooks**.

May her memory be for a blessing.



Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to Lynne Brandon and Francis Greenberg. May healing and comfort come to you and those who care for you.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617-965-0330) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

Community Resources

Jewish Family & Children's Service offers a variety of support services, including groups for those who have experienced pregnancy loss, support groups for new parents and interfaith families, and a social/spiritual/cultural group for Jewish adults with psychiatric conditions. For more information, call 617-227-6641 or visit their website at www.jfcsboston.org.

Todah Rabah

A **huge todah rabah** (thank you) to everyone who facilitated our move into our new prayer space at 60 Highland Street; this was a significant effort that entailed the work of many heads and hands.

Todah rabah to the Space Committee, energetically chaired by **Cheryl Sacks** and **Steve Siegel**, for arranging all the myriad details of renting and moving into the space; to **Cheryl and Roberta Carson**, for finding the beautiful and comfy chairs; to **Clifford Goldsmith** for constructing the bimah, and to **Wendy Gedanken** and her committee of artists.

Todah Rabah to **Karla Hailer-Fidelman** and **Susannah Zisk**, for the beautiful wall-hanging and bimah decoration; to **Charles Frankston** and **Michael Kaje**n, for their technical help; to everyone who helped deconstruct the old space and who helped move us in September; and to **Lisa Schneier** and her committee for coordinating the wonderful moving-in events.

Many thanks also to our wonderful hosts at the Second Church, including **Rev. Richard Malmberg** and our building liaison, **Peter Rosser**.

Dear Debbie and Members of Dorshei Tzedek,

I am very moved and honored that a number of members gave a contribution to the congregation in Bill's memory. I would like each of them to know how much I appreciate their thoughtfulness.

Looking forward to being with you on Rosh Hashanah.

All best wishes,

Nessa Spitzer

Mazel Tov

To **Bill Shorr** and **Tania Mireles**, on the birth of **Amalia Meirleyn Mireles Shorr**, who came into the world on August 18! Join Bill and Tania in officially welcoming Amalia to our community on Shabbat morning, October 4.

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome

Our school is off to a great start for the new year! On the first day of class, students in classes Gimmel – Vav (3rd – 6th grade) joined other members of Dorshei Tzedek as we processed with our Torah Scrolls up the hill for the first dedication ceremony for our new space. It was a touching moment as 120 + students and adult members sang our way up the street and entered the building singing “Ma Tov”. We had a brief teaching from Tessa Goldsmith about Mezuzot, then joined together in blessing as a mezuzah was placed on each entrance door. We hope this will be the first of many celebrations we will share in our new home.

This year we are happy to welcome several new students and their families to Dorshei Tzedek. In total, we have 112 students enrolled in Grades K-7. We are delighted to have a talented staff of both new and returning teachers. I want to take this opportunity to introduce our teaching staff.

Lesley Chapman – Kitah Dalet Known to many of you, this is Lesley’s seventh year of teaching at Dorshei Tzedek! When not immersed in Jewish education at Dorshei Tzedek and elsewhere, Lesley is the Producing Artistic Director of The Theatre Cooperative in Somerville.

Miranda Phillips – Renaissance Educator We are so pleased to have Miranda on staff full time this year, thanks to the support we receive from CJP for a Renaissance Educator Grant. In addition to teaching Gan, Kitah Aleph, Kitah Gimmel and Family Education, Miranda is also serving as the B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator, working with families and students in the B’nai Mitzvah year, tutoring, and overseeing all B’nai Mitzvah tutoring. In addition, Miranda has developed a Tikkun Olam program for the Kitah Zayin class and consults with students on their individual Tikkun Olam projects.

Rachel Gutter – Kitah Bet Rachel returns for her fourth year as our Kitah Bet teacher. Having recently graduated from Tufts, Rachel also keeps busy teaching ice skating, tutoring students, and is working to get a children’s book published.

Aviva Pollock – Kitah Hay We welcome Aviva to her first year at our school. Having taught at a Jewish Day School for the past 2 years, Aviva decided to return to school to work on her Master’s Degree in Special Education. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in teaching and Jewish study, including a year spent studying Torah and Talmud in Jerusalem.

Samantha Papurt – Kitah Vav Currently a junior at Brandeis, Samantha is a born and bred Reconstructionist from University Synagogue in California. Samantha joins our Dorshei Tzedek staff having worked both as a religious school teacher, and as a Camp JRF counselor for the past two summers. If you want information about a great summer camp experience—ask Samantha!

Michael McCloskey-Kitah Vav Michael moved here recently from Pittsburgh to attend the Cantorial Arts program at Hebrew College. A wonderful musician, with a background in opera, Michael has also had experience teaching and working as a camp counselor. He is also working on a Masters in Jewish Education.

Leon Adelman – Kitah Zayin Leon graduated from Brown in 2002 with a degree in Religious Studies and Pre-Medicine. He is currently doing research at Children’s Hospital. In addition to varied teaching experiences, Leon worked as a counselor at Seeds of Peace International Camp for two summers, and spent 5 years living in Israel.

Adam Mayer-Deutsch – TA – Kitah Dalet – A freshman at Brandeis, Adam had a Jewish Day School education, and then studied extensively with his parents. He has also worked as a counselor at a JCC camp for three summers. His mother is a Reconstructionist Rabbi in Danbury, CT.

Lower School Teaching Assistants We are happy to have Mia Branco, Amy Goldsmith, and Rebecca Holohan returning to work as aides in our lower school program. They are joined by Lauren Sacks and Dan Katz who will be helping out for the first time this year.

I hope that many of our members will get the chance to know our staff and welcome them to our community. May this be a year of wonderful learning experiences for all.

Our New School Office

We’ve gone from rags to riches this year—at least with regard to our office situation! After many years of everyone (Rabbi, administrator, Ed Director, Teachers) sharing one very small office, we now have two offices exclusively for our school. This gives us the opportunity to establish a resource room/workroom for staff, and to develop and organize our congregational library. We want to thank several members who have made donations to help us furnish our new office. Todah Rabah to Emily Saltz and Ira Fader, Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan, Ora Gladstone and Mitchell Silver, Paul Carson and to everyone who made offers that we were not able to take you on. Our new school phone number is 617 965-5443.



October Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sat Oct 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Shuvah Service <i>60 Highland Street (see page 3)</i>	Andrew Schiff, Teri Hauserman
Sat Oct 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Aleph and Bet classes	FUSN
Sun Oct 5	6:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Kol Nidrei Service <i>(see page 3 for all High Holyday Services)</i>	Solomon Schechter Day School
Mon Oct 6	9:30 am - 2 pm	Yom Kippur Morning Service	Solomon Schechter Day School
Mon Oct 6	5:15 pm - 7 pm	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service	Solomon Schechter Day School
Mon Oct 6	7 pm	Havdallah / Break the Fast	Solomon Schechter Day School
Fri Oct 10	6 pm - 9 pm	Erev Sukkot Celebration FUSN <i>(see page 5)</i>	Hankus Netsky, Emily Saltz, Rex Flynn, Dan Halbert, Peter Shapiro, Jo Ann Share, Ilene Spiro, Elizabeth Umlas
Sat Oct 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Felson	Judy Hersh, Miriam Baumel <i>(see page 4)</i>
Sat Oct 11		<i>No Kitot Aleph and Bet Classes</i>	
Thu Oct 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Back-to-school night: Kitot Gimmel - Vav	FUSN
Sat Oct 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shemini Atzeret Service	Carol Hemley, Bobby Kleinberg
Sat Oct 18	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Aleph and Bet / Parent Orientation	FUSN
Sat Oct 18	5 pm - 6 pm	Simchat Torah Family Celebration <i>(see page 5)</i>	Jonathan Weisberg, Cynthia Piltch
Sat Oct 18	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Simchat Torah Service <i>(see page 5)</i>	Jeff Sacks, Bill Weinreb
Tue Oct 21	7:45 pm - 8:15 pm	Back-to-school night: Kitah Zayin	FUSN
Tue Oct 21	6:30 pm	Pizza and Movie Night	<i>(see page 12)</i>
Thu Oct 23	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning <i>(see page 11)</i>	<i>60 Highland Street</i>
Fri Oct 24	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Howard Kaufman, Lori Rutter
Sat Oct 25	8:45 am	Adult Ed: Shabbat Morning Study	<i>(see page 11)</i>
Sat Oct 25	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Aleph and Bet classes	FUSN
Sat Oct 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Sam Fader	Steve Leonard, Barbara Zolit <i>(see page 4)</i>
Sun Oct 26	10 am	Prospective Member Open House: Bagel Brunch & Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	Amy Mazur, Cindy Marshall <i>(see page 4)</i>
Sun Oct 26	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan: First Class	FUSN
Thu Oct 30	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning <i>(see page 11)</i>	<i>60 Highland Street</i>

Events and services are held at 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Some events (as noted) and all school classes are at the First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN), 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off. Free child care is available during Shabbat morning services.

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.



November Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sat Nov 1 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Toni Rosenberg, Mei See Sandson, Gorberg/Holohan
Sat Nov 1	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Aleph and Bet classes	FUSN
Sun Nov 2	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed Program	FUSN
Thu Nov 6	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Fri Nov 7	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (see page 5)	Melanie Northrop, Little/Hersh, Pearce/Probst
Fri Nov 7	7 pm	Kitah Dalet Shabbat Dinner	60 Highland Street
Sat Nov 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Yoni Osher Blumberg	60 Highland Street (see page 4)
Sat Nov 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitot Aleph and Bet classes	FUSN
Sun Nov 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimmel & Zayin Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Nov 9	7:15 pm	Members' Meeting (see page 1)	Dinah Moeller, Rattet/Rubin Members-only Event
Mon Nov 10	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Tues Nov 11		No Class—Veterans Day	
Thu Nov 13	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Fri Nov 14	6:15 pm	Kitah Hay Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Nov 14	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Idit Klein, Ross/Smith, Deb Sher
Sat Nov 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Donnini	60 Highland Street
Sat Nov 15	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Nov 15	4 pm - 9 pm	Dinner	FUSN
Sun Nov 16	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav & Dalet Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Nov 16	5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting w/ dinner	Members-only Event
Mon Nov 17	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Thu Nov 20	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Sat Nov 22	8:45 am	Adult Ed: Shabbat Morning Study	(see page 11)
Sat Nov 22	9:45 - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Shatkin/Littman, Linette Liebling, Amy Bermar
Sat Nov 22	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Nov 23	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #2	FUSN
Mon Nov 24	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism	60 Highland Street (see page 11)
Thu Nov 27		No School—Thanksgiving	
Sat Nov 29 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Fine/Donnelly, Terry Traub, Nancy Osher

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street

Fall dates: October 25, November 22, December 20

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! (You may want to read the weekly Torah portion in advance.)

Mishnah in the Morning

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, beginning October 23, 60 Highland Street

While most of us are familiar with the Torah as Judaism's foundational text, fewer know that in fact it's the Mishnah, a rabbinic document composed in 200 CE, that shaped the Judaism we know today. In this class, we will take a closer look at this text and its approach to law, life, and being a Jew in a time of tumult and change. We will look at the text in both English and Hebrew, but no Hebrew knowledge (or text study experience) is required. Bring your own coffee or tea!

Introduction to Jewish Mysticism: A Three-Part Series with Or Rose

Mondays, Nov 10, 17, 24, 7:30 – 9 pm, 60 Highland Street

Over the past several decades, increasing numbers of people have turned to the Jewish mystical tradition in search of guidance and inspiration. Please join us as we examine key concepts from the Kabbalah, including various understandings of God, Torah, and the Jewish calendar. Our aim is to consider what of this grand tradition remains compelling to us as contemporary spiritual seekers. Texts will be drawn from medieval and Eastern European Hasidic sources. All materials will be available in English, no specific background knowledge is needed. Free to CDT members; \$36 for nonmembers.

Or Rose is Director (with Ebn Leader) of the Beit Midrash at the new Rabbinical School at Hebrew College. He is the author of two books, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action* (a biography for young readers, Jewish Publication Society); and *God in All Moments: Spiritual and Practical Wisdom from the Hasidic Masters* (October 2003, Jewish Lights).



Community Events and Announcements

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom's Second National Conference

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace's, second national conference entitled, *Israel's Road to Peace: The Role of American Jews* will take place **October 31 – November 2** at Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. Brit Tzedek v'Shalom is an organization of American Jews deeply committed to Israel's well-being through the achievement of a negotiated settlement to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Keynote speakers include Member of Knesset (MK) Amram Mitzna, former Labor Party candidate for Prime Minister and Mayor of Haifa; Naomi Chazan, former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, peace activist and Academic; and Congressman Barney Frank, Sumaya Farhat-Naser (co-founder and former director of the Jerusalem Center for Women), and Stephen P. Cohen (President of the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development and National Scholar for the Israel Policy Forum). Over 30 leading academics, activists and religious leaders—including Rabbi Toba!—will also host participatory sessions on various aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

- Hear from and dialogue with Israeli and American key political leaders, academics, activists and policy analysts.
- Get in-depth information about the current situation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Improve your skills as an activist.
- Network with peace activists from across the United States.
- Learn about and give your input into Brit Tzedek's 2004 strategic plan.

Conference registration fee: \$100 – \$150. Discount for early registration and special student and low-income senior rates are available. Day Rate: \$60 in advance/\$70 at the door. To attend only MK Amram Mitzna's presentation on Saturday, November 1 at 7:30 pm: \$15. You can register at www.btvshalom.org.

Jewish Recovery Network of Massachusetts

The Jewish Recovery Network of Massachusetts is a volunteer membership organization concerned with Jews who suffer from the disease of addiction. Meetings occur at 7:30 pm on the second, fourth, and fifth Wednesdays of

each month at Temple Sinai in Brookline (Sewall Ave and Charles, in Coolidge Corner). Visit their website at www.jewsinrecovery.org.

Dorshei Tzedek Pizza and Movie Night!

Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 pm

If you missed the movie *Nowhere in Africa* while it was in theaters now's your chance to see it. Hosted by **Lori Rutter** and **Jeff Behrens**. Location: Offices of The Telluride Group, 61 Chapel Street (between Watertown and California Streets), Newton 617-527-8500 x127.

A love story spanning two continents, *Nowhere in Africa* is the true tale of a Jewish family who flees the Nazi regime in 1938 for a remote farm in Kenya. Abandoning their once-comfortable existence in Germany, Walter Redlich, his wife Jettel, and their five-year-old daughter Regina, each deal with the harsh realities of their new life in different ways. Attorney Walter is resigned to working the farm as a caretaker; pampered Jettel resists adjustment at every turn; while the shy yet curious Regina immediately embraces the country-learning the local language and customs, and finding a friend in Owuor, the farm's cook. As the war rages on the other side of the world, the trio's relationships to their strange environment become increasingly complicated. As they eventually learn to cherish their life in Africa, they also endeavor to find a way back to each other. Winner of the 2002 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Debbie Friedman and Julie Silver to Perform in Newton

Come join a group of Dorshei Tzedek members to hear these well-known singer/songwriters of contemporary American Jewish music. Many of their songs are beloved standards in synagogues, schools, and summer camps. They are performing at Temple Beth Avodah at **3 pm on October 26**. This event is a benefit for the Peter Daniel Clark Fund, which promotes awareness of AIDS in the Jewish community. Joyful noise, a multigenerational gospel choir who works in conjunction with the Boston AIDS Action Committee, will also perform.

Tickets are \$36 for adults and \$18 for students. Contact Judy Hersh at judyherh@comcast.net or 617-332-2487 if you want to see the show with Dorshei Tzedek.

Camp JRF

Cindy Shulak-Rome

This July, following our summer board meeting, the entire JRF Board had the pleasure of spending Shabbat at Camp JRF. It's hard to find words to adequately describe an experience that touched a deep place in my heart and at moments moved me to tears. Campers from 27 Reconstructionist communities across North America came together to do all the things that kids love to do at camp, and then some.

What was so amazing here at Camp JRF, was not the beautiful waterfront or the skateboard park or the huge swimming pool, but the *menschle* we observed in all the kids, the enthusiasm with which they entered into the Shabbat experience, joining together in blessings, erupting in song, and most of all the incredible *ruach* (spirit) we experienced—such *ruach* that board members were certain that if only we could bottle it we'd never need to do another fund raising campaign!

In our short visit, it was clear to me that at Camp JRF, campers explore Jewish values and Jewish traditions and simultaneously create a culture where these values are brought to life in the context of a warm and caring community. As we boarded the bus at the end of our visit, most of us were wondering how it was that we grew too old to sign up for camp. There's not much that can top a great camp experience—except perhaps a great Jewish camp experience.

Want to find out more? You have several options:

- Visit the website at www.campjrf.org.
- Talk with Samantha Papurt, our Kitah Vav teacher, who worked as a counselor for the past two summers.
- Give me a call—I am happy to tell you more!

**Save the Date: Saturday, November 15,
5 pm – 7:30 pm**

Havdallah with Rabbi Jeff Eisenstadt, Director of Camp JRF. This is your chance to tap into the spirit of Camp JRF for an evening!

Come meet Rabbi Jeff, get a taste of camp, and learn about *No'ar Hadash*—the new Reconstructionist Youth Movement. We'll celebrate Havdallah, followed by a light supper. Even if you aren't planning on attending camp—you won't want to miss this special program! More details to follow!

New Members

Daniel Krasa, Tatjana Meschede, Yonatan, and Ben-yamin Meschede-Krasa are excited about joining Dorshei Tzedek after some time of trying to find a Jewish community in Newton that matches our expectations. Dorshei Tzedek feels like a good match due the sense of community involvement, a lot of Hebrew during services, and teachings on social responsibility. Yonatan (age 9) and Benyamin (age 8) have been attending the Israeli Complementary School for the past 3-4 years after the family spent a year living in Israel. Both are looking forward to attending an English Hebrew School, as they felt left out at the Israeli School due to insufficient exposure to Hebrew at home. Yonatan will be joining Kitah Dalet, and Benyamin Kita Gimmel. Both boys are attending Bowen School in Newton Center, entering fifth and third grades. Daniel, who grew up in Israel and came to the US at age 11, is a math and science teacher for the City of Boston. Tatjana, a German native who came to the US in her late 20s, works and teaches at UMass-Boston, focusing on social policies impacting low-income and/or homeless individuals and families. Tatjana is also planning to complete her dissertation on homeless street dwellers by the end of the academic year.



After a long search for just the right congregation, **Gerry, Alissa, Sarah, Talia, and Abigail Leonard** are excited to be new members of Dorshei Tzedek. Alissa is following the lead of her sister, Susannah Zisk, on this one, because from the time Susannah and family introduced us to DT, we saw that there was a liberating quality in this congregation that we had not found elsewhere. That feeling ultimately prevailed over the horror of commuting from Natick on Hebrew school afternoons, so, here we are! Sarah is a sophomore at Natick High and is so busy that her parents never see her. Talia is a fifth grader at Eliot Montessori in Natick. And Abigail has just begun first grade. Gerry is a law professor and historian at Boston University. Alissa is active in Natick town politics and numerous civic organizations when not organizing her kids' car pools.

MAZON

Again this year, the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements and Hillel International are joining MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in fulfilling the biblical mandate to "leave the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger." By donating to MAZON what you would have spent to feed yourself and your family on Yom Kippur and by participating in your congregation's food drive, you take part in this extraordinary act of Jewish pluralism. Your tax-deductible donation will support MAZON's grantmaking to programs that provide critical assistance to hungry people in the United States, Israel and developing countries around the world.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025-5249

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5764/2003

YES, I (we) will join with MAZON and leave "the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger."

Amount of contribution: \$ _____

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Credit Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of Congregation, City, State _____

or donate through the website at www.mazon.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, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.



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

The Newsletter Committee:

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

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

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

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

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

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