

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330  
www.dorsheitzedek.org office@dorsheitzedek.org

Cheshvan/Kislev 5764

November 2003



## Rabbi's Column

### Our Larger Community

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

At Dorshei Tzedek we often talk about community and its value, and I know that the reason many folks decide to join our congregation is because of the strong sense of community it provides. But with the exception of those few of our members who have been a part of other Reconstructionist congregations or have attended national movement events, many of us don't realize that we are also part of a larger Reconstructionist community. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about this movement that very much shapes who we are as a congregation. Just as congregational community is important to each of us as individuals, the community of our movement is essential to our thriving as a congregation.

The Reconstructionist movement, like the other American Jewish denominations, has three arms: a seminary (the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/RRC); a rabbinic organization (the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association/RRA), and an association of all of our affiliated congregations and *havurot* (the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation/JRF). I have had the honor and the pleasure to be associated with all of our movement's arms: first, as a student at the wonderful RRC; then, as Secretary of the RRA, where for four years I had the opportunity to serve my colleagues in our professional association; and most recently as co-chair of the Tikkun Olam Initiative of the JRF, helping to support the social action organizing that is happening in our congregations around North America.

Dorshei Tzedek is also represented in larger movement circles by Cindy Shulak-Rome, who is very active as a JRF Board member. And I am quite proud that one of our founders, Chayim Herzig-Marx, is currently serving as Interim Executive Director of the JRF, helping guide the organization in a transitional phase as it searches for a new permanent director.

Compared in size and resources to the other Jewish movements, ours is relatively small. There are about 105 con-

gregations affiliated with the JRF, and approximately 250 rabbis in our rabbinical association. The recent National Jewish Population Survey reported that about 35,000 American Jews identify as Reconstructionist (compared to 1.1 million Reform, 940,000 Conservative, and 300,000 Orthodox). Yet as has always been the case with Reconstructionism in general, what we lack in numbers we make up for in influence and ideas! The RRC has been on the cutting edge of rabbinic training in a number of areas, including a focus on spiritual development and training that until recently was absent at the other seminaries, and the establishment of *Kolot*, a Jewish feminist institute based at the College that both influences the curriculum there and also does programming in the wider Jewish community.

The training workshops that the JRF has organized in areas of congregational leadership, the Torah of Money (which we at Dorshei Tzedek helped pioneer!), and social action skills have developed an entire values-based approach to building congregational life and effectiveness that I think is unparalleled in the rest of the synagogue world. The Reconstructionist emphasis on family education and life-long learning, which has been integral to our movement's educational vision for over 25 years, has in the past 10 years come into the mainstream of Jewish communal life.

And finally, the *Kol Haneshama* prayerbook series—with its gender-neutral translation, its commentary, and its combination of tradition and accessibility—has set a new standard for contemporary Jewish liturgy.

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## Members' Meeting

Sunday, November 9, 7:15 pm

60 Highland Street

Important!! Please join us for our first Members' Meeting of 5764 on Sunday evening, November 9. The focus of this meeting will be our possible participation in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, a faith-based coalition of congregations that have come together to address issues of social and economic justice in the greater Boston area. GBIO staff and representatives from GBIO-member synagogues will join us to answer our questions and give us a sense of what it means to become a member of this organization. We hope as many member households as possible will be at this meeting, so that newer members can meet more veteran members, for all of us to hear updates from Dorshei Tzedek committees, and to take part in this important discussion!

## First Member Potluck of the New Year



All members, old and new, are invited to either host or to be guests at a Saturday evening meal in another member's home. This is the first of several potlucks organized by the Membership Committee, and will be held on **November 22**. These potlucks have been very popular in the past, with people feeling that the intimate setting really helped them make some nice connections. The more people that participate, the better matches we can make, so **contact Ami Gordon at 617-630-1717 or [amisgordon@comcast.net](mailto:amisgordon@comcast.net) to sign up by November 16**. Let her know who will be attending, any allergies or food preferences, and if you prefer an adult or a mixed (adult and children's) group. Hosts should specify how many people they have room for. Ami will call the hosts by November 18, and they will call their guests to arrange the details.

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The dynamism, caring, and intelligence that infuses our congregational life is very much evident in our life as a movement as well. I hope that all of our members will have the opportunity, over the next few years, to get a taste of Reconstructionist life outside of our own congregation. Reports from our movement's new Camp JRF these past two summers have been unbelievably positive, and it would be wonderful if some of our kids got to experience this unique program this coming summer. Come meet **Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat, director of Camp JRF and our new youth movement**, on November 15 (see page \*\*\* for more information). In January, we will have the opportunity to participate in a **Boston forum being organized by the movement's Israel Task Force**, which is exploring our connection to the state of Israel and our response to events there (look for more information in future newsletters). This April,

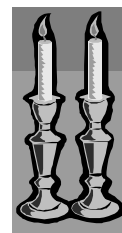
we will have the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat, to *daven* and learn and schmooze, with members of JRF congregations from around New England at a **regional Shabbaton** (see page \*\*\* for more details). And put it in your calendar now—the **2004 national JRF convention** will be in beautiful Portland, Oregon on November 11–14!

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

## 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

*November 7, December 5, January 9, February 13, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 11, 6 – 7 pm*

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday of each .

### Erev Shabbat Services

*November 14, December 12, January 16, February 6 (Tubishvat Seder, check newsletter for special time),  
March 19, April 16, May 21, 8 pm – 9:30 pm*

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

### Naumburg/Herzig–Marx Aufruf

Judy and Chayim Herzig–Marx, along with Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig–Marx, invite you to attend Carla's and Josh's *aufruf* on **December 6, 2003**, Shabbat Vayetze. The entire congregation is also invited to a Kiddush luncheon after services.

## Chanukah

### Chanukah Party – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now – we'll be celebrating Chanukah on **Sunday, December 21**, from 5 - 7 pm., with candle lighting, dinner, and fun for the whole family! (Chanukah begins this year on Friday evening, December 19).

### Save the Date!

### JRF New England Regional Shabbaton

*April 23–25, 2004*

*Agudas Achim, Attleboro MA*

Explore the meaning of Reconstructionism today through study, worship, music, spiritual exploration, and building community. Get to know members of other Reconstructionist congregations from the New England region, and meet rabbis and teachers from the national movement. There will be programming for children and teens as well.

## Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Osher-Blumberg

Please join us on **November 8** as our son Yoni is called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. Yoni, a 7th grader at Rashi, is an accomplished artist, an avid baseball fan, and a former student of kenpo karate. For his *tikkun olam* project Yoni is organizing a letter-writing campaign to urge Chinese authorities to free Tibetan political prisoners. Please join us for a kiddush lunch following the service.

—Nancy Osher Blumberg and Bart Blumberg

## Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Donnini

Please join us **November 15** as we celebrate Olivia Donnini's bat mitzvah. Olivia has been a member of Dorshei Tzedek practically since birth and is looking forward to sharing this day with the congregation. Olivia is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Bigelow who likes dancing, singing, guitar playing, and babysitting. For her *tikkun olam* activity she will work at a farm that helps provide food for soup kitchens. Please join us for kiddush after the service.

—Amy Berman and Alex, Gabe, and Olivia Donnini

## Tikkun Olam Opportunities

### Learn More about GBIO – Attend a Delegate Assembly!

Monday, November 10

Check-in 7:00–7:30 pm Program 7:30–9:00 pm

St. Christopher Catholic Church Hall, 265 Mt. Vernon St.,  
Dorchester

At this meeting of the GBIO membership there will be updates on GBIO campaigns relating to housing, immigration, and nursing home care as well as the organized money campaign. If you are interested in attending the Delegates' Assembly, please contact Janice Fine at 617–524–7513 or [jfine@neaction.org](mailto:jfine@neaction.org).

### Lecture and Discussion with Author Sandra B. Johnson

Sunday, November 16, 1–3 pm

Temple Israel, Boston

Noted author Sandra B. Johnson will be speaking at Temple Israel about her book, *Standing on Holy Ground: A Triumph Over Hate Crime in the Deep South* (St. Martins Press). Ms. Johnson has written a compelling account of the deep friendship and cooperation among whites and blacks which helped rebuild the African American churches

burned by extremists in the 1990s. This event is sponsored by the GBIO West Suburban Caucus, and will include guests from African-American congregations involved in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization.

### PIE IN THE SKY:

### Let No One Living With AIDS Go Hungry!

November 16 is the LAST DAY to order your THANKSGIVING PIES from Community Servings!

Once again CDT member Andy Diamond is volunteering her time for this delicious and important work, raising money to provide Thanksgiving meals for families living with AIDS. Boston's top pastry chefs, celebrities, caterers, and caring churches bake a variety of delicious holiday pies, which are then sold throughout the city by corporate sponsors and volunteers such as Andy. By purchasing a pie for just \$20, you make it possible for a family of four to sit down to a hearty Thanksgiving feast.

To order on line go to [www.pieinthesky.org](http://www.pieinthesky.org). Please enter Salesperson Number 9901. You can also reach Andy at work with orders or questions: 617–450–1264 or [andydiamond@cs.com](mailto:andydiamond@cs.com).

As an interesting note, Community Servings was started with seed money from what is now JALSA (Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action).

## Adult Education

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

*Mondays, November 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, and 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).

### Shabbat Morning Study

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am with Rabbi Spitzer*

*60 Highland Street*

*Dates: November 22, December 20, January 10, February 7, and March 20*

Join us once a month at 8:45 am for a closer look at the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, seen through the lenses of commentaries both ancient and modern. No text study experience required (although you may want to read the weekly Torah portion in advance).

### Mishnah in the Morning

*Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am with Rabbi Spitzer*

*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!

### Fresh Ink! Jewish Book Club

*Hebrew College, Newton Centre*

It's a dream come true for reading aficionados every month at a lively new Hebrew College Library book club, an extension of the College's literary event series, Fresh Ink! Cosponsored by the Center for Adult Jewish Learning and the Rae and Joseph Gann Library, The Fresh Ink! Book Club, now in formation, is free for Gann Library members and will be facilitated by Library Director, Dr. Judith Segal. Each book club meeting will be followed the next

week by literary discussions with the author at the Fresh Ink! Evenings of New Jewish Writing series.

For more information visit <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/library>. To register for the Book Club or Fresh Ink! events, please call the Center for Adult Jewish Learning at 617-559-8709.

A great resource for learning about Jewish practices, history, and holidays is the website [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com) – check it out!



# Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

## General Fund

**Dorothy Anger**

*Thank you for a warm and inspiring Rosh Hashanah service*

**Ellie Goldberg**

*In memory of Allison Hausman's father Bob Daskal,  
Ora Gladstone's mother Shirley Gladstone,  
and Sarah Little's mother Elizabeth Little*

**Ellie, Reva, and Sasha Goldberg**

*In loving memory of Efrem Goldberg and in gratitude  
for the blessing of community*

**Allison and Ezra Hausman**

*In appreciation of Rabbi Toba and the  
Dorshei Tzedek community for their caring and support*

**Carol and Robert Hausman**

*In memory of Allison Hausman's father, Robert Daskal*

**Steffi and Eric Karp**

*In honor of our 25th wedding anniversary*

**Barbara and Sheldon Magaliff**

*In honor of the Hemley-Bronstein Family*

**The Sher, Nadler, and Shapiro Families**

*Congratulations to JRF on their wisdom and good fortune,  
for being able to attract Chayim Herzig-Marx as their  
interim Chief Professional Officer*

**Marjorie S. Spofford**

*In appreciation of a very interesting holiday service.*

**Ilana Streit**

*In honor of Dorshei Tzedek*

*I love knowing that Erica and James are part of such a  
vital community, and I have for years appreciated DT for  
myself as a home-away-from-home*

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa**

*In loving memory of Marilyn Hersh, Thomas Rosa, Elizabeth Little, Albert Hersh, and Lorraine Jacobson*

**Elaine Landes and David Felson**

*With gratitude to Rabbi Toba, on the occasion of Rachel  
Felson's Bat Mitzvah*

**Melanie Northrop**

*In honor of Rabbi Toba and Gina, and in gratitude for  
learning first-hand about kindness from the Dorshei  
Tzedek community*

## Building Fund

**Susannah and Stephen Zisk**

*May it be so!*

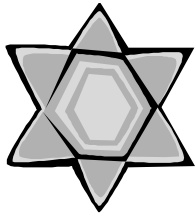
There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. In addition, donations can be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating 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.

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

*The Newsletter Committee:*

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



## Condolences

To Jo Ann Share and Rochelle Weichman, on the death of Jo Ann's mother, Etta Share. May her memory be for a blessing.

To Jon Gordon and his family on the death of Jon's mother, Evelyn Ackerman. May her memory be for a blessing.

To James Kaplan on the death of his grandfather, Leonard Kaplan. May his memory be for a blessing.

## Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to 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).

## Jewish Family & Children's Service

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](http://www.jfcsboston.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](http://www.jewsinrecovery.org).

## Todah Rabah

A very big thanks to everyone who made our High Holy-days go so well this year. The congregation owes a huge debt of gratitude to Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen, who have been our High Holyday Logistics Coordinators for the past 3 years—thank you Lissy and Cliff for making everything run so smoothly!

Thank you to our *sh'lichei tzibbur*/service leaders: Miranda Phillips, Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx, Dan Rome, Bill Shorr, Elaine Pollack, Elana Rome, and Karen Arnold, and to our post-bar/bat mitzvah kids who helped lead: Leah Netsky, Liz Holohan, Laura Greenly, Shana Hausman, Hadass Silver, Zach Demuth, and Rose Friedman. Thanks also to all of our Torah and *haftarah* readers, and to the Ritual Committee for their coordinating efforts.

Thank you as well to everyone who made our children's program so special: Abby Cohen, our amazing children's program coordinator; our children's' service leaders Tessa Goldsmith, Jill Volk, Miranda Phillips, Gina Fried, and John Holohan; the kids from Kitah Zayin; and to other folks who helped with the programming. Thanks also to our children's rooms coordinators, Susannah Zisk, Doug Hersh, and Julie Fox, and to Allison Hausman and Laya Steinberg for their help with child care.

Clifford and Lissy, on behalf of the High Holy Day Committee, would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the following people who volunteered to help with set-up, food, clean-up, nametags, and packing. We had a large number of volunteers and it is great to see this high level of participation which makes the committee chairs' jobs so much easier. If we missed you, our sincere apologies!!

Barbara and Jerry Zolit, Meryl Kahn, Elaine Pollack, Louise Enoch, Lisa Port-White, Amelia Zalcmán, Samantha Zalcmán, Charlotte Cohen, Olivia Medvedow, Elaine Bresnick, Esther Kohn, Ruth Paris, Andrew Compaine, Josh Herzig-Marx, Carla Naumburg, Michael White, Elizabeth Ross, Jacqui Bloomberg, Tracy Rogers, Lisa Schneier, Ora Gladstone, Jane Schwartz, Bill Shorr, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Marcia Okun, Ellen Hemley, Mark Bronstein, Naomi Botkin, Peter Dain, Debbie Blicher, Rob Saper, Sivan Nassoff, Janice Fine, Karla Hailer-Fidelman, Lauren Gibbs, Alan Epstein, Jill Volk, Rob Greenly, Miranda Phillips, Bobby Kleinberg, Ezra and Alison Hausman, Terry Traub, Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff, Gerry Leonard, Amy Mazur, and Steffi Karp.

## A Taste of Summer in November

### Camp JRF Comes to Newton!

Meet Rabbi Jeff Eisenstadt and join us for a lively *havdalah* program and supper. Rabbi Jeff is the Director of Youth and Camping for the Reconstructionist movement.

- Come learn about Camp JRF! Jeff will be joined by some counselors and campers from this past summer who will share their camp experiences. Camp JRF offers programs for youth entering fifth through twelfth grades.
- Come learn about *No'ar Hadash*, JRF's national youth movement, and hear about our plans for beginning our own youth group here at Dorshei Tzedek.

**Who:** Everyone is welcome—kids and adults of all ages. Even if you are not thinking of going to camp, this will be a fun and interesting program!

**When:** Saturday, November 15 5 – 7 pm

**Where:** Unitarian Society – upstairs in the Headstart Room

Please let us know if you are coming! A light supper will be served

To RSVP or for questions, contact Cindy Shulak–Rome at 617 965–5443 x1

## School News

Cindy Shulak–Rome

### **New – Junior Congregation! Saturday December 6**

**10:30 am – 12 pm** We welcome Jon Nelson who will be working with us one Shabbat morning each month to lead a kids-only Shabbat service. Jon is a professional musician and teacher who currently works at Rashi School and has also served as the Shabbat Music Coordinator at Camp Micah. He will bring his *ruach* (spirit!) along with his guitar to lead our students in an engaging, participatory Shabbat service. This is an opportunity for our young members to have a Shabbat experience all their own, incorporating the prayers they have been learning in class, music and singing, a Torah discussion, and their own Kid-dush.

Geared for students in grades 4–6, but all interested students are welcome. This is a youth service, so sorry, but parents are not invited!

Junior Congregation will meet from **10:30 – 12** on the following Shabbat mornings, in **Room 111 at 60 Highland Street:**

**Saturday December 6**

**Saturday January 31**

**Saturday February 28**

### Todah Rabah

Thanks to Ellen Pashall, Elise Brenner, and Michael Kagen for the donation of books to our library.

Thank you to Alissa Leonard, for her wonderful presentation to Kitot Aleph, Bet and Hay. Alissa taught us about honeybees and how they make the delicious honey that we eat with our apples to usher in a sweet new year!

Thank you to Paul Carson who donated, formatted, and set up two computers for our new school office.

## 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.





## 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 (10-10:50 parent orientation)	FUSN
Sun Nov 2	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed Program	FUSN
Thu Nov 6	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Fri Nov 7	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b> (see page 5)	Melanie Northrop, Little/Hersh, Pearce/Probst
Fri Nov 7	7 pm	<b>Kitah Dalet Shabbat Dinner</b>	60 Highland Street
Sat Nov 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bar Mitzvah of Yoni Osher Blumberg</b>	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	<b>Members' Meeting</b> (see page 2)	Dinah Moeller, Rattet/Rubin <i>Members-only Event</i>
Mon Nov 10	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Tues Nov 11		<b>No Class—Veterans Day</b>	
Thu Nov 13	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Fri Nov 14	6:15 pm	<b>Kitah Hay Shabbat Dinner</b>	FUSN
Fri Nov 14	8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Idit Klein, Ross/Smith, Deb Sher
Sat Nov 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Donnini</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 4)
Sat Nov 15	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Nov 15	5 pm - 7 pm	<b>Havdalah Dinner—Camp JRF Presentation</b>	FUSN (see page 9)
Sun Nov 16	2 pm - 4 pm	<b>Kitah Vav &amp; Dalet Family Ed Program</b>	FUSN
Sun Nov 16	5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting w/ dinner	<i>Members-only Event</i>
Mon Nov 17	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Thu Nov 20	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Sat Nov 22	8:45 am	<b>Adult Ed: Shabbat Morning Study</b>	(see page 11)
Sat Nov 22	9:45 - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Shatkin/Littman, Linette Liebling, Amy Berman
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	<b>Adult Ed: Introduction to Jewish Mysticism</b>	60 Highland Street (see page 5)
Thu Nov 27		<b>No School—Thanksgiving</b>	
Sat Nov 29 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Fine/Donnelly, Terry Traub, Nancy Osher Blumberg

**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 childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.

**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.



# December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Thu Dec 4	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 5)</i>
Fri Dec 5	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b>	Snyder/Cohen, Stacey Chacker, Amelia Zalcman
Sat Dec 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx, Austin/Carver, Neuman/Lurie
Sat Dec 6	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	<i>FUSN</i>
Sat Dec 6	10:30 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation Meeting</b>	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 8)</i>
Thu Dec 11	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 5)</i>
Fri Dec 12	6:15 pm	Kitah Gimmel Shabbat Dinner	
Fri Dec 12	8 pm - 9 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Elaine Bresnick, Esther Kohn, Landes/Felson
Sat Dec 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Rogers/Schwartz, Leeann Simons, Shapiro/Nadler
Sat Dec 13	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Dec 14	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #3	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Dec 14	7:30 pm	<b>Members Meeting</b>	
Thu Dec 18	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 5)</i>
Fri Dec 19		<i>First Night of Chanukah</i>	
Sat Dec 20	8:45 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Study</b>	<b>(see page 5)</b>
Sat Dec 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Frankston, Carson, Stephanie Chacker
Sat Dec 20	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Dec 21	5 pm - 7 pm	<b>Chanukah Party</b> <i>at FUSN (see page 3)</i>	St. John-Siegel, Shorr, Hochschild, Broh, Fisher Gomberg, Katz/Farber, Wendy Gedanken, Gittleman/ Bloomberg, Wasserman/Hinden
Tue Dec 23		<i>No Classes -Winter Recess thru 1/5/2004</i>	

## Welcome New Members

**Jennifer Levine** started attending services at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and immediately felt comfortable here. She is so happy to have found a spiritual home! Jennifer is a chemist turned social worker who moved to the Boston area two years ago after attending graduate school in Memphis, TN. She grew up in Buffalo, NY, and missed the snow when she was down South! She currently works at the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts in Boston and lives in the South End. She is a 2001–2002 alumna of the Jewish Organizing Initiative, during which time she worked at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston. Her commitment to social justice was solid before that year, but it was during that time that she learned about the profound connection between Judaism and social justice. Jennifer looks forward to getting to know the Dorshei Tzedek community in the months to come.



**Valerie Graf** and **Doron Gan** live in North Cambridge. They are engaged to be married in the summer of 2004. Valerie was born in New Jersey where she grew up. She received a BS from Boston University in Occupational Therapy. She spent a semester abroad in Israel learning and traveling. She currently spends her days helping children and older people to better handle everyday tasks. Doron was born in Israel and moved to Pittsburgh where he grew up. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BA in Computer Engineering. He lived in Texas for 5 years and has been in New England for the last 4 years. Doron and Valerie are both big nature lovers and love to go hiking, camping, skiing, and traveling. They also enjoy taking classes for fun, including art and cooking classes. They recently adopted a pug puppy, Jax, who is a bundle of joy. They both grew up with Conservative Judaism and over the last few years have found Reconstructionism more in tune with what they want. They like Dorshei Tzedek because it is a nice relaxed environment to expand spiritually, culturally, and allows them to get more involved in the Jewish community.

**David Cash** and **Annie Weiss** were introduced to Dorshei Tzedek by their cousins, Ezra and Allison Hausman and neighbors Sandy Sedacca and Sherwood Ives. They dipped their toes in the water last year when their daughter Sophie started Hebrew School in Kitah Aleph, and were enticed to take the plunge because of DT's open minded questioning of what it means to be Jewish and the commu-

nity's commitment to the importance of finding meaning and relevance in Jewish tradition. They also enjoy DT's accessibility, and their daughter Eliza, age 4, is a devotee since seeing Rabbi Toba get sprayed with squirt guns during recent Shabbat services. Annie is an individual and group psychotherapist in Newton and Cambridge, and right now is particularly enjoying the challenge of teaching her first graduate class at Boston College. David teaches and studies environmental policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Sophie is a 2nd grader at Mason-Rice and Eliza is at the Children's Cooperative Nursery School.

## Dorshei Tzedek in Cyberspace

As you may have already noticed, the Dorshei Tzedek website was completely redesigned and revamped in time for the High Holydays. Take a fresh look at [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org) if you have not done so already. Our website includes general information about Dorshei Tzedek, an up-to-date calendar, newsletter archives, directions, and much more material. *Yasher koach* to the Web Committee, especially Cindy Bittker, Stan Fleischman, and Debbie Hemley, who did the redesign and assembled new material.

Each CDT committee has space on the website for information and news. If your committee's page is blank or outdated, please write something to fill the gap. You need not format it; the web committee will make it match the website style. Send your material and any other comments, suggestions, or questions to [dtweb@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dtweb@dorsheitzedek.org).

Dorshei Tzedek also has two congregation-wide email lists that are used regularly. Official congregation announcements are posted to the **CDT-ANNOUNCE@shamash.org** list. If you have something you would like to post there, please send it to Paul Carson, the CDT list owner ([p-carson@ti.com](mailto:p-carson@ti.com)) or an Executive Committee member. For more informal exchanges of ideas and information among members of Dorshei Tzedek, use **CDT-LIST@shamash.org**; all members may post to it. For questions about the email lists, changes of address, etc., contact Paul Carson.

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.