

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Rabbi's Column

Defending Love, Defending Marriage

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

This past August, I was blessed to be surrounded by family and friends as Gina, Zachary, Zoe, and I made commitments to one another as a family. Using some components of a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony, a new partnership ritual created by Jewish feminist theologian Rachel Adler, and a few elements of our own devising, we created a ceremony that affirmed my and Gina's partnership and our coming together as a family. It was a wonderful occasion, and we very much appreciated the many well wishes that we received from members of the Dorshei Tzedek community.

While I have no idea if Gina and I would have opted for a more traditional wedding ceremony had the legal option of marriage available to us at that time, it is certainly amazing to be writing this just a few days after the historic decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Seemingly overnight, the possibility of validating gay and lesbian partnerships through the force of civil marriage has become a reality.

The other reality is that the battle has just begun. This historic victory for the rights of gay and lesbian families will galvanize those in opposition, and cause great disquiet among many people who are unsure on the issue. Change is always hard, and when it comes to something as personal and seemingly "eternal" as marriage, new ideas and practices can be perceived as inherently threatening. Such disquiet is fed by what has become a steady assault, by some religious and political leaders, on gays, lesbians, our partnerships, and families. These assaults not only invalidate our most important relationships, but also often blame us for everything from rising divorce rates to inner-city poverty. It remains unclear to me how any loving relationship would lead to the breakdown of another person's marriage, or why a commitment between two men or two women would cause heterosexual folks to flee their familial re-

sponsibilities. Yet this is what we are being told, day after day, even by people who proclaim to profess no ill will towards gays and lesbians.

It is profoundly upsetting to me to see religion so often being used to validate these kinds of attitudes. However much I love to wrestle with and learn from Torah, the Bible is really the last place I would look to as a guide to modern-day family relationships. If there is one area of contemporary life that is radically different from what it was in the land of Canaan over two thousand years ago, it is the realm of family, sexuality, and marriage. The Torah does not know marriage as a state institution, but as a relationship between families, and between individual men and women. Polygamy was common (according to the Torah, Isaac is our only monogamous forefather!). The Bible condemns certain homosexual acts and celebrates the profound love of Ruth and Naomi and of Jonathan and David—and on all counts, our contemporary notions of "sexual orientation" are completely foreign to it. The reality is that religious understandings of marriage and family have evolved over the centuries in a variety of ways, and it is simply arrogant to ascribe to God our own very human assumptions and biases.

As the majority opinion of the SJC recognized, the legal institution of marriage is not a religious phenomenon but a civil one. It is the secular state, not God or the Bible, that has decided that marriage should entail all of the benefits and responsibilities that we now associate with it—things like inheritance, hospital visitation rights, child custody

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Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 21, from 5 pm to 7 pm at the FUSN



Come join the mishegas with our annual Chanukah bash!

We'll begin with candle lighting and singing at 5 pm, followed by fun programs for kids of all ages (and a chance for adults to schmooze and do some learning together). Dinner will begin at approximately 6 pm (dinner will be organized so we avoid the long lines of years past!).

We need your help to make this a festive and filling meal. If your last name begins with A – G, bring dessert or fruit salad; H – O, bring a vegetable dish/salad; and P – Z, a substantial main (veggie/fish) course. **Be sure to bring enough food for at least 12 – 15 people. Please do not bring latkes; they will be provided.** Drinks will be provided as well.

Based on previous years' wild successes, this is clearly not a party to miss! (Note: Chanukah begins on Friday evening, December 19, when we light our first candle at sundown.)

(continued from page 1)

rights, and the like. These legal aspects of marriage are not "God-given" or in any way eternal or "natural"; they are policies created by human beings for a variety of social and economic reasons. In the religious realm, different denominations are making their own choices about which relationships should be affirmed and sanctified. Reconstructionist and Reform rabbis and congregations, along with a few Christian denominations, do in fact celebrate the commitments made by gay and lesbian couples, and give them the force of marriage.

The SJC ruling, and the political debate that follows in its wake, is not just about who can marry whom. Those who seek to alter both the state and federal constitutions to limit marriage rights to heterosexual couples blur the separation of church and state, by imposing a religious definition of marriage shared by some on a civil institution that should be accessible to all. The "defense of marriage" campaign, whether intentionally or not, effectively promotes prejudice and hatred against gays and lesbians by insinuating that our relationships are inherently immoral, unnatural, and/or detrimental to others. And on a practical level, a reversal of the SJC ruling will mean that basic legal protections that most heterosexual couples and families take completely

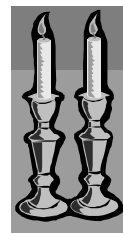
for granted will continue to be denied to many thousands of gay and lesbian citizens and their children.

The Reconstructionist movement has been in the forefront of the full inclusion and affirmation of gays and lesbians within Jewish community and Jewish life. Now that the state of Massachusetts has followed our lead (!), I hope that we can speak out in "defense" of the right of gays and lesbians to take on the responsibilities and privileges of marriage. May the day soon come when all loving commitments, and all loving families, can be celebrated and affirmed.



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

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services

Dates: December 5, January 9, February 13, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 11, 6 pm – 7 pm

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

Erev Shabbat Services

Dates: December 12, January 16, February 6 (Tubishvat Seder, check the newsletter for special time!), March 19, April 16, and 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.

Sabbatical Committee Gears Up

The Sabbatical Committee has begun meeting to ensure a smooth transition when Rabbi Spitzer begins her Sabbatical after the Fall '04 High Holydays. Our tasks and goals include: contacting other/similar congregations who have had experience with rabbinic sabbaticals; identifying all areas that will require rabbinic or increased lay oversight; making sure all financial needs are prepared for and addressed; and working in a timely manner so that we find the right person for the needs of the community for the 11 months that Rabbi Spitzer will be gone.

We are aware of the extent to which many within CDT identify the congregation with Rabbi Spitzer and we know that there may be concerns about the sabbatical and the process of finding a temporary "replacement." Therefore, we all welcome hearing from CDT members who would like to have input, or who simply want to express their concerns. If you would like to speak with one of us, feel free to call or e-mail:

- **Andrew Schiff** 617-239-2523 manschiff@aol.com
- **Cindy Shulak-Rome** 617-965-5722 cbsrome@comcast.net
- **John Holohan** 617-244-4773 jholohan@mathworks.com
- **Louise Enoch** 617-926-0836 lpenoch@aol.com
- **Mark Bronstein** 617-332-8424 mark@bronsteinlaw.com
- **Ora Gladstone** 617-630-9050 gladston@brandeis.edu

B'nei Mitzvah of Eli and Chloe Kuh

Please join us on **January 3** as we celebrate the B'nei Mitzvah of Chloe and Elias Kuh. We also welcome you for a Kiddush after the service.

Chloe and Elias enjoy their school, the Bigelow Middle School in Newton, where they have lots of friends and are part of the All City Orchestra. They are also both serious students of sport—soccer. Chloe and Elias are sharing their Tikkun Olam project with their parents. Together, we tutor a family who recently moved to the US from Bolivia in English and about the cultural ways of our country. Chloe and Elias have an older sister, Ariela, who will return from college to participate in this joyous occasion.

--Tom and Willa Kuh

Tikkun Olam

Join the Reconstructionist Discussion about Israel!

JRF Israel Task Force Forum

Sunday, January 11, 10 am

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Growing out of its commitment to serious engagement with the concerns of the State of Israel and in recognition that it is often called upon to speak on matters affecting Israel policy, the Board of Directors of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) established an Israel task force in December 2002. The JRF Israel Task Force is composed of 21 members, representing 12 JRF congregations, with three representatives each from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. The members come from a variety of backgrounds and span a broad spectrum of political leanings. It is important to the task force members that they hear the thoughts, ideas, and concerns of as many Reconstructionists as possible on the issues before them.

Local Reconstructionist congregations are invited to a special forum hosted by the JRF Israel Task Force on Sunday, January 11 at new JRF affiliate Temple Hillel B'nai Torah in West Roxbury from 10 am to 12 pm. Rabbi Barbara Penzner, co-chair of the Task Force with JRF lay leader Mark Widoff, will be facilitating the program. Beginning with study of poems by Yehudah Halevi and Yehuda Amichai,

Rabbi Penzner will invite feedback on the question that the Task Force is considering: What should support for Zionism and the State of Israel mean for Reconstructionist Jews in the first years of the 21st century? HBT is located at 120 Corey Street, just off the VFW Parkway. If you are interested in attending this forum, please contact CDT member **Louise Enoch** at 617-926-0836 or lpenoch@aol.com.

Family Table Volunteer Drivers Needed

Sunday, February 8, 2004

Temple Kehillath Israel (Harvard St., Brookline)

Dorshei Tzedek is participating once again in Family Table, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry. Eight to ten volunteer drivers from Dorshei Tzedek are needed to bag groceries at Temple Kehillath Israel (Harvard St., Brookline) and deliver them to families in the Greater Boston area. Each volunteer driver delivers to two families. Dorshei Tzedek's delivery date this year is Sunday, February 8, 2004. Orientation and bagging begins at 12:30 pm; delivery time varies, depending on the location of the families receiving food donations. The overall time commitment is about 2 – 3 hours. You can request a close location if you have a time constraint that afternoon. Participation as a volunteer is a meaningful mitzvah activity for congregants of all ages, as one is reminded that there are families who cannot afford life's basic necessities. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please contact **Barbara Shatkin** at 617-964-3121 or bfshatkin@aol.com.

Adult Education

Navigating the Holiday Season: A Discussion for CDT Members in Interfaith Families

Shabbat morning, December 13, 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Children's Chapel, First Unitarian Society

Chanukah and Christmas fall at the same time this year, and for those of us in families where a partner or parent is not Jewish, it can be a particularly challenging time. Is it possible for interfaith families to raise kids as Jews while still participating in non-Jewish relatives' holiday celebrations or having some of your own? Come meet CDT members who are a part of an "interfaith" family. We'll discuss and share joys, frustrations and assemble some strategies for negotiating this holiday season. (If there is sufficient interest, this discussion may continue.) The session will be facilitated by Laura and Joel Katz. If you have questions or cannot attend but would like to see further discussion of related issues, please contact **Laura or Joel** at 781-444-7102 or katzrus2@comcast.net.

Shabbat Morning Study

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am with Rabbi Spitzer

60 Highland Street

Dates: 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!

JRF News

At the recent JRF Board meeting, Temple Hillel B'nai Torah of West Roxbury was unanimously voted in as the 104th affiliate congregation of the Reconstructionist movement. We are already familiar with Hillel B'nai Torah, as we have enjoyed the opportunity to do some joint programming with them over the past couple of years. Currently, we are in the process of collaborating on the development of a Reconstructionist Youth Group. We welcome another Reconstructionist presence in the greater Boston area and look forward to future collaborations. Mazel tov to Rabbi Barbara Penzner and the members of Hillel B'nai Torah.

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.



Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Dan Rome & Cynthia Shulak-Rome

*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of **Sam Fader**, the Bar Mitzvah of **Yoni Osher-Blumberg**, the Bat Mitzvah of **Rachel Felson**, and the Bat Mitzvah of **Olivia Donnini***

*On the wedding of **Carla Naumburg** and **Josh Herzig-Marx**—in honor of our wishes for many years filled with joy and blessings*

Steven Siegel & Theresa St. John-Siegel

*In memory of **Jon Gordon's mother Evelyn Ackerman***

Amy Berman

*In honor of **Elaine Pollack's** wonderful teaching and delightful presence*

Amy Berman

*In honor of **Muriel Berman***

Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus

*In appreciation of **Rabbi Spitzer's help** and support for **Wendy's conversion studies***

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Deborah Blicher & Peter Dain

*We are pleased to make this contribution in honor of our wedding on 10 Elul, 5763 and of **Toba and Gina's commitment ceremony**. We greatly enjoyed our premarital counseling with Toba and several guests have commented that ours was the most beautiful wedding ceremony they had ever seen. We will always be grateful.*

שלום

Holy Book Fund

Hattis Family

*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of **Sam Fader**, the bat mitzvah of **Rachel Felson**, and a big birthday for **Jerry Zolit***



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. Thanks!

The Newsletter Committee:

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

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.

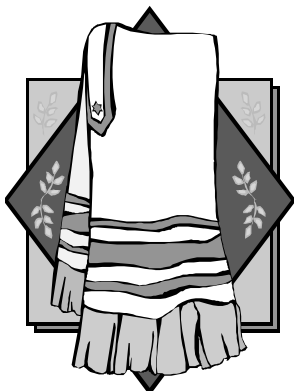
If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617-965-0330) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

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.

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.



Todah Rabah

A big thanks to everyone who has continued to work to make our new sanctuary space fully operational: **Clifford Goldsmith** and **Wendy Gedanken**, our artisans; **Mark Bronstein**, for his work on the sound system; and to everyone who came on the November work day to get the space in order. Todah Rabah to all of you!

Todah rabah to **Lori Rutter** and **Jeff Behrens** for hosting "Nowhere in Africa" movie night. Everyone had lots of fun!

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Jodi and Alex Sugerman-Brozan**, on the birth of **Lev Jonah**!

Mazel tov to all those who have become b'nai mitzvah in recent months—**Rachel Felson**, **Sam Fader**, **Yoni Osher-Blumberg**, and **Olivia Donnini**—and to their families!

Mazel tov to **Wendy Angus**, **Kelli Kirshtein**, and **Benjamin**, on Wendy's welcome into the Jewish people!



Dorshei Tzedek 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) 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.

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to **Abigail Noble, Eric Berman** and **Clifford Goldsmith** for participating in the Kitah Zayin Tikkun Olam Panel. As a culmination to our Tikkun Olam unit, each of these members offered an inspiring presentation of their work and dedication to social justice. What great role models for our students!

Junior Congregation

Our first Junior Congregation Shabbat Service will be held on Saturday December 6, from 10:30 am – 12 pm in Room 111 at 60 Highland St. Led by Jon Nelson, the service is geared for students in grades 4 – 6, though all interested students are welcome to attend. The service will be followed by a special Kiddush for those participating. Junior Congregation will meet from 10:30 am – 12 pm on the Shabbat mornings of Saturday January 31 and February 28 in the same location.

Passport to Israel

The Passport to Israel Program unites families and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies in a partnership to help make an Israel experience part of the Jewish education for all our community's children. It is a special kind of savings plan. Children enroll in Kitah Gimel or Zayin, then every year the child's family and CJP contribute to a special fund that will eventually help pay for an educational trip to Israel (to be taken sometime between the end of sophomore year in high school and the start of college). For further information, or if you have any questions, please call **Elaine Landes** at 617-969-7703 or erose116@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Opportunities at School

There are a variety of opportunities to help out and support our school. Each of these may be a small effort, but they can make a big difference in our program. If you are interested in helping out in any way, or would like more information on the following volunteer opportunities, please contact **Cindy Shulak-Rome** at school@dorsheitzedek.org. These are some of the ways in which you might help:

- Community Time shopping
- Tikkun Olam
- Library assistance
- Youth Education Committee

Community Happenings

Chanting Workshop with Rabbi Shefa Gold

Tuesday, December 16, 8:00 pm

Temple Israel of Natick

Rabbi Shefa Gold, a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and student of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, teaches workshops and retreats on the theory and art of chanting, devotional healing, spiritual community building, and meditation. If you've never experienced a chanting service with her, this is a wonderful opportunity! Please RSVP to **Susan Rodgin** or Temple Israel at 508-650-3521. There is a \$10 cover charge, and there will be no admittance after 8:15 pm.

High Holyday Talks

Rabbi Spitzer's High Holyday talks are now available on the Dorshei Tzedek website at <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei.htm>, or from the Dorshei Tzedek home page, click on Shabbat & Holidays, then Divrei Torah.



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.



Don't miss the online music sample available at <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/rabbi-music.htm>



December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Thu Dec 4	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 5)</i>
Fri Dec 5	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Snyder/Cohen, Stacey Chacker, Amelia Zalcmán
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	Junior Congregation Meeting	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 8)</i>
Thu Dec 11	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	<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	Members Meeting	
Thu Dec 18	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	<i>60 Highland Street (see page 5)</i>
Fri Dec 19		<i>First Night of Chanukah</i>	
Sat Dec 20	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	<i>(see page 5)</i>
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	Chanukah Party <i>at FUSN</i> <i>(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>	

Cut here to remove

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.

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.



January Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sat Jan 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service B'nei Mitzvah of Elias & Chloe Kuh (see page 4)	Karen & Jeff Arnold, Rachel Greenberg, Elise Brenner & Michael Kaje
Tue Jan 6		<i>Classes Resume</i>	FUSN
Thu Jan 8	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	Second Church (see page 5)
Fri Jan 9	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (see page 3)	Julie & Paul Fox, Deborah & Lisa Levheim, David Cash & Anne Weiss
Fri Jan 9	7 pm	Kitah Bet Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Sat Jan 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Faye & Marvin Snider, Julie Weiman, Rick Glassman
Sat Jan 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed / Kitah Bet Class	FUSN
Sat Jan 10	6 pm - 9 pm	New Member Orientation	Second Church (see page 11)
Sun Jan 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #4	FUSN
Sun Jan 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Jan 11	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland St <i>Members-Only Event</i>
Thu Jan 15	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	Second Church
Fri Jan 16	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives, Linda & Peter Katz, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Sat Jan 17		<i>NO Class-MLK Holiday Weekend</i>	
Sat Jan 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Joe Ives	60 Highland St
Thu Jan 22	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	Second Church
Sat Jan 24 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Elana Eisman & Steve Strassberg, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krose, Alissa & Gerry Leonard
Sat Jan 24	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sun Jan 25	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	FUSN
Thu Jan 29		<i>NO Class - Staff In-service</i>	FUSN
Thu Jan 29	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	Second Church
Sat Jan 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ricky & Rob Greenly, Karla Hailer-Fidelman, Jennifer Levine
Sat Jan 31	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Class / Kitah Bet Family Ed	FUSN
Sat Jan 31	10:30 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation Meeting	Ricky & Rob Greenly, Karla Hailer-Fidelman, Jennifer Levine
Sat Jan 31	12 pm	"Chesed committee-sponsored Lunch" following Shabbat morning services	Second Church

New Member Orientation

On **Saturday, January 10 at 6 pm**, members who have joined within the past year are invited to a potluck dinner and orientation at 60 Highland Street in the Fellowship Hall. Meet other newcomers, learn about exciting developments in the congregation, and get to know Dorshei Tzedek Board members and Rabbi Spitzer. Childcare will be provided.

Food assignments: last names beginning with A-K bring a meatless main dish; L-P bring a cold salad; and R-Z bring dessert. This is guaranteed to be a fun evening for all, and we hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to **Erica Streit** at erica_streit@hotmail.com or 617-393-0216 and specify if you need childcare.

Welcome New Members

Audra Karp lives in Newton. She moved to the Boston area in January from western MA. She finished midwifery school in January and started her practice soon after. Audra also works as a medical insurance examiner while she's building her midwifery practice. Audra likes to cook, preserve food, go for walks, and hang out with children. Since she moved here, she has enjoyed riding her bike frequently. She heard about Dorshei through two different people, decided to check out the congregation, and immediately felt like she wanted to become part of the community. She was introduced to Reconstructionism about 5 years ago and felt like it was right for her. She loves the Shabbat services at Dorshei, especially the singing. It is similar to Temple Beth El in Sudbury, where she attended as a young person, and had her Bat Mitzvah. Audra likes the values that Dorshei Tzedek sets out to fulfill and how inclusive the community is. Audra is looking forward to expanding her Jewish learning by going to services and attending adult education classes.

Daniel Price moved to Worcester in August from Cleveland, Ohio (where he was born and raised, and where his sports team loyalty will always lie) to take a teaching position in the departments of Criminal Justice and Public Policy at Anna Maria College. He plans to enter the new rabbinical school at Boston Hebrew College next fall. Thus, a move to the Newton area will take place within the year. Previously, Daniel has spent time in Boston, Ann Arbor, Austin, Binghamton, Morocco, and Israel. He joined Dorshei Tzedek because he was a member of the Reconstructionist Havurah of Cleveland and he strongly identifies with the Reconstructionist Movement. As a single person with no family in the area, Dan has been really touched by the warm welcome that he has received at Dorshei Tzedek,

and he is grateful for all the efforts that have been made to make him feel at home. He admires the congregation's commitment to social justice and interfaith understanding. He loves the outdoors (hiking, cycling, skiing, and paddling), and plans on exploring as much of New England's splendor as he can. At the same time, he has golf and TV (*West Wing*, *Scrubs*) addictions that he can't seem to lick.

Emily Sper has been in the Boston area for 12 years and now lives in Brighton. Emily lived and worked in Tel Aviv for three years, and on Kibbutz Tzuba before that. She is an author-illustrator-designer of children's books (*The Passover Seder: Touch, Turn, Open, and Learn!* and *Hanukkah: A Counting Book in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish*), a graphic designer, and fine art photographer. Besides doing all kinds of artwork, Emily enjoys sports that bring her out into nature like hiking and cross-country skiing. She is also an avid Israeli folk dancer. Emily likes the combination of liberal politics and religious substance of Dorshei Tzedek; it seems to be a congregation where questioning minds are welcome. She decided to join Dorshei Tzedek because, given the world we are currently living in, she feels the need to be part of a Jewish community where social and global issues are discussed from a Jewish perspective. And, as Emily attends more Shabbat services, she's becoming more comfortable with the liturgy, and she likes hearing the melodies in her head when she gets home.



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.